

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



August 2026 Term 3

Message from the Head of Campus

As we begin Term 3, we are delighted to welcome Drew Colman to Miss Stringer's Reception class. We look forward to supporting Drew as she embarks on her learning journey with School of the Air. With two older siblings already part of our community, Drew is likely to feel right at home, and we are confident she will quickly settle into our routines and structures. We hope Drew thoroughly enjoys her time at School of the Air and look forward to seeing her curiosity and love of learning grow in the months ahead.



New playground

Well someone (or two) had to be the first to trial out our latest addition at the new SOTA building. Ada and Roy certainly enjoyed checking out the playground.



More new playground equipment ...

Our final instalment of playground equipment has taken place in our outdoor space this week.



Visitors to the NEW SOTA building

Since moving into our new premises we have been spoilt with visitors. It has been a privilege to showcase our new building and for several students the opportunity to undertake their learning next to their teacher and within the new learning environment has been a special experience.

Some of our visitors have been,

- Hudson Willis and Candice; then we had Hudson, Nelson, Ruby and Candice visit on their return back to Arcoona Station. A great catch up for some previous SOTA students.
 - Eli and Memphis Cuffe spent the school day onsite with their teachers/educators - Miss A, Miss Stringer and Miss Webb.
 - Bonnie and Ian Morris came in for a look and a lesson also with Mr R.
 - Ada and Roy Nunn from Macumba Station (+ Anna and Justin) popped in for a visit, had a tour of SOTA/RFDS building and explored our latest addition.
 - Elsie spent three days with Miss A; Keziah, Patrick and Harrison popped in also.
 - Mt. Sarah station visited, with Emmett, Asher, Drew spending a few days onsite with their teachers.
- While Louise and Trent had the opportunity to look around our new space also.



Visitors to the NEW SOTA building (continued)



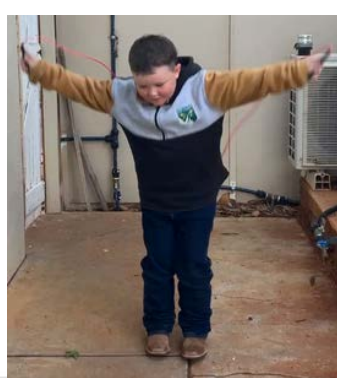
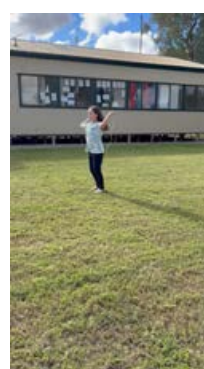
ICPA visit

Late in term 2, we had a visit by ICPA delegation to discuss SOTA specific ICPA motions. In addition, they had a tour of our new SOTA building and RFDS spaces, plus joined us for morning tea.



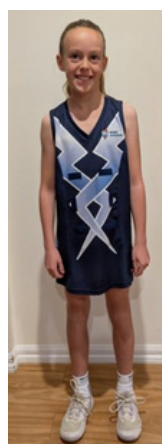
ICPA Delegation - Ian Morris (1st SOTA dad onsite), Georgy Ewing (REVISE), ICPA delegates - Kat Morris, Rebekah Rasheed, Pamela Cuffe, Petie Rankin, Paul Pitkin (Head of Campus) and Kirsty Williams (ICPA SA President)

Health and PE focus for term 2- Mr Kelly and Miss Hampshire; supporting our students to be involved in skipping and raising money for 'Jump Rope for Heart'.



SAPSASA netball representative - Alex Robinson

The 2026 Netball SAPSASA state Carnival was completed at Golden Grove, Adelaide. Alex proudly represented Mid North SAPSASA netball team and although they were competitive in each game, they ultimately came away with a couple of wins for the carnival. However I'm sure the takeaways are the fun you had playing a sport you enjoy, the friends and connections you have made, along with the opportunity to challenge yourself against other country netballers from around our state. You have made School of the Air proud – well done!



Jordan Noble-Bush - Learning Technology Officer

As you may know Jordan Noble-Bush has been employed at School of the Air, Port Augusta campus for the past 9+ years as Learning Technology officer. His work in IT has benefitted not only the staff who work at Port Augusta and Marden, but also the students and families who require IT support to troubleshoot, set up different resources etc. His efforts were acknowledged at Get Together in 2025 when he received the Tom Venning award. Jordan had however discussed with Julie Taylor and I that he was ready for the next chapter in his life, with the possibility of returning to Adelaide and being closer to family.

In saying that Jordan was committed to support and provide a smooth transition to the new building this year. Thus Jordan returned to Adelaide and a new role at Marden for the remainder of 2026. The new role still provides School of the Air staff and families contact with Jordan, to assist and navigate their way through any IT support required. This provides the same level of knowledge and continuity, just maybe not in the same building for the staff anyway. Jordan will attend face to face events if required. I'm sure you join with me in wishing Jordan every success with his relocation back to Adelaide.



Out and about

Throughout the holidays I came across a few different social media posts (Facebook), which highlighted our School of the Air students and families having some different experiences. Thought I'd share some.

- Dan Bell attended the 2026 SA Junior Heifer Expo. Dan had a really positive experience, receiving the 'Encouragement Award' in the novice section, accumulating the most points over the week.



- Oodnadatta Bronco Branding was held on the last weekend of the school holidays. We had a number of School of the Air students attend with their families and by the look of the photos some success was had.
- Great to see Lenny, Roy, Jack, George, Drew, Lucy and Ada enjoying themselves over the weekend. Thanks to Anna Nunn for sharing the photos.



EVENTS

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)
An opportunity for parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with 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

CGC: Week 5 (T3) Wednesday

OPFA: Week 7 (T3) Wednesday

Mini School @ Melrose:

20- 25 September

Get Together:

3 - 4 December

SAVE THE DATE RICE 50TH BIRTHDAY

PORT AUGUSTA RACECOURSE



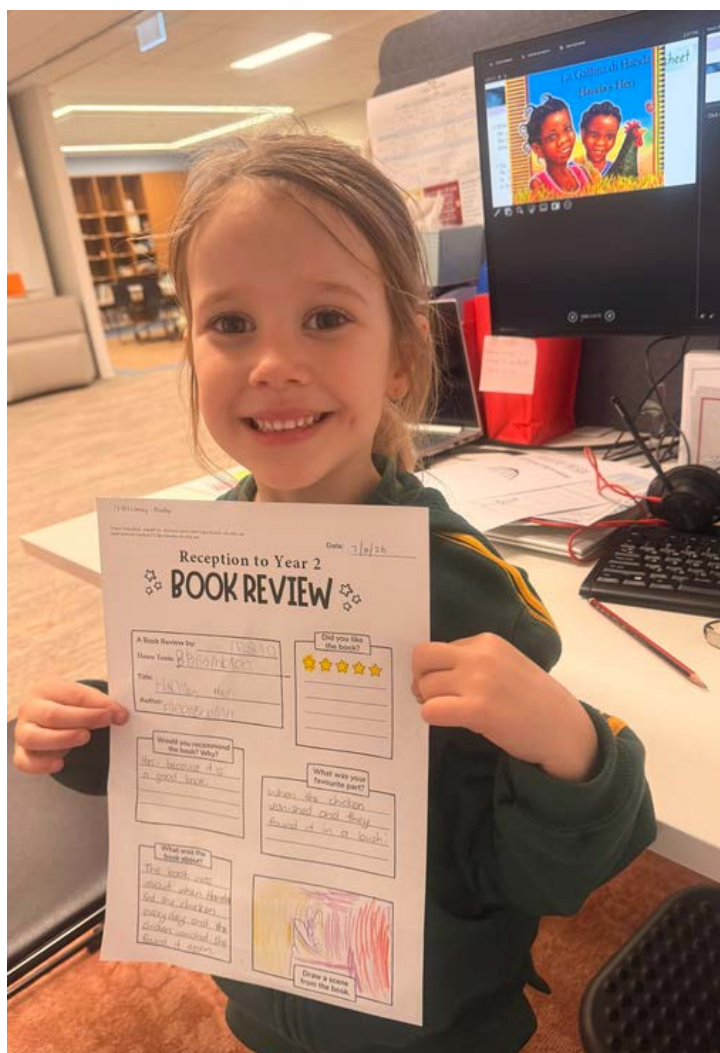
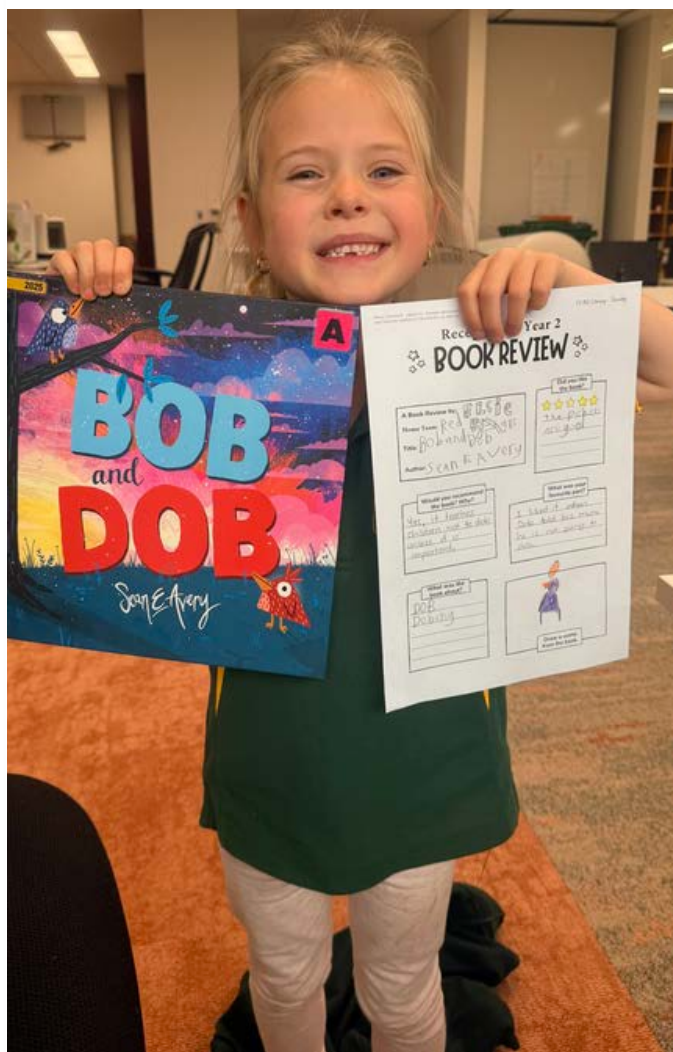
Do you have a memories, photos or stories to share about RICE?

We'd love to hear from you!

admin@rice.org.au
PO Box 1729, Port Augusta, SA 5700



SOTA Book Reviews



Term 3 Fundraiser

For our DES term 3 fundraiser we are selling SOTA beanies. There are 4 options to choose from one beanie has SOTA colours and SOTA written on it. The other options are SOTA house colours with the house names written on the back and SOTA written on the front. Each beanie will have a pom pom on the top the same colour as the beanie.

Each family who orders and purchases a beanie are helping fund different resources and experiences for the students at SOTA to enjoy.

\$32



Please email Katie Schmidt orders and receipt of payment to caitlin.j.schmidt2003@hotmail.com by Wednesday 12th August.



LIBRARY NEWS

Term 3 is an exciting time in the library, with the much-loved **Book Week** taking place in **Week 6**! This year's theme is, "Symphony of Stories".

Students have received a secret envelope containing their Book Week Assembly task. Remember...

don't open it! Keep it safe until Book Week.



During assemblies this term, we have been enjoying reading the **shortlisted Picture Book of the Year** books together, and students have also received information about our exciting Book Week competitions. We have plenty of shortlisted books to give away as prizes!

Book Week Competitions

[All competitions entries to be sent via email to jessica.tiver818@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:jessica.tiver818@schools.sa.edu.au)

Competition 1: Photo Competition

Take a photograph that captures dawn or dusk. This competition is inspired by the shortlisted picture book *Dawn* written and illustrated by Marc Martin.

Competition 2: Dear Broccoli Letter Writing - template provided (also on Teams)

Write two letters inspired by *Dear Broccoli* authored by Jo Dabrowski and illustrated by Cate James.

Competition 3: Online Quiz

Test your knowledge with Julie's online quiz based on this year's Picture Book of the Year shortlisted books.

Competition 4: Book Week Dress-Up

Join us for our Book Week Assembly on Friday Week 6 at 9:00 am. Come dressed as a book character or dress to this year's Book Week theme, "Symphony of Stories". Premier's Reading Challenge. Please share your photos to Jess' email as above.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Week Photography Competition

DAWN

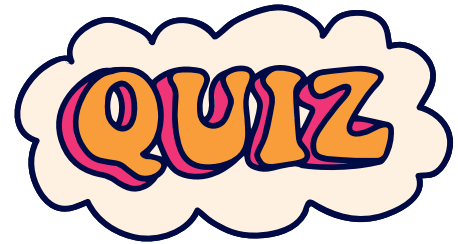
Inspired by Marc Martin's shortlisted book, Dawn, students are asked to take a photograph of "dawn" or "dusk" and share it with the library.

A prize will be awarded for the best photograph.

Due Friday Week 5

21st August 2026

library@openaccess.edu.au



Competition 3: Quiz

Head to your class Teams page and follow the link to Julie's Book Week Quiz for your chance to win a prize!



Friday Week 6 Assembly

28th August 2026

Prizes include
Shortlisted Books

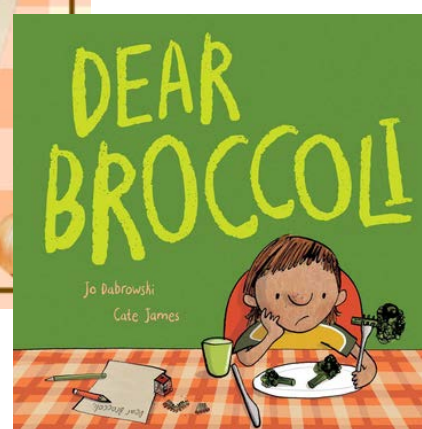
Please email your photos to:
jessica.tiver818@schools.sa.edu.au



LIBRARY NEWS



**Competition 2:
Dear Broccoli
Letter Writing on
provided template**



Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all of our Reception to Year 2 students, who have successfully completed the Premier's Reading Challenge during morning assemblies with Jess! There's no need to send in your forms, we have completed the record for all students in Years R-2.

Well done also to the students in Years 3-6 who have already submitted their completed forms, and to those who are continuing to read towards completing the challenge. **Our aim is to get 100% participation at SOTA in 2026.**

The Premier's Reading Challenge **closes on the 4th of September**, which is coming around fast! Please email completed forms to Jessica.tiver818@schools.sa.edu.au. We are looking forward to a fun-filled Book Week Assembly on Friday of Week 6. Until then...

Happy reading!

Julie and Jess

**PREMIER'S
READING
Challenge**



Term 2 Week 10

Miss Stringer: Gracie: for fantastic 'have a go' writing and working more independently to sound out the words herself and write confidently into her book, editing formations as needed.

Miss A: Airlie: For showing consistent improvements in reading fluency and for focusing on developing writing skills, including maintaining neat and careful handwriting.

Miss A: Cameron: For working hard in lessons, consistently demonstrating respectful behaviours, and showing growing confidence while developing writing skills.

Miss Morley: Timmy: For a tremendous effort in his English this fortnight. Timmy has demonstrated a growing confidence and resilience when spelling and writing. Well done Timmy!

Miss Morley: Lilly: For great persistence and creativity in her English this fortnight. Lilly demonstrates a growing understanding of phonemes in her spelling practise, and creativity in her application of focus words in conversations.

Mr Roughley: Lawson: For his resilient approach towards his learning throughout the term and taking the opportunities to continually grow as an independent learner. Keep up the positive efforts Lawson.

Mr Kelly: Tilly: Every week Tilly has been submitting video's of her skipping. She has gone from just being able to skip over the rope once or twice to consistently skipping many times in a row with confidence. Keep up the good work Tilly.

Miss Hampshire: Dan: For his outstanding leadership and positive influence throughout the term, particularly during the Pink Stumps cricket match. Dan consistently demonstrated kindness, respect and strong leadership towards all of his SOTA peers. His encouragement, positive attitude and willingness to support others has made a significant contribution to the SOTA community.

Student Council: Remy: for consistent participation in social space and social clubs, following expectations and being respectful.

Mr Pitkin: Bonnie: For your enthusiastic and motivated approach to learning, consistently contributing your thoughts, sharing considered opinions and completing set work. As Student Council President I would also like to recognise your leadership, confidence in speaking and presenting. Well done, keep up your fantastic efforts.



Term 3 Week 2

Miss Stringer: Drew: for a positive start to her schooling; always coming to lessons cheerful and prepared, following instructions, getting along with peers, showing resilience to learn TEAMS and completing some set tasks independently! Keep up the great work!

Miss A: Aria: For showing outstanding persistence in completing work, demonstrating resilience despite not having a printer, and consistently making an effort to listen and participate respectfully during online lessons.

Miss A: James: For displaying persistence and resilience in completing work, adapting positively to changes in the schoolroom routine, and consistently showing respectful behaviours during online lessons.

Miss Morley: Edward: For an excellent start to the term, with a great focus on writing clear sentences while maintaining neat and careful handwriting, and for taking on feedback to improve his understanding and answers.

Miss Morley: Jack: For his enthusiastic and curious approach to learning, his articulation of his strategies and thinking process, and his encouragement and support of his peers across all subjects.

Mr Roughley: Lisma: For approaching term 3 with a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to always doing your best. You have shown enthusiasm, perseverance and readiness to embrace new challenges.

Mr Kelly: Lenny: For demonstrating a solid understanding of how to maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle through both theory and practical application. Well done.

Miss Hampshire: Lawson: For displaying an enthusiastic attitude and active participation in Term 3 HPE learning. Keep up the great work, Lawson!

Student Council: Lilly: for being a good role model, being respectful and listening in Social Space.

Mr Pitkin: Airlie: for demonstrating a positive approach to her learning; her ability to read and write her spelling words accurately, reading her DORF passage with fluency, consistently neat handwriting and displaying outstanding recall of number facts in mathematics. Additionally, being an exceptional host on our visit to Innamincka.

Miss Hampshire's Itinerant Visits

So far this term I have been to Thurlga, Innamincka with Mr Pitkin and Arcoona Station. Together we have enjoyed lots of fun activities in each schoolroom. We have played plenty of sport, soccer was a big favourite at Arcoona and spent time doing arts and crafts at Innamincka. There also seems to be lots of puppies around, which has made some visits very special. I can't wait to be out for the rest of the term to see all the wonderful things happening in your schoolrooms!



Miss Stringer - Reception

Our Reception girl gang grew this term with the addition of Drew (and her wonderful governess, Miss Alice) as a mid-year reception student. Drew was warmly welcomed into our class and has settled in with a smile, a little bit of stubbornness 😊 but most importantly an eagerness and love for learning.

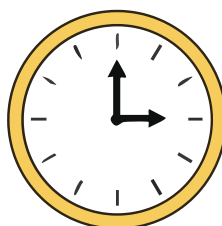
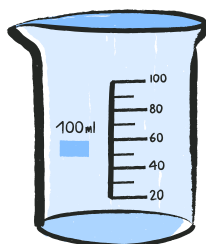
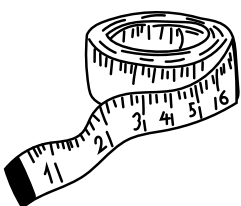
We celebrated 100 days of learning with a dress up as a 100 year old. Drew was absent this day, but you can see here we all had a lot of fun! We had been counting the days and you can see Penny was very proud to show off her completed 100 day chart. It was great to see some of our governesses get involved, and also Miss Jess in the morning library session.



Numeracy

Maths this term is a lot of hands on learning as we explore measurement. We will be using formal, and informal measurements to identify and compare the attributes of objects and events including length, mass, capacity and duration.

Students already have a sound understanding of ordering days of the week and months of the year.



Literacy

Students continue to engage with a variety of readers and texts corresponding with the focus phoneme/graphemes of the week. Repeated and multiple exposures, and seeing the grapheme in context, allow students the opportunity to connect the focus phoneme–grapheme correspondence with authentic reading experiences, strengthening their decoding skills, fluency, and understanding of how sounds and letters work together to create meaning.

Students will also write, draw and orally share procedures exploring sequencing, ordering, verbs, sequential words and the structure of a procedure.

Continuing receptions will work through digraphs with Drew beginning at single sounds.



HPE with Mr Kelly

Reception students will be exploring how do I express my feeling and stay safe, as well as personal hygiene.

For the remainder of Term 3, reception students will also have the opportunity to explore various obstacle courses.



Miss Andrews - Year 1/2

Welcome back to Term 3! It's been great to see everyone settle quickly into their learning, bringing enthusiasm and positive energy to our schoolrooms. Both students and supervisors are already showing fantastic effort, and our Year 1/2 students have been producing impressive work. I'm excited to see continued growth and participation throughout what promises to be a busy and engaging term.

Literacy

Our literacy focus this term will blend grammar and writing, as students learn how prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions, and possessives help create clear and meaningful sentences. Writing activities will encourage students to share their opinions in letters, reports, and advertisements, as well as express their thoughts about favourite books, science experiments, and Book Week characters. We'll be practising how to write questions and conduct interviews, organising information into simple reports, and checking our sentences for capitals, punctuation, and overall structure. Reading strategies will be developed through visualising, connecting, predicting, inferring, and summarising, helping students to deepen their understanding, ask thoughtful questions, and engage more fully with every story they read.



HPE with Mr Kelly

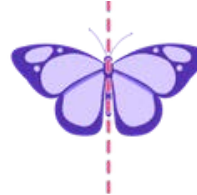
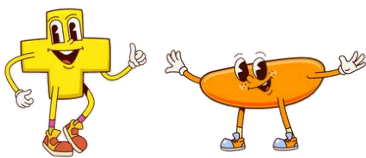
Year One and Two will be exploring personal hygiene and basic medicine safety. For the remainder of Term 3, Year One and Two will also have the opportunity to explore various dance styles from different cultures around the world.



Maths

Mathematical thinking takes centre stage this term as students explore a wide range of concepts and practical strategies. They will develop addition and subtraction skills by using different models, solving word problems, and explaining their thinking.

Measurement activities will introduce area and perimeter using informal and formal units, as well as comparing the size of shapes. Fractions will be investigated through dividing shapes and quantities into halves, quarters, and eighths, and using fraction walls to compare and understand how fractions form a whole. Students will connect multiplication and division through fact families and arrays, and examine factors. They will identify and draw lines of symmetry in shapes and objects. Data exploration will include collecting, recording, and comparing results using tallies, tables, and graphs. Probability will be introduced through simple chance experiments and using words like certain, likely, and unlikely to describe outcomes. Problem-solving skills will be fostered using the CUBES strategy for tackling word problems.



Linked Learning

From paddock to plate, our Linked Learning journey this term invites students to explore the fascinating story behind each hamburger ingredient. We'll start by planting our own wheat seeds and observing how they grow into bread for the bun. Students will investigate the pathways beef and dairy take from farms to become meat and cheese, and discover how horticulture delivers fresh veggies like lettuce, tomato, and onion. Our exploration will continue with learning about sheep for meat and wool, chickens for eggs and poultry, and pigs for bacon—understanding how all these foods are prepared and transported. Throughout the unit, we'll look at the importance of farming and food production, finishing with students assembling a burger model or poster showing the origins and journey of every layer. This hands-on experience helps us see just how connected we are to agriculture and the systems that bring our food to the plate.

From
PADDOCK
to **PLATE**



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all.

 Miss Andrews

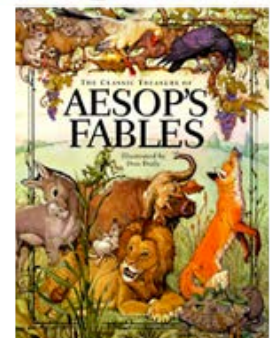
Miss Morley - Year 3/4

Welcome back to Term 3! We are back in the swing of learning, starting off Semester 2 with some great engagement and investigation into our new topics! I look forward to seeing our students keep growing and learning throughout the second half of the year!

English

In English, we are exploring persuasive texts, beginning the term by examining how personal opinions and evidence can be used to write persuasive letters. In the second half of the term, we will analyse how advertisements employ persuasive devices and language to encourage their audience to purchase products. On Fridays, we will explore a variety of myths, fables, and folktales, reading and examining selected texts throughout the term to understand the purpose and features of these genres.

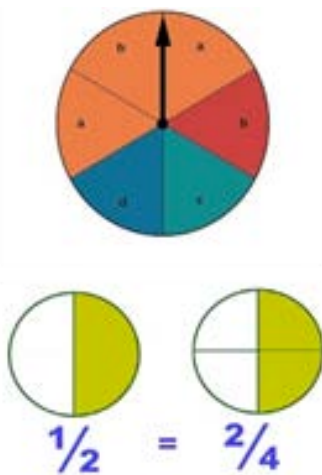
Our class will continue participating in the SA Department of Education Spelling Program, focusing on phonemes and morphemes each week, as well as engaging with the DORF program to support daily reading practice and literacy skill development.



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Mathematics

This term, we are studying parts of wholes and probability. Our class will begin by exploring fractions and decimals, learning what they are and how to perform calculations with them.

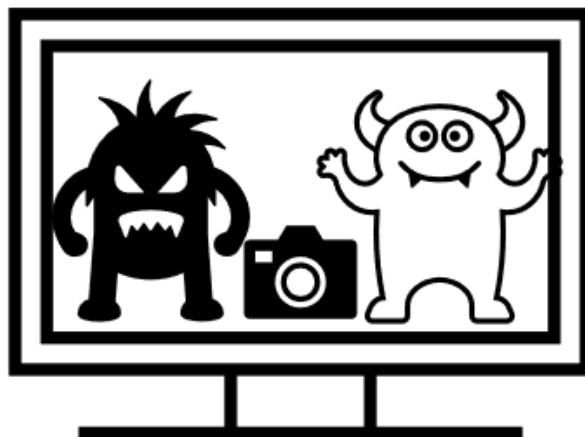


In the second half of the term, we will use this understanding to investigate probability and chance, identifying the likelihood of events, understanding how probability can change, and designing and conducting our own chance experiments.

Linked Learning

In Linked Learning, we have started a project called Monster Mayhem! This term, we will explore the theme of monsters through Media Arts, Digital Technologies, and Design and Technologies. Our class will examine how monsters are portrayed and how they can evoke emotional reactions in various stories, artworks, and digital media.

Students will investigate digital monsters, learning to use data and coding to create a digital monster for a game, before participating in the design process to create their own monster toy. The term will finish by learning how photography and film techniques can influence our perceptions by taking monster photos designed to evoke emotional responses.



HPE With Miss Hampshire

This term in Health and Physical Education, our Year 3/4 students are exploring healthy habits by looking at positive food choices, sleep routines and screentime, and considering how these impact our bodies and minds. As part of our learning, we are growing our very own silverbeet plants from seed, with the aim of cooking a tasty and healthy meal at the end of term. In PE, students will focus on developing key movement skills through wall and net games such as tennis, volleyball and handball. We will be practising skills including striking, serving, and returning the ball, while learning game rules and building confidence in active play.

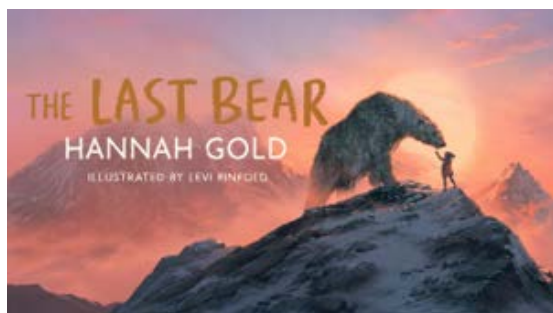


Mr Roughley - Year 5/6

Hi everyone, welcome back for Term 3. I hope you all managed to get some downtime during the break and did some exciting things with family and friends. With any luck, you may have even gotten away for a day or two.

It is shaping up to be an exciting term as the Year 5/6s revisit some previous learning and get to explore new concepts across English, Maths and Linked Learning while building on their prior learning experiences. Throughout the term, 5/6 will be challenged to think critically, collaborate with others and apply their learning to authentic, real-world situations.

In English, the class will develop their persuasive writing skills by learning how authors and advertisers convince an audience. They will explore persuasive language, strong arguments, emotive vocabulary, rhetorical questions and supporting evidence before planning, drafting, editing and publishing their own persuasive texts. In the second half of term, we will shift our focus to information reports as we research topics, organise factual information and write engaging reports.



For our Novel study we will be reading *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold. This is a fantastic story that follows the journey of an 11 year old girl who forms an unexpected friendship with a lonely polar bear on a remote Arctic island. Through these two characters, we will explore themes of friendship, courage, hope, resilience

and caring for our environment. The novel provides opportunities to build reading comprehension, vocabulary, inference skills and inspire thoughtful conversations about conservation and the impact humans have on the natural world. The novel will also be used to help the class make meaningful connections between literature, persuasive writing and information reports throughout the term.

Mr Roughley - Year 5/6

In Maths, we will continue building confidence with fractions, including comparing, simplifying and performing calculations with fractions. We will then investigate angles, learning to identify, measure and classify them before exploring how angles are used in everyday life. Later in the term, we will strengthen our understanding of decimals by making connections with fractions and place value before moving into location and transformation, where we will investigate coordinates, translations, reflections and rotations.



Our Linked Learning unit, Nature Knows Best: Survival and Adaptation, combines Science, HASS, Technologies and The Arts. Students will investigate ecosystems from around the world, exploring how plants and animals have adapted to survive in different environments. Through investigations, design challenges and geographical inquiry, we will explore the relationships between living things and their habitats. As the term progresses, Year 5/6 will investigate nature-inspired innovations and design their own adapted creature, explaining how its features help it survive in a chosen ecosystem.

I'm looking forward to another great term.

HPE With Miss Hampshire

This term in Health and Physical Education, our Year 5/6 students are taking a deeper look at healthy habits by exploring how food choices, sleep routines and screentime can impact both their physical and mental wellbeing. As part of the unit, students are growing silverbeet from seed, with the goal of harvesting and preparing a nutritious meal together at the end of term.



In PE lessons, students participate in wall and net games such as tennis, volleyball and handball, where they focus on refining advanced skills and setting personal goals for their development in each activity. Throughout the term, they will reflect on how physical activity benefits their overall health and explore ways to maintain an active lifestyle.