

August 2025 Term 3

Message from the Principal

Term 3 is off to a positive start. I would like to acknowledge our SOTA staff for their professionalism in stepping up to the challenge of not currently having a HoC. Thank you to all for making Casey Hall and myself feel welcome.

Friday 1st August was Principals Day and I was touched by the unexpected morning tea organised by staff in acknowledgement of this day. Unbeknown to me, about a 3rd of the staff wore a black wig and rimmed glasses in my honour. It was great fun, and a positive culture across both campuses was visible. Thank you to Bec and Nav, who joined in from SOTA and sent me their photos - see below.

Thank you to families for booking your itinerant teacher visit for this term. The itinerant teacher service is an invaluable resource and it is essential that we maximise use through booking of visits. A reminder that we can be flexible in accommodating your needs eg a short visit and organising alternative accommodation where needed. Thank you to parents at last week's OPFA meeting who provided feedback. I have reminded Rhys and Steven of the need to send out their reports in a timely manner (within a week where possible) and to ensure they include useful tips for govvis and parent supervisors.

Planning for our Coober Pedy Mini School week is well underway and is shaping up to be a week of fun and learning. The program and consent forms will be available from next week.



EVENTS

Royal Adelaide Show Day: **5 September**

Mini School at Coober Pedy: **22- 25 September**

DES - DJ and Family night **Friday 26 September**

Get Together: **5 - 6 December**

DES

Hello everyone!

What a fantastic way to wrap up Term 2! It was such a joy to see so many smiling faces at camp. We Govies had an absolute blast, showcasing our face-painting skills, dance moves, and hidden talents were a real highlight!

At Oodnadatta bronco branding Charli, Lana, Millie and Katie ran games for the kids such as boot toss, hobby horse races, sack race and a Lollie toss.

Term 3 is shaping up to be just as exciting, with planning for our Coober Pedy event well underway. We're also launching an online raffle featuring three beautiful hampers, stay tuned to our socials for all the details!

A huge thank you to AMJ fruit salers for their donation of fruit for our afternoon at Cooper Pedy in school where we will be running a science and snack afternoon.

A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their generous support, it means so much to our group and allows us to continue to support the students with amazing resources.

Lastly, all funded resources requested by families at the end of last term have now been ordered. We're hopeful they'll be ready for collection during in-school at Coober Pedy.

Warm regards,
The Govie Team



OPFA and SOTA CGC

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates
All meetings at 3:00pm

OPFA: Week 3 & 7 (T3) Wednesday

CGC: Week 4 & 8 (T3) Wednesday

OPFA would like to thank BHP and Connellan Airways for their generous support of our face-to-face events this year. Thanks to their donations, we were able to send children to camp in Adelaide and give others the opportunity to visit Canberra. I would also like to acknowledge and thank everyone who held positions this year.

Woodhouse Camp

By Lawson, Dan, Cameron and Memphis

Monday families arrived at camp and started in our house teams at the maze, it was fun for everyone and every student enjoyed being in the maze. Some students got lost, some got picked up by other groups, Emmett slipped over, Lawson sent his crutches down the slide, but in the end, every student followed the smell of cinnamon donuts and emerged from the maze. Except for Cameron who doesn't like donuts so followed the smell of bananas. Next up was challenge hill, some thought the challenge was just getting up the hills, but the real challenges were the narrow climbing mazes (mouse trap), facing our fears and climbing over the piranha infested waters on logs and a steep wall as well as many other challenges. We had to use our perseverance and teamwork to complete these tasks. Cameron says the best part about Monday was the bbq for dinner and that he even though he had to clean up the kitchen, he got to do it with his dingo friends.

Tuesday saw the 3-6 students participating in disc golf, cooking, mandala art and an adventure trail. As it turns out we were not very good at disc golf, especially Honey-May who accidentally threw her disc into the water and provided lunch for the piranhas! Cooking was the best activity, not only because we got to eat fruit crumble, but also because we learned to use a tranga. Those fruit crumbles made the climb up the hill worth it! The R-2 students participated in shelter building, nature craft, bouldering and scats and tracks. The bouldering excitement was too much for Memphis who decided that it was a good time to have a little sleep on Miss Stringer. The other R-2 students showed their persistence skills to boulder across the rocks. We ended the evening with our Talent Show and Disco. The Talent Show saw our students and governess girls dance, rap, perform funny skits, show karate skills, play the keyboard. SOTA sure does have talent!

Dan says the best thing about Tuesday was the disc golf because Lawson, George and I were the only one to complete the task that got progressively harder.

Wednesday the 3-6 students participated in laser skirmish, a team challenge and camp craft. It was fun because we got to light our own fires to keep warm. Here's a tip, if you are camping and want to stay warm, go with Lawson, Jack and George who were the only ones to be able to light a fire! The R-2 students played grass games, found bugs and did a photo scavenger hunt. They got to use magnifying glasses to see small water critters and go down to the creek to catch some critters with nets. Luckily nobody fell in – although Miss Stringer, Miss A and Mr Kelly gained a few grey hairs watching the children run around the creek and some were very close! We ended the day with the best activity of all, the tube slide. Even some of the governesses and teachers had a go! The best part was seeing all the older and younger students play together and go down the slide. The famous Miss Kaur Quiz was on at nighttime, and she kept everyone listening with her fun quiz topics, also, she had lollies!

Lawson says the best thing was laser skirmish because he had the best tactic and sat next to the man that re-loaded the guns so was always able to be revived.

Thursday we all boarded the bus and went to the zoo. We got a good animal show before we even got inside from the bats that were in the tree outside the zoo. There were hundreds of them and this was the most amazing thing of the day. We saw the penguins and tigers being fed – luckily not in the same enclosure! Cameron put his head so close to the pelican that he thought it might be bitten off. Memphis saw tasmanian devils but didn't think they were cute but the best animal of day was the baboon because it looked at her!

Then camp was finished and it was time to thaw off and go home. We had the best time. The food was yummy and there was so much of it. We got to see all of our friends and the activities were fun. Thank you to the teachers and to our mums and dads for bringing us.

Premier's Be Active Challenge

This term SOTA students will be entering the Premier's Be Active Challenge. The challenge is to be active for 60 minutes on at least 5 days of the week for at least 4 weeks by the end of the term. Students will receive a recording book to record their activity.

Once complete, students will submit to the Premier's Be Active Challenge assignment on teams. If successful, students will receive a medal to recognise their participation.

Sport Ambassador Presentation

On Friday Week 3 we had a special presentation delivered by Bree Hargrave on her journey to becoming a professional athlete.

Bree Hargrave is a South Australian Track Cyclist who grew up in the Adelaide Hills. Bree shared her story about chasing dreams through persistence, resilience and hard work. SOTA staff and students enjoyed the opportunity of having a special guest visit and we hope this presentation encouraged students to chase their dreams too.



Earn \$1000 for your school

You could earn a medal and win prize money for your school. If a high percentage of students complete 10 weeks of the Challenge, you will be in the running to win \$1000.



pbac.sa.edu.au

The Challenge

Do at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 5 days of the week for at least 4 weeks, record it, and you will be rewarded with a medal. Visit our website to learn more.

Active kids make better learners!

Physical activity is fun, and it can help with learning by improving your focus and promoting a positive attitude. Any type of physical activity is good, and 60 minutes a day is best.





LIBRARY NEWS

Term 3 is off to a super start, and we're busy preparing for one of the most exciting events on the library calendar – Book Week 2025!

This year, Book Week will be celebrated in Week 5, with a special dress-up day on Friday, August 22nd following morning assembly. We invite all students to come dressed as a book character, and if they're feeling adventurous, they could dress to this year's theme, "Book an Adventure"!

During the assembly, Jess will announce the winners of our Book Week Competitions and following this, facilitate a fun craft/construction activity. It would be wonderful if the students could have hot glue, glue or masking tape handy for this activity. This is not essential, but certainly advantageous.

This year the library is running four competitions for our SOTA students, and we have something for everyone:

- Dress-Up Competition (Best eco/homemade costume and best themed costume)
- Design a New Front Cover for any shortlisted book
- Create a Character from any shortlisted book using any medium
- Short, Short Story writing competition – 250 words

Students have been reading and exploring the Early Childhood shortlisted books in Library lessons with Jess, but any book from the 2025 CBCA Shortlist can be used. You can view the full shortlist at:

<https://cbca.org.au/2025-shortlist/>
or visit our Teams page for information.

All entries must be uploaded to the Marden Education Centre Library Teams Page > SOTA > Files > Book Week 2025. During Library lessons in Week 3, Jess will guide students through the process of uploading photos or scanned artwork.



The poster is titled "BOOK AN Adventure" in a stylized font, with "2025 Children's Book Week" and "16-23 August" below it. It lists four competitions: "DRESS UP" (dress as a book character), "CREATE" (create a character from a CBCA shortlisted book), "DESIGN" (design a front cover for a 2025 CBCA shortlisted title), and "WRITE" (write a short story of 250 words or less connected to the theme "Book an Adventure"). Each competition has a corresponding icon: a boy in a costume, a character, a book cover, and a pencil.

LIBRARY NEWS



Down here at Open Access College, library staff have decorated the library windows with characters related to this year's theme, "Book an Adventure". The windows are complimented by a display of suitcases and a treasure chest. The characters on the windows provide a photo opportunity for students and visitors to get the perfect picture as a chosen character. Do you recognise this character?

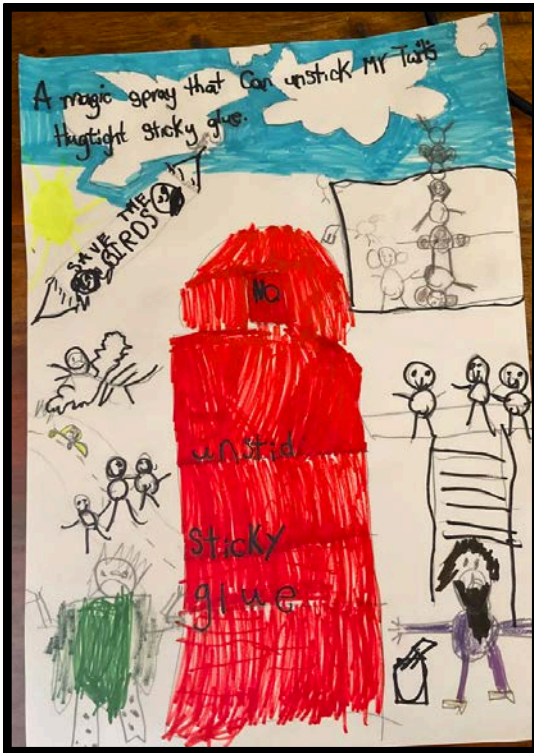
Julie's weekly reading sessions continue this term with the junior primary students. These lively sessions often feature books with a bit of cheeky humour, proving to be a hit amongst the students! Being read to regularly is incredibly important in early literacy development. "Reading aloud to children improves their vocabulary, language skills, concentration, and imagination." National Simultaneous Storytime, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

We'd like to celebrate some success from our 2025 Premier's Reading Challenge STEM Competition. We had twelve students across both SOTA and Marden enter this challenge, and of these twelve students we had two winners and a runner-up – Catherine (Marden), Nehemiah (Marden) and Jeremiah (Marden). I'd like to congratulate the SOTA students who voluntarily entered this challenge. These students can be very proud of their efforts. Well done to Timothy Coulthard, Jack Williams, James Oldfield and Simba Peniai-Siraji. These students will receive a certificate for their efforts in the mail soon.

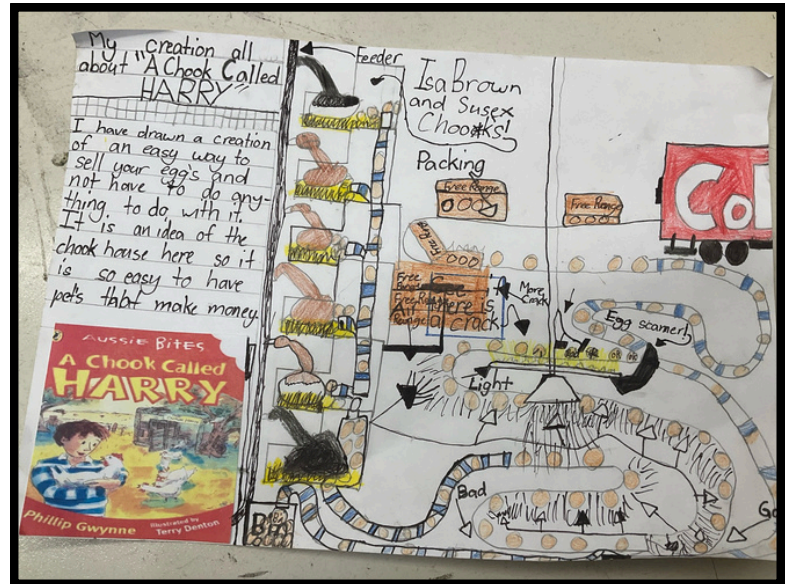
Lastly, keep an eye out for your 'snail mail'! A mystery Book Week craft/construction activity is on its way. But... don't open it yet! We'll be opening it together during our online Book Week session on Friday Week 5, straight after assembly. It's going to be a fun, craft/construction surprise!

Let the adventure of Book Week begin!

LIBRARY PHOTO GALLERY



Timmy designed an “un-stick” glue based on the book, “The Twits” By Roald Dahl



Jack designed an invention to collect eggs, based on the book, "A Chook Called Harry".



James drew a picture based
on a book called, "Rainforest"
By Tricia Oktober.



Simba drew a turtle after reading the book “Yoshi and the Ocean” by Lindsay Moore. This book is about a loggerhead turtle who travels long distances to arrive in Western Australia.



Term 2 Week 10

Miss Stringer:

Aria: for a positive attitude and completing all activities with enthusiasm, a smile and resilience. You showed respect all week and got along with peers of all ages.

Ms Andrews:

Edward: for showing persistence and resilience during all camp activities. Well done!

Miss Kaur:

Lilly: for actively participating in all camp activities, demonstrating excellent teamwork skills, and consistently following instructions with a positive attitude.

Miss Morley:

Eli Rankin: for consistently supporting younger SOTA students, participating in camp activities, and following all instructions.

Mr Kelly:

Eli Cuffe: for excellent leadership and support during our zoo visit.

Mrs Russell:

Therese: for supporting the teachers in organisation of meals and clean up.

Term 3 Week 2

Miss Stringer:

Asher: for a positive and resilient attitude, following instructions, beginning online tasks straight away and for practicing sight words to be able to improve sight word recall.

Ms Andrews:

Remy: for demonstrating a positive attitude in returning to the school routine and showing persistence to complete all assigned work.

Miss Kaur:

Lisma: for being an active participant in all class discussions and having a growth mindset when working on challenging tasks.

Miss Morley:

Lawson: for his resilience and patient attitude when learning and practising maths, and his commitment and effort in the Student Council.

Mr Kelly:

Bonnie: for an outstanding effort running the art club. She was able maintain an interesting session while including everyone involved.

Mr Moyne:

George: for seeking feedback and working hard to improve work submissions in Health and Physical Education.

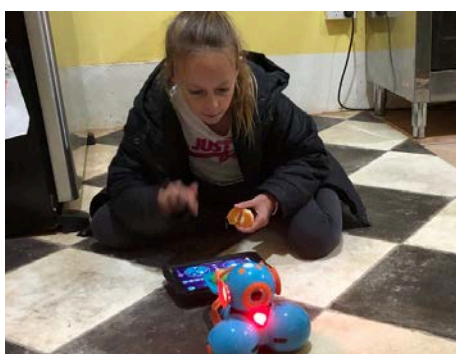
Mr Kelly's Home Visits

It has been an awesome start to the semester, visiting students across different year levels. Meeting the new Reception students has been a very exciting experience. Everyone has been welcoming, and I've enjoyed joining in some of the fun HPE games. Playing cricket, kicking footballs, and chasing golf balls around properties have been the highlights of my afternoons. I look forward to continuing my visits and watching your progress.



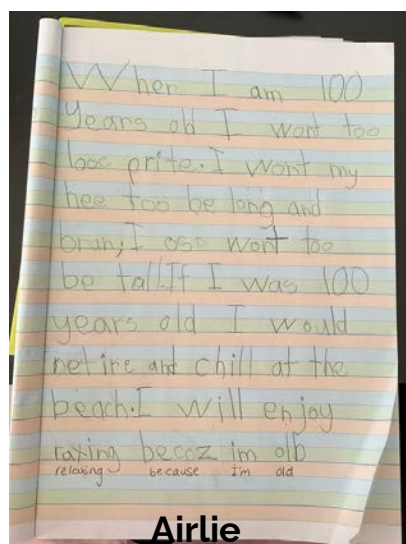
Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

Hi all, the conclusion of Term 2 had me visiting a number of locations from one end of the state to the other! Students were keen to get involved in various activities including STEM projects (creating electricity with lemons), sport (tennis, soccer and golf) as well as learning within the classroom (robotics and reading). As always, it has been a pleasure supporting supervisors in achieving the best learning outcomes for our students. I look forward to seeing you all in a visit soon.



Miss Stringer - Reception

We have been counting in maths all year to reach our 100 days of school and on Tuesday of Week 2 we officially hit 100. The reception class is officially 100 days smarter. We dressed up as 100-year-olds and spent the week celebrating with a lot of 100 activities. You can see some of our activities and dress ups here.



Hudson

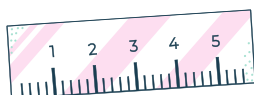
James - absent

In **Health** students will learn to identify health symbols, messages and strategies in their community that support their health and safety. The students will learn to identify household substances that are harmful, and they will describe the symbols that are used to identify the danger. The students will also learn about the health information used on food labels, and they will list healthy food choices. The students will also describe how to minimise their exposure to harmful germs, and they will describe health-promoting habits.

In **PE**, the lessons will be delivered through a series of instructive and background-developing videos focused on soccer. Each lesson will be introduced by teaching notes addressed to the students. In the introductory notes, the focus of the lesson on soccer will be explained. Handout materials will further the learning by providing information and activities designed to teach and consolidate soccer skills and knowledge

Maths

In Maths we are learning about forms of measurement exploring formal and informal measuring, time, capacity, length, width and money. Students will make comparisons to understand and determine which is longer, heavier or holds more and compare the duration of events connecting them to days of the week. We will use our environment to sort, describe and name two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes and recognise, make and continue patterns.



Literacy

Having learned the single sounds, we have now moved onto digraph exploration. Students are practicing high-frequency words and reading books more fluently and for comprehension. We will continue to practice names of letters and our blending and segmenting skills. Our genres for the term will be procedure and poetry, where we will write work pieces for dad for Father's Day and of course some exciting tales of what the students would be doing and what they may look like when they are 100. You can see some examples below!



Linked Learning – Science, Technologies, HASS

Students are exploring past, present and future through learning about toys, communication, daily life, home life, transport and SOTA (school). Students will begin each week learning about a new area of life and how this looked different in the past, they will then compare these with the present and consider how these have changed over time. Students will choose a 'Special Past Person' that they will write questions to over the term and then have a week dedicated to interviewing them, collecting their responses, images and drawing and representing through a video, or form of digital media.



Arts

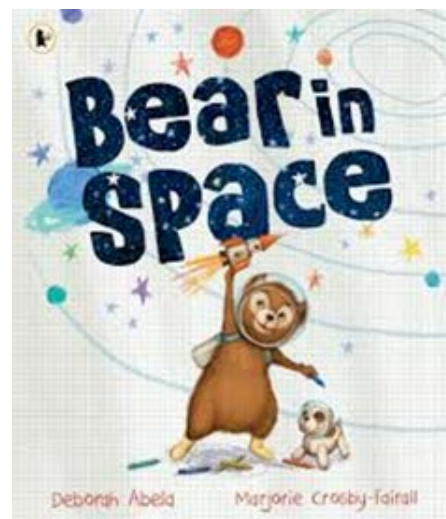
Students will have the chance to get messy and a little creative learning about primary and secondary colours, mixing tints/shades, warm v cool colours and how colours match our emotions. We will explore these through a range of literature and media experimenting with colour combinations, materials and techniques. Students will then use these skills to learn about specific artists pieces such as Wassily Kandinsky, pointillism, Aboriginal art and creating a portrait of dad for Father's Day. Students will share their feelings and ideas about artwork with peers and share the art decisions they have made. We aim to build confidence for students using a variety of materials when experimenting with new ideas.

Miss A 😊 - Year 1/2

Term 3 has started with great enthusiasm as we dive straight back into our learning journey. We've hit the ground running by engaging in various activities, including interviewing our peers about their winter holiday break. This exercise not only helped us reconnect but also enhanced our communication skills as we share and learn from each other's experiences. The busy start sets a positive tone for the term ahead, promising a continuation of growth and discovery.

Literacy

Throughout this term, students will embark on an exciting journey through literacy and thematic exploration. With a focus on phonemes, morphology, reading comprehension, and handwriting, they'll also dive into the Bear in Space unit, learning about space travel and the importance of finding supportive companions. The unit combines factual and fictional texts, enhancing space vocabulary and understanding. In Desert Lake: The story of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre unit, students will explore the region's diverse ecosystem, using 'ing' verbs and modal verbs to create persuasive texts. Building on these experiences, they'll write a hybrid text with a space theme, integrating their skills and knowledge.



Linked Learning

As this term unfolds, students will embark on a journey into outer space, combining the subjects of science, HASS, digital technology, and the arts. They'll explore celestial objects in our solar system, learning about planets, the moon cycle, and sky patterns. The "Journey Through the Solar System" project involves creating an animation featuring an astronaut and a chosen planet. Students will research astronauts and planets, then use PowerPoint to craft an engaging animated story. This project enhances their understanding of space while developing skills in storytelling, technology, and presentation.



Maths

This term in maths, students will focus on enhancing their fluency and operational strategies through their daily Think Mentals work and a new fluency task, Automathic. They'll explore the representation, combination, separation, and transformation of 2D shapes, while recognising, sorting, and describing 3D objects. Simple maps will aid spatial understanding. In subtraction, students will learn the bridging to 10 strategy, subtract two-digit numbers, and apply inverse strategies for both addition and subtraction. They'll develop proficiency in the split and jump strategies, as well as column addition and subtraction. Additionally, students will explore fractions, including halves, quarters, and eighths of collections, building a comprehensive toolkit for mathematical problem-solving.



Health and Physical Education (Mr Kelly)



In Health, students will identify a range of emotions and learn strategies that promote positive feelings and emotions in themselves and others. They will explain the positive benefits of belonging in a group, understand and name feelings and emotions and learn strategies to use in promoting positive emotions.

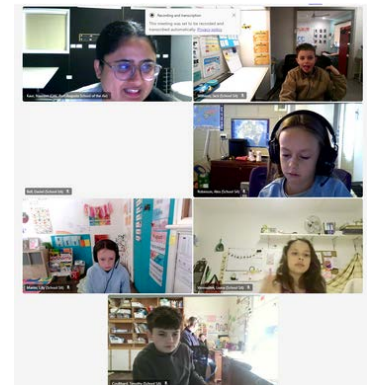
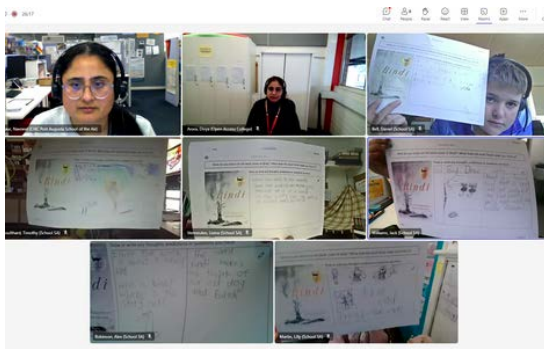
In Physical Education lessons, students will perform movement sequences that incorporate the elements of soccer. They will develop fundamental soccer skills and experiences. Students will have an opportunity to select a soccer drill or activity based on personal preference and refine their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills to enhance their soccer performance.

Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

Term 3 Overview



Welcome back to Term 3! I hope everyone had a great break and is feeling recharged! We have a busy and exciting term ahead, filled with amazing learning opportunities. Here's a glimpse of what we'll be diving into together. This term, we will have four online lessons for English, three lessons each for Maths and Linked Learning, and one lesson for Japanese.



Maths

In Maths, we will begin with a focus on Measurement. Students will build their understanding of length, mass, capacity and time through practical, hands-on activities. They will estimate, measure, and compare using familiar metric units and apply their knowledge to solve everyday problems.

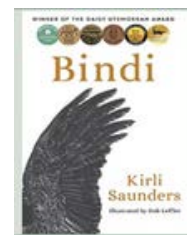


In the second half of the term, we will shift our attention to Space. Students will investigate the properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects, including symmetry, angles, and the use of geometric language. They will explore transformations such as flips, slides, and turns, and apply their understanding to identify and describe shapes in their environment.



English

This term, we will be exploring the verse novel *Bindi* by Kirli Saunders. Through this rich and culturally significant text, students will engage with themes of identity, caring for Country, and community. As we read, we will explore a variety of poetic devices including imagery, similes, metaphors, alliteration, and repetition. Students will analyse how these techniques create meaning and emotion in poetry, and experiment with using them in their own writing. This unit will also support students to deepen their comprehension, develop vocabulary, and respond personally and creatively to literature. We will also continue with our weekly spelling, comprehension, DORF, grammar and IXL tasks.



Linked Learning: Paper planes and Mushrooms

This term, our integrated unit takes flight with an exploration of Paper Planes, inspired by the novel by Steve Worland. Through this engaging text, students will explore themes of perseverance, creativity, and innovation, while deepening their comprehension and inferencing in English. Linking across Science, Design and Technology, Art and HASS, students will investigate the forces behind flight, design and test various paper plane models, and explore the impact of innovation on communities and the environment.



In the second half of the term, students will take part in a sustainability and food science project by growing their own mushrooms using free kits provided by the Australian Mushroom Growers Association (AMGA). This practical experience will help students understand life cycles, food production, and sustainable farming practices while fostering curiosity and care for the natural world.



Health and Physical Education (With Mr. Moyne)

In Health this term, students will become advertising detectives, identifying gimmicks and tricks advertisers use to influence people's choices.



Within practical lessons, students will be developing skills in soccer while learning about invasion game strategies.



Miss Morley - Year 5/6

Welcome back to Semester 2! I hope you all enjoyed the break and are feeling refreshed and ready to start our new learning topics.

English



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This term in English, we will focus on developing our digital communication skills by learning to create various types of emails. Our class will explore how to identify safe versus suspicious emails, as well as how to select appropriate formal or informal language and text structures. Finally, we will learn how to write a clear and effective email for different audiences and purposes.

We will also continue to strengthen our understanding of word and sentence structures. This will include analysis and application of morphemes and parts of speech in lessons, follow-ups, and within our weekly DORF readings.

Mathematics

In Maths, we are exploring measurement, geometry, and spatial reasoning.

During the first few weeks, students will learn to plan a day's travel by interpreting and applying knowledge gathered from maps and timetables. Afterwards, we will examine converting between various units of measurement and finish with an exploration of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.



Our morning mathematics practice will return to physical worksheets this term as we introduce the new "Automathic" program, designed to enhance students' fluency with mathematical operations.

Linked Learning



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Connecting to the Bridgestone World Solar Car Race, which is happening this term, our Linked Learning topic this term is Renewable Cars! We'll begin by looking into how cars are designed and see how cars have evolved through history, while building our technical drawing skills. Following that, we'll learn about electrical circuits and how they are used in electric and solar-powered cars.

Our class will get hands-on Science and Tech experience by creating simple circuits and participating in science experiments, before building our own miniature solar car to race!

Health and Physical Education (Mr Moyne)

In Health and Physical Education, Year 5 students will gain an understanding of multiculturalism by examining the changing nature of Australia's cultural identity.

Year 6 students will be exploring nutrition by focusing upon how drink choices contribute to health and wellbeing as well as learning to critically analyse ingredient labels and make decisions as to healthy alternatives.

Within practical lessons, students will be developing skills in soccer while learning about invasion game strategies.



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WELCOME MISS D



Warm greetings, SOTA families!

My name is Divya Arora, and I feel incredibly privileged to have been given the opportunity to provide learning support to the SOTA students at Open Access College. I've spent the last 15 years working as a secondary Maths teacher and a class coordinator, after completing my Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Bachelor of Education degrees in my home country. I hold a strong background in school-based student support, working with children with additional needs, proven ability in curriculum development, online teaching, technology integration and teacher mentorship. I've also had the chance to fill support roles in a casual capacity, including aiding with neuro divergent children at school sites in Adelaide. Beyond my formal experience, I worked as an avid volunteer in my spare time organising Blood Donation camps, eye pledges, and eye donation. I would describe myself as a kind, compassionate and an understanding person. I really pride myself on my ability to easily connect with those around me and I believe my interpersonal skills are one of my strongest attributes. I'm truly passionate about education and helping students succeed.

I really look forward to getting to know you all and supporting our students on their learning journeys!

Kind regards

Divya Arora

R.I.C.E. SCIENCE SESSIONS

For the month of August, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 students will participate with RICE families in science sessions to celebrate National Science Week.

Here you can see students making leaking bags and marshmallow construction.

Thank you to all at RICE for allowing us to join in with you for this learning.

