



September 2025 Term 3

Message from the Head of Campus

It's hard to believe we are already in Week 10 of Term 3! Currently all SOTA staff are in Coober Pedy for Mini School, experiencing a multitude of lessons at Coober Pedy Area School, along with a variety of events and activities. We look forward to sharing photos and experiences from this face-to-face opportunity.

I wish to extend a big thanks to our SOTA (School of the Air) staff and community for the warm welcome and to provide a little more information about myself as I step into my new role as Head of Campus, Port Augusta.

Over the past week, I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet (almost) all the students by joining their lessons online with our exceptional SOTA teachers. Hearing each student share their name, location, age, and even ask questions has been an amazing experience. I'm keen to build on these first initial connections with both your children, and you as the year continues. Julie Taylor, Principal of Open Access College also travelled up to support with my transition to my new role.

As the new Head of Campus, I am incredibly excited and honoured to work alongside the students, families, supervisors, and staff of School of the Air. This role represents both a privilege and an opportunity that I am ready to embrace enthusiastically.

As you are aware my name is Paul Pitkin, and I live just south of Orroroo near a small town called Pekina. My family and I call a 60-acre property home, located on the edge of the community. Our property is bustling with a variety of animals and currently has a rather healthy looking (fingers crossed) wheat crop - a vibrant reminder of how quickly seasons can change, something I know many of you would be familiar with.

My wife, Kathy, works at Orroroo Area School as an SSO and a school bus driver, roles she has undertaken for over 10 years. She is also an incredibly talented artisan, making earrings under her brand, 'Rustee Windmill.' Our two children, Samuel and Annie-Mae use home as a bit of a base. Samuel spends much of his time working across the state and beyond, involved in mustering, shearing, and crutching. His work has taken him along the west coast of SA, the Oodnadatta Track, the Barrier highway, Flinders Ranges and even to Tasmania this year. Annie-Mae has recently begun a new chapter working as an SSO at Booleroo Centre District School, assisting in primary classes, after spending eight months at Carrapateena Mine. Both Samuel and Annie-Mae remain actively involved with the Orroroo Football and Netball Clubs although both finished their finals campaigns on Saturday.

My career as an educator has been incredibly diverse and rewarding. I've been privileged to teach and lead in a variety of inspiring schools and communities. Like many educators, I view teaching as a vocation rather than simply a profession and have always approached my roles with a deep sense of responsibility and commitment.

I was born and educated in Whyalla, where my family continues to live, and began my teaching career there. Over the years, I've taught and led in numerous locations, including Roxby Downs Area School, Oak Valley Aboriginal School, Yiyili Aboriginal Independent School (Kimberley region, WA), Pinnaroo Primary School, and Orroroo Area School.

In leadership roles, I've spent the past eight years serving as part of the Local Education Team (LET) in the Port Augusta 2 Portfolio. My position as Principal Consultant, Education Lead, Schools and Education Director (12 months) involved working with around 25 schools and preschools across the Whyalla and Flinders Partnership. These roles have included driving the Department for Education's improvement strategies, supporting principals and preschool directors with strategic planning and collaborating with sites to navigate challenges and celebrate successes. I've also been honoured to serve as principal at three schools: Pinnaroo Primary School, Orroroo Area School (school-based preschool to Year 12), and Memorial Oval Primary School in Whyalla over a fifteen-year span.

Now, these experiences have led me to this exciting new chapter with School of the Air. My philosophy as both an educator and leader are centred on the foundation of strong relationships. I believe relationships underpin everything we achieve collectively, and I am committed to fostering meaningful and productive connections to provide the best learning opportunities for our students, staff and families.

I'm looking forward to working with you all. Take care.



Itinerant teacher bookings - Term 4

A reminder to all SOTA families that our 'amazing' itinerant teachers have some weeks free to visit your child/children in Term 4. As the calendar currently stands we have vacancies in weeks 1, 6 and 7.

SOTA staff are at Marden campus Tuesday of week 3 for a student free day (professional development), thus the logistics maybe tricky to incorporate a visit in this week. Please consider investing in this incredible resource.

RFDS Integrated Primary Health and Education Centre

Construction is well and truly underway on the RFDS's outback centre for health, research and education in Port Augusta, which will lead the future for rural and remote health care and education across the nation.

On Wednesday Julie Taylor, Principal, Open Access College, Kye Lawler, Business Leader, OAC, Angela Grindell, Business Manager, SOTA and I were lucky enough to visit the new School of the Air campus. We were able to walk through the new building, understand and see the layout of the offices, classrooms spaces etc. Julie was able to talk us through the journey to get to this point and the thinking behind the design. I sincerely believe this is an exciting time for the SOTA campus and I look forward to sharing further photos and updates.



Lions Club of Port Augusta donation



On Wednesday Anne-Marie from our local Lions Club of Port Augusta came to the SOTA campus and presented a cheque for \$400.00 to go to our school.

Julie Taylor, Principal, Open Access College and I were thrilled to receive the generous donation.

We look forward to continuing our association with Lions Club of Port Augusta into the future.

EVENTS

Mini School at Coober Pedy: **22- 25 September**
DES - DJ and Family night **Friday 26 September**

Term 4

Student Free Day : **28 October**

Last day of online lessons : **3 December**

Get Together weekend : **5 - 6 December**

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 (T4) Wednesday

Week 7 (T4) Wednesday

CGC: Week 4 (T4) Wednesday

Week 8 (T4) Wednesday

DES

Hi everyone,

Can you believe it's already week 10? Time is flying! Planning for our Coober Pedy fundraising event is coming together, and we're so excited for what's shaping up to be a fantastic night.

There'll be live music with Gav Chandler, dinner at the Italian club, a kids' disco, scavenger hunt, games, plus your last chance to grab raffle tickets and place bids in the silent auction.

We've already sold over 300 raffle tickets (amazing!) And sales are still going strong. The silent auction has opened on our socials, bidding will be available by email or direct message, and then you'll get one final chance to outbid in person at the event. Just another reason to attend our event!

A big thank you to AMJ, who are kindly donating fruit for our science and snack afternoon during in-school at Coober Pedy. The kids will also get to use the science kits we purchased last year. It's always so nice seeing everyone together and getting hands on.

Looking ahead to term 4, we're thrilled to share that des pannikin mugs will be available in navy and white for \$20 each. We'll send out more details soon, but they'll make the perfect keepsake or gift!

The resources we ordered at the start of term are also starting to arrive at SOTA and will be ready for collection at Coober Pedy.

We're so grateful for the amazing support from our families and sponsors—these events and resources wouldn't be possible without you, and they make such a difference for our students.

See you soon,

The DES governess team



26 SEP
5:30pm

DES

Punk-raiser

KIDS \$10
ADULTS \$15
2 ADULTS 2 KIDS \$40
1 ADULT & 2 KIDS \$35

Dinner 6pm
kids disco & games 7-8pm

LIVE MUSIC BY
GAV CHANDLER
8-12PM

Dinner sold separately
Supervising adults only \$5

the Italian Club, Coober Pedy



RAFFLE

DES Governess Round up Raffle

Tickets \$5 each

All prizes kindly donated by sponsors sourced by the DES governess members

Drawn on the 26th of September

1st prize valued at \$600

Hide to Tidy voucher, Williams cattle company soft shell jacket, Desert Shore Designs neck scarves and scrunchies, Blinman Miners crib and cafe bundle and DK pastoral embroidered Jumper.

2nd prize valued at \$500

Saltbush Stretch voucher, William Creek wine and port pack, Cowgirls opshop voucher, Jaylou designs heat packs and desert creations earrings and neck scarf.

3rd prize valued at \$350

Chute 9 Jeans voucher, Blinman pub hoodie, Pink road house merch, William Cattle Company Cap and Kent Saddlery cap and stubby cooler

Good Luck !



LIBRARY NEWS

SOTA, you really know how to do Book Week! We loved everything - from your creative dress-ups to the way you embraced all the activities and explored the shortlisted books with enthusiasm. Thank you for making this year's Book Week such a success. A huge congratulations to our SOTA Competition Winners:

New Front Cover

Competition:

Simba Peniai Siraji

Eli Cuffe

Memphis Cuffe

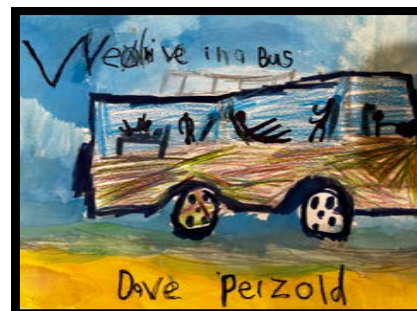
Timothy Coulthard



Alex & Spiro



Timmy's Spiro



Eli's new cover for "We Live in a Bus"

Create a Character Competition:

Jack Williams

Jovie Williams

Alex Robinson

Aria Coulthard

Lenny Williams

Right: Jack's
bird model
inspired by
Spiro By Anna
McGregor



Best Eco/Homemade Costume:

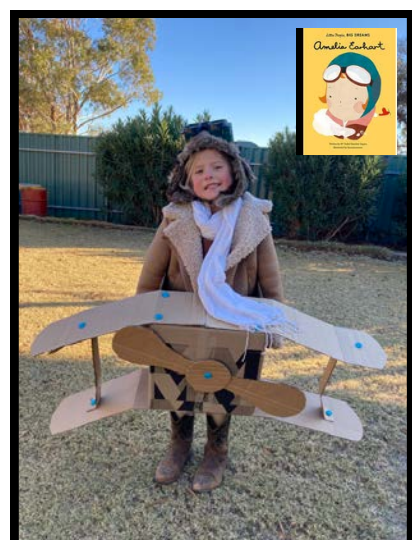
Airlie and Remy Rose for their Little Miss efforts

Best Theme Costume: *Book an Adventure*

Simba Peniai-Siraji for his Curiosity dress up and Elsie Henery for her dress up for Amelia Earhart. Lots of time and effort were invested into these wonderful creations. All winners received a shortlisted book kindly gifted by the Marden Education Centre Library.

Congratulations to everyone for your participation and huge efforts throughout Book Week!

The Williams'
family aka
Smurfs



LIBRARY NEWS

We hope everyone enjoyed the surprise envelope craft and construction task. Apologies to those who didn't receive their packages in time – I really appreciated how well you adapted to this inconvenience. Hopefully your parcel has now arrived, and you've had fun creating! I was particularly impressed with the problem-solving on display. Lisma deserves a special mention for her resourcefulness – using the paper option when she had no hot glue and adapting cleverly when her tooth pocket tore.

The live activity was such a highlight for me, especially with the suspense of the mystery envelopes. Thank you for your support and participation. It was wonderful to see your creativity, problem solving, mathematical thinking, time management and persistence. These skills made the task rewarding and successful.

Finally, the Premier's Reading Challenge wrapped up on September 5th. Thank you to all students who completed the challenge and uploaded their forms to the Teams page – a fantastic effort!



Above: Cameron as Sir Sidney Kidman, the Cattle King and Bonnie as Celaena Sardothien, the main heroine from Throne of Glass by Sarah J Maas.



Term 3 Week 4

Miss Stringer: Hudson: for respectful listening during online lessons, great attempts at independent segmenting when writing and always producing neat work that he has taken his best care to complete.

Ms Andrews: Simba : for demonstrating outstanding independence both at home and during our online lessons. Also, for showing initiative and dedication in his project work, exceeding all expectations.

Miss Kaur: Lisma : For actively participating in all class discussions, asking clarifying questions and applying constructive feedback to improve her work.

Miss Morley: Bonnie : In recognition of her commitment to her follow-up learning, demonstrating clear focus and organisation skills over last few weeks.

Mr Kelly: Emmett : In recognition of his consistent dedication in completing all assigned tasks during his visit to SOTA.

Mr Moyne: Jayden : For consistent effort, taking on feedback and timely completion of work submissions for HPE activities.

Term 3 Week 6

Miss Stringer: James : for showing resilience and writing skills such as segmenting, correct letter formations and spacing, sounding out and finger spaces to create fantastic and very clear procedures and writing pieces.

Ms Andrews: Lenny : For demonstrating persistence in learning and applying mathematical strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems during online lessons and at-home tasks.

Miss Kaur: Jack : For his consistent commitment to learning, going above and beyond in all learning tasks, and taking on constructive feedback to improve his work further.

Miss Morley: George : For his dedication, enthusiasm, and thoughtful questions in Linked Learning, and persistent on-going effort in practicing his spelling skills with Miss Georgy.

Mr Moyne: Lawson : For consistent effort and putting in time to catch up on work submissions for Health and Physical Education.

Mr Kelly's Itinerant Visits

During my visits this term I have introduced some new sports activities including some exciting warm up games and several rounds of soccer with the new soccer balls. Some students have also had a turn at programming Dash the robot. It has also been great to continue on with favourite games such as Zingo.

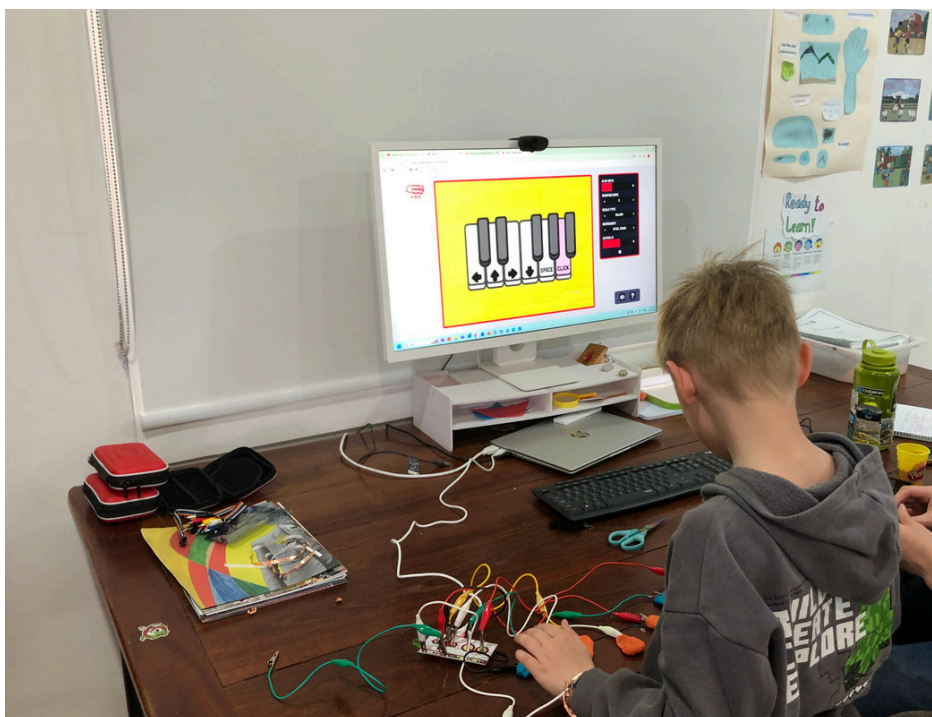


Mr Kelly's Itinerant Visits



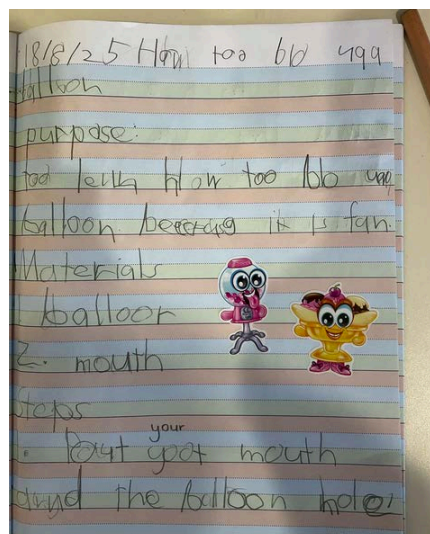
Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

Hi all! Term 3 has been another busy term full of enthusiastic students eager to participate in a variety of learning activities. It has been fun to support students in projects such as making a Play-Doh piano, a solar car and experimenting with crystal growing. Softball and soccer have also proved popular this term with students keen to practice and improve their skills. As always, it has been a pleasure supporting supervisors and I look forward to seeing you all in a visit soon.

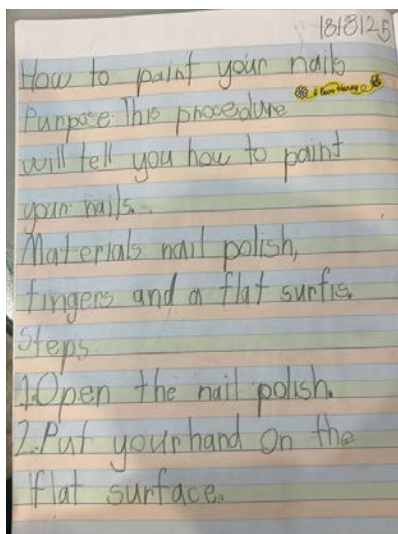




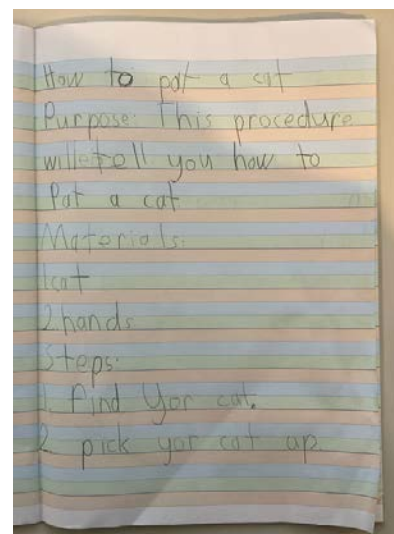
Miss Stringer - Reception



Asher



Memphis



Elsie

We have been busy exploring procedures this term and the messages that they convey. Our writing stamina is increasing as are our writing skills to use capital and lowercase letters correctly, writing using correct formations, sounding out/segmenting to spell words and following procedure structure. We have learned that procedures can be in many forms, and have explored them all! We chose our own procedures to write and then portrayed them in many other ways, images, video and verbally with just our voice. We shared our procedures along the way with our peers and enjoyed learning how to complete different tasks. You can see some examples of our written and image procedures here.

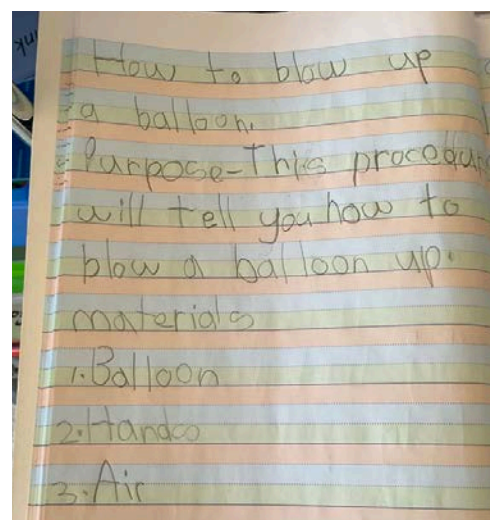
James



Hudson



Airlie



How to wash your hands - Aria

Our arts focus this term has been visual arts where we have explored colour concepts. These have included primary and secondary colours and mixing into different shades, warm and cool colours and we explored Wassily Kandinsky art. We explored Squares With Concentric Circles and the colours he used, how the painting made us feel and then used this as inspiration to create our own shades of colours for our own painting. Please see our art pieces from the term below.

Asher

James



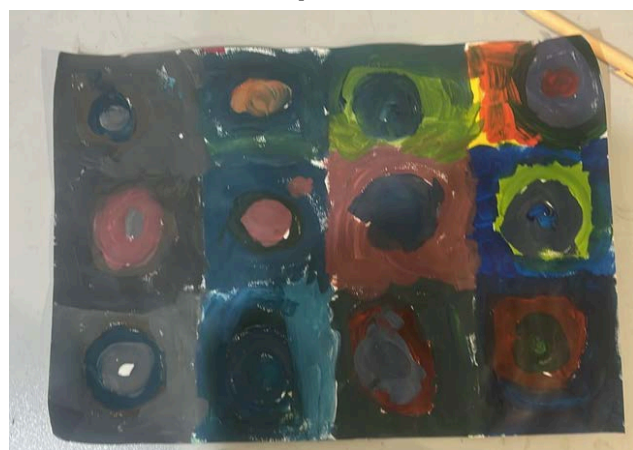
Aria ^

Hudson >

Memphis



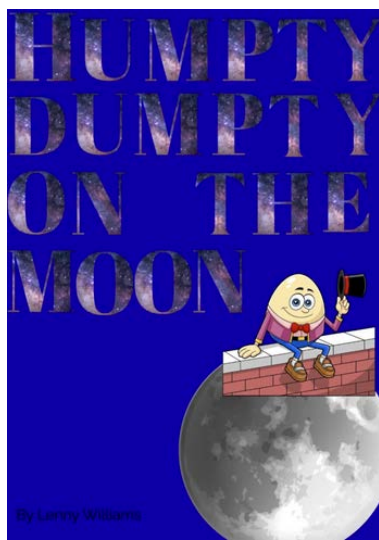
Airlie



Elsie

Miss Andrews - Year 1/2

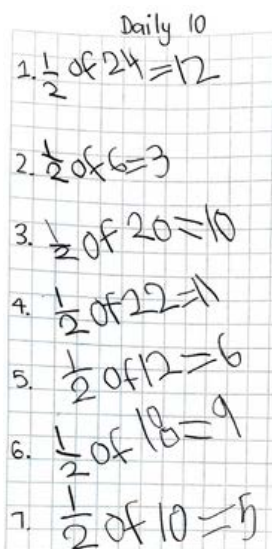
Term 3 began with enthusiasm as students reconnected by interviewing peers about their winter holiday break, enhancing communication skills. This busy start set a positive tone for growth and discovery.



Lenny

In maths, students enhanced their fluency and operational strategies through Think Mentals and Automathic tasks. We explored 2D and 3D shapes, simple maps, and various subtraction strategies, while also studying fractions.

Cameron

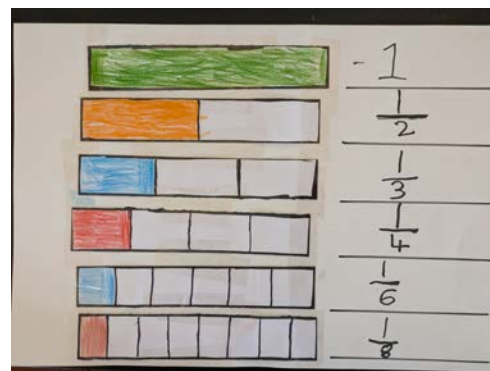


Jovie

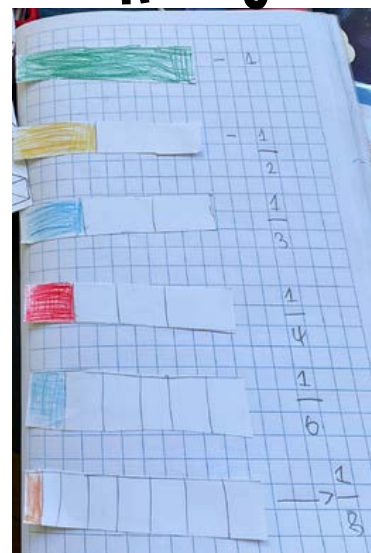


In literacy, we have focused on phonemes, morphology, reading comprehension, and handwriting. We explored the Bear in Space unit, learning about space travel through factual and fictional text, and delved into the Desert Lake unit, learning about Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. These experiences culminated in writing a hybrid text with a space theme.

Edward



Remy



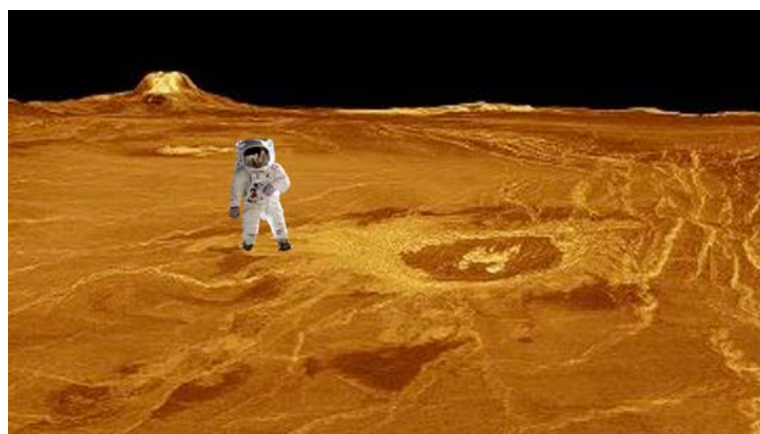
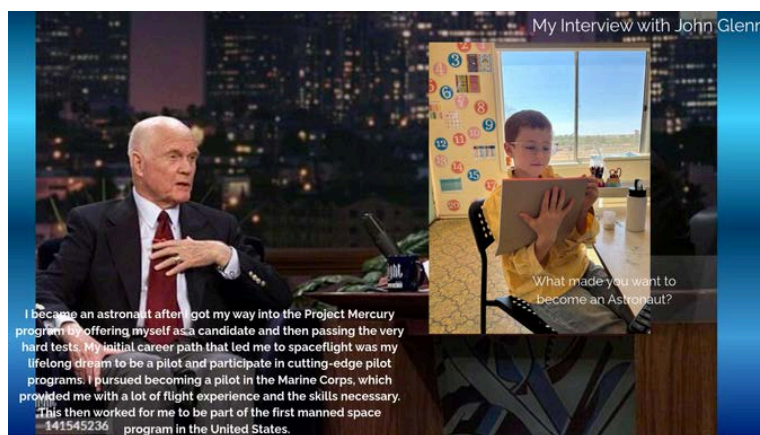


Eli



Roy

Students also journeyed into outer space, combining science, HASS, digital technology, and the arts. We explored celestial objects and created animations featuring astronauts and planets from our own research, enhancing their understanding of space and developing storytelling, technology, and presentation skills.



Emmett

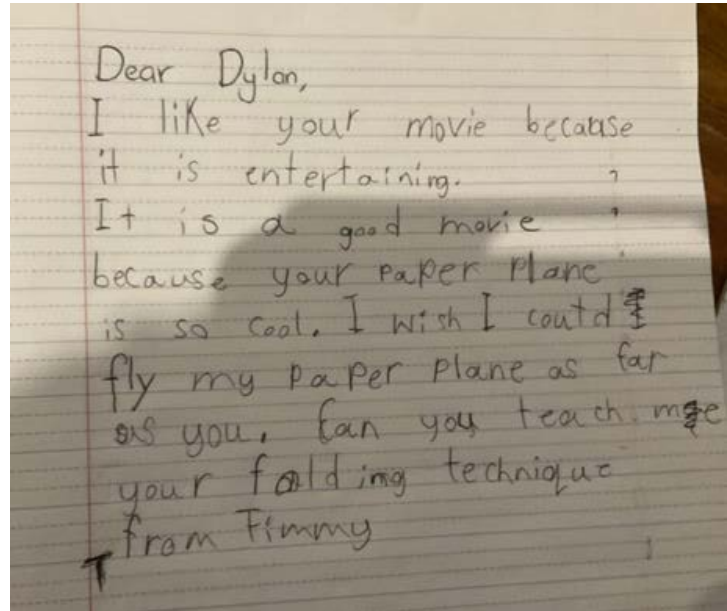


Simba

Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

Timmy

This term in Linked Learning, we have been exploring paper planes and reading Paper Planes by Steve Worland. Our students have been busy creating some amazing work! Lilly experimented with making her own paper planes, Timmy and Dan wrote a thoughtful letter to the main character of the book Paper Planes, and Lisma designed an informative poster all about the history of paper planes.



Lilly



Lisma



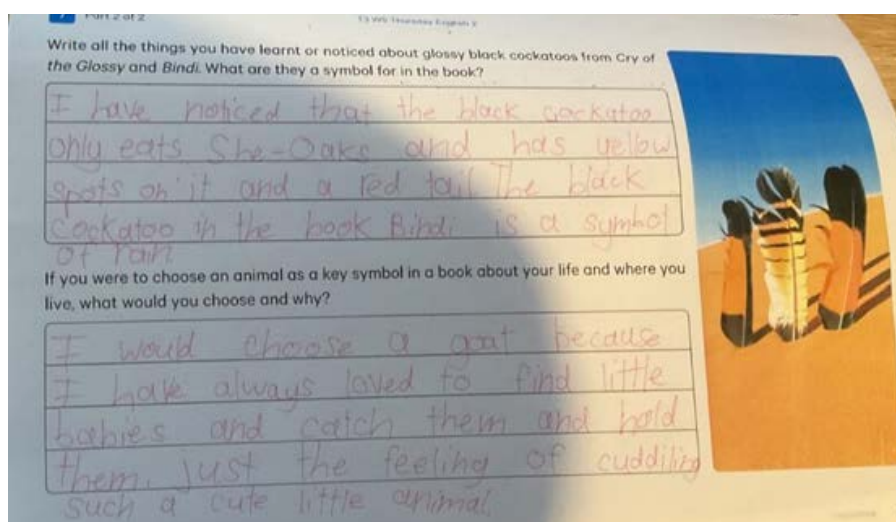
Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

In English, we have been reading Bindi by Kirli Saunders.

Jack created a poster all about glossy black cockatoos, inspired by one of the poems in the book. Alex shared her thoughts on what the black cockatoo symbolises and also wrote about the animal she would choose as her own key symbol.



Jack



Alex

To Dylan Webber

From Daniel

Hi Dylan hope you are having a great day. I am currently watching your paper planes movie and our teacher left us on a big cliffhanger. So far the movie is a very great movie. I can't wait to finish it. I liked the scene when you won the world championship. I thought it was funny when you threw the paper ball at Kevin and also when you and Kevin got chased by the rocket. I hope this gets to you Dylan have a great day.

From Daniel

Dan

Miss Morley - Year 5/6

Another busy term has quickly passed without a moment to spare! This term, our class has been focusing on developing skills in reading maps and timetables, measuring using different units and dimensions, and composing formal emails—essential skills as students prepare for high school.

Additionally, we have been exploring renewable energy, particularly how solar energy and electricity can be used to design environmentally friendly vehicles. Students researched and tracked the teams participating in the World Solar Challenge and are now designing their own solar car models to race at Coober Pedy. Let's wish them a successful design experience and the best of luck in their upcoming race!

Bonnie's Solar Car Project –
Scientific Experiment
Testing and Results



Part 6: Results and Conclusion			
Record your test results			
Trial #	Distance (m)	Time (s)	Notes/Observations
1. Single battery	7.63M	4.69s	I kind of wored of course.
2. Double battery	7.63M	14.28s	I think the motor was going to fast for the speed to cald.
3. Double battery	7.63M	10.33s	Not sure why it was faster than the first one.

Lara's Solar Car Project – Background Context,
Scientific Experiment Planning and Variables

Part 1: Explain and Justify

In your own words, explain (using full sentences):

What is a renewable energy car?
A car that uses the sun, wind, water, etc. as fuel, instead of non-renewable fuels. A renewable energy is something that isn't a one time use, like you can use it more than once.

Why should we design and use renewable energy cars?
Because it's better for keeping the Earth healthy, and it's cheaper than buying non-renewable fuels like coal, gasoline, etc.

Part 5: Testing A Modification

Choose one modification and design an experiment to test what effect it will have on your car's speed.

Modification I will test: Try two batteries

My Prediction: I think if I add another battery it will go faster because it will have more power.

Independent Variable (what you will change): How many batteries I use.

Dependent Variable (what you will measure): How long it takes to reach a certain point.

Controlled Variables (what stays the same): The distance to drive, the wheels, body, motor, the level of difficulty.

Safety Check: One risk is batteries over heating. I will stay safe by unplugging the wires while a write down.

Eli's Solar Car Project –
Technical Drawings and Scientific Experiment
Planning and Variables

Part 5: Testing A Modification

Choose one modification and design an experiment to test what effect it will have on your car's speed.

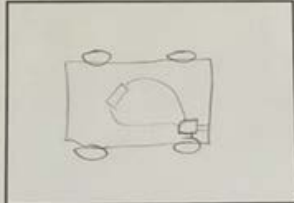
Modification I will test: to use the solar panel and the batteries at the same time.

My Prediction: that the car will go faster because it has more power.

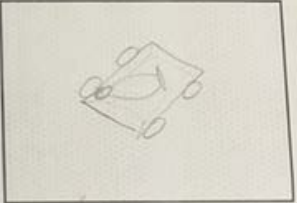
Independent Variable (what you will change): the power of it.

Dependent Variable (what you will measure): how long it takes to get to a place.

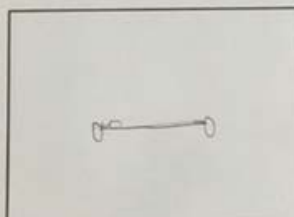
Controlled Variables (what stays the same): the body.



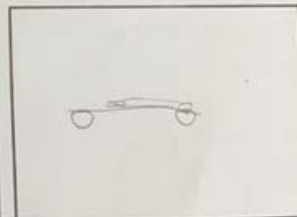
TOP VIEW



ISOMETRIC VIEW

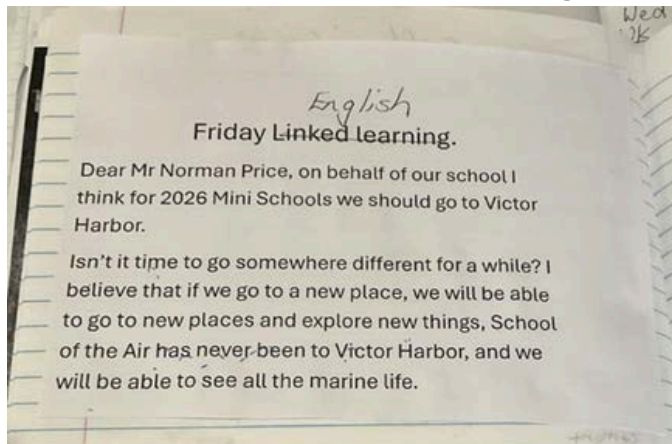


FRONT VIEW

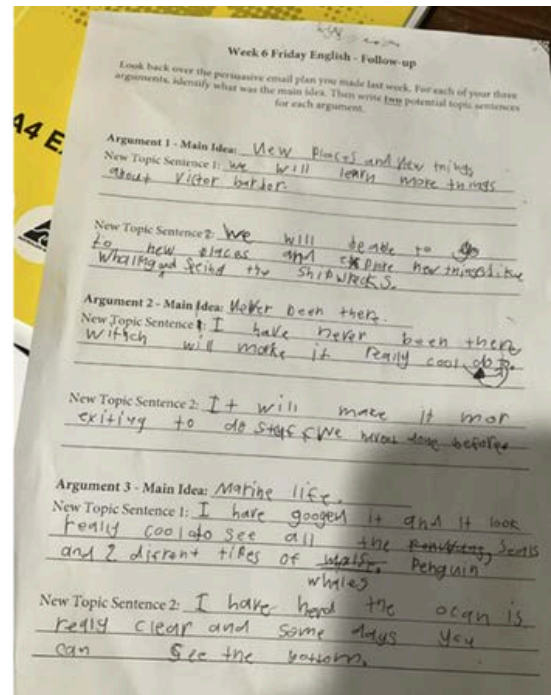


RIGHT SIDE VIEW

Miss Morley - Year 5/6



George's SOTA Camp Email – Introduction and Topic Sentences



Lawson's Persuasive Email, and Educational Change Email – Planning Template

W5 Tuesday Follow-up Persuasive Email Plan

I know that planning my writing helps me to organise my ideas.

My Opinion or Topic:
Three day weekend!

Argument One: <u>We are only going</u>	Supporting Explanation: <u>We can't take all the internet and we forget some other work</u>	Facts/evidence: <u>Our bus are still not going</u>
Argument Two: <u>There is five days of school</u>	Supporting Explanation: <u>You can't telegraph over the weekend</u>	Facts/evidence: <u>Only 2 days of weekend</u>
Argument Three: <u>We have 2 free days of school and 1 free day of weekend</u>	Supporting Explanation: <u>Little kids can't take all those days</u>	Facts/evidence: <u>There are too many days of school</u>

Conclusion: In conclusion kids get less smart because of too many days of school

Dear KTM

Good afternoon. I hope you have had a good day so far. My name is Lawson Rankin, and I live on a cattle station just south of Coober Pedy, SA. This email is a request to see if you would be interested in planning a motorbike brand because I have been thinking about it for the last couple of weeks. It would be called the Desert Eagle, be around 600cc, be a 4 stroke and the colours would be green, black and a bit of purple. It would be a wide bike because that is best for desert riding. Please consider this request because I think it would be a best seller.

Thanks for your time

Kind regards

Lawson Rankin

Jayden's Persuasive Email, and SOTA Camp Email – Introduction and Argument Notes

mum@gmail.com.au

Why we should not have to do jobs.

Dear Mum,

I am sending this email to you as I am sure that you are aware I DO NOT want to do your jobs anymore!!!

Firstly I do the kindling every day. I do the same job every day.

Secondly I am tired of helping you. I help you every day. It is preventing me from building my Minecraft and playing outside.

Finally I am tired of helping you!!!! As a result I am not getting the time I need outside.

Best wished your favourite son,

Jayden Beard

