



October 2025 Term 4

Message from the Head of Campus

Week 3 is completed, with momentum building. This SOTA Speak highlights a few standout moments, some upcoming events, and a couple of reminders that keep us moving - so we can all continue the pace of a busy term with even more energy.

Mini-School - Coober Pedy

What an amazing experience! To be able to meet many of our students and families, as well as get to know our SOTA staff even better, was an absolute privilege.

The planning and organising allowed for our students, families and staff to experience not only lessons at Coober Pedy Area School, but all the wonderful and unique activities and events which make up Coober Pedy. I'm sure the photos and write-ups help paint the picture of the experience had!

A few acknowledgments to celebrate our Mini-School experience. :

- To our students: your courage and resilience in joining lessons, events, and activities with respect and engagement is a credit to you and your positive learning mindset.
- To the staff: thank you for your guidance, support of our students, collaboration with classroom teachers to optimise experiences, and active participation in the scheduled events.
- To our families: your flexibility, involvement, and supportive attitudes are the strength of our community community. Thank you for lending a hand and staying connected.
- To our governesses: your continued support and coordination of activities have enhanced the Mini-School experience for our remote learners.

We also wrote an email and gave some small gifts as our token of appreciation to Coober Pedy Area School and staff. Their generosity to allow our students to be integrated into the various classes, immersed within the learning they had planned and be included in the daily activities and events was a treat for our students and staff.

Finally the businesses who supported our Mini-School event, AMJ, Variety, BHP, OPFA, McArdles Freight and Port Augusta Woolworths that donated food and fruit for us to eat, you made our smokos and lunches delicious, thank you.



EVENTS

Remembrance Day **11 November**
 National Agriculture Day **21 November**
 Last day of online sessions **3 December**
 Get Together **5 - 6 December**

OPFA and SOTA CGC

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

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

RRed

Wear it red for children in Rural and Remote Education Day

OPFA: Week 3 & 7 (T4) Wednesday
 CGC: Week 4 & 8 (T4) Wednesday

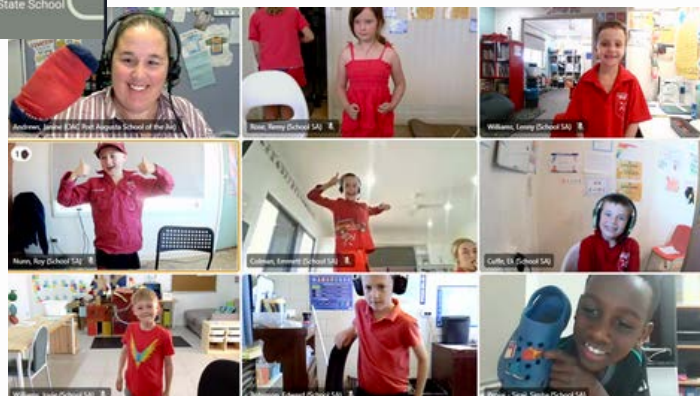
On October 15 our SOTA families and teachers wore red to raise awareness and assist in educational equity for rural and remote students. This is an ICPA initiative which began in 2024 aiming to highlight the unique challenges faced by students and families in rural and remote areas of South Australia. A special thank you to Anna Nunn who came up with the wonderful idea to capture our students in the 'Red City' when in Coober Pedy at Mini School and edit their shirts red. Anna entered this photo in the ICPA RRed Day Competition and WON FIRST PLACE. Anna has won a \$500 book voucher for SOTA. Thank you Anna for your wonderful idea and your patient editing skills!



Reception

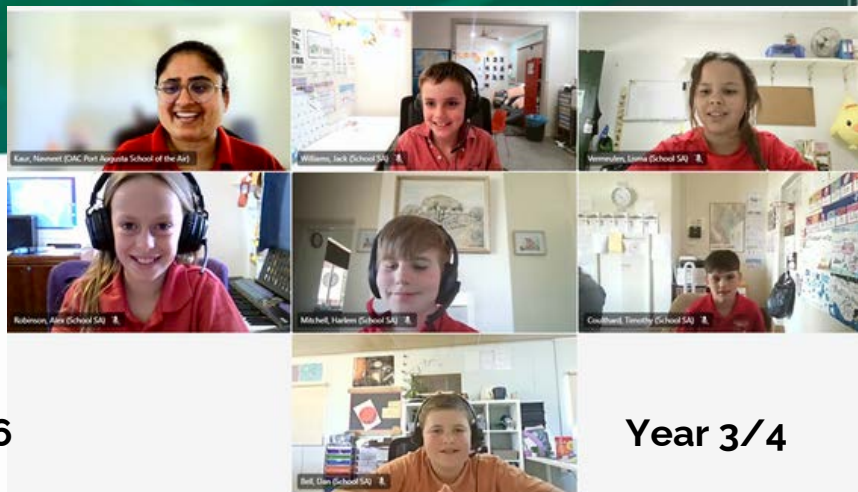


Year 1/2





Year 5/6



Year 3/4



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DES

Our recent Coober Pedy event was a fantastic success! A big thank you to everyone who came along, supported, donated, and helped make the day such a hit. Together, we raised an incredible amount to support our students now and into the future! We're so proud of what our community can achieve when we come together. A huge thank you also needs to go to the DES group who worked together to make this event a success.

During the week of Mini School the attending governesses catered for smoko and lunch for our students for the week. It was great to see students coming together during this time and the lovely manners from our students. Thank you to AMJ produce who donated fruit for our Snack and Science session. Students got to participate in a variety of experiments and mix with different SOTA students and governesses. It was great to see students excitement as we undertook these experiments.

We're also excited to share that our mugs are on track and will be ready right on time for Get Together! For those who didn't pick up their funded resources at Coober Pedy, don't worry! You'll be able to collect them at the Get Together or earlier from School if you're in Port Augusta.

We can't wait to catch up with everyone, share some laughs, and celebrate the amazing year it's been. See you all at the Get Together!



Coober Pedy Mini School

By George, Jack, Roy, Emmett and Asher

Coober Pedy Area School

We spent the week at Coober Pedy Area School and got to make new friends. The govies made us smoko and lunch and all the students enjoyed playing on the playground and in the hall. The Receptions played 'who stole the cookie from the cookie jar', a new game to learn everyone's names. The Year 1/2 students were pretty impressed with a student called Malachy as he was the only CPAS student that was there every day. Their favourite thing was maths BINGO. The 3/4 students showcased their paper planes, some worked well, some did not, but it was all fun! Jack's plane was a bit off course and almost hit Roy. The 5/6 group got to show the other SOTA students about their solar cars and how they work.



Josephine's Kangaroo Orphanage and Art Gallery

On Monday afternoon we walked down to Josephines Art Gallery and Kangaroo Orphanage. We got to watch Tommy Crow paint and see how he got to paint all the animals and colours. He then played the didgeridoo for us and we all thought he was very clever. Everyone got a turn to pat a joey. Asher's thought it was a bit funny that the joey had a bald spot, but it was still cute.



Outback Bar and Grill

On the Monday we enjoyed a buffet dinner at OB&G. We liked it because there was a lot of varieties of food, especially the chicken wings that got a bit messy and all over our faces! Thank you Variety and OPFA who funded this dinner for our families to all come together for the evening.

Umoona Mine

On Tuesday our families visited Umoona Mine. Jack liked that our guide Zoe showed us all over the underground mines and that we learned about the history of mining in a fun video. George's favourite part was when a lady from the mine showed us how they get an opal ready for sale and cut and polished it right in front of us.



Snack and Science

On Tuesday afternoon the governesses organised science experiments for us to enjoy. We also got fruit snacks. Roy said the best part was getting to join in with students from other classes and getting to spend more time with Charli. Asher liked the exploding experiment. It was a great chance for us to work with students from other classes and have fun with our governesses. Some of us don't have a governess but it was cool that they still share things with us and have fun jokes.

Breakaways National Park

On Wednesday we went to Breakaways National Park and Mr Pitkin drove us on the CPAS school bus! At Breakaways our guide Siobahn told us that we weren't allowed to take any rocks because they are important to the ecological system of animals. We saw the dog fence, dingo hills and the twins and learned how the hills were formed. We were not allowed to take photos of everything as some of the hills were sacred to the Aboriginal people of the Coober Pedy area. Asher and Emmett liked exploring BNP as they got to see the amazing rocks – but they promised they didn't take any!



PAT testing

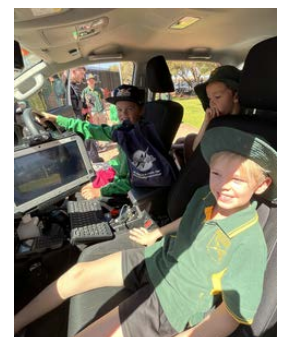
The Year 2-6 students completed their PAT testing. Roy and Emmett did it for the first time. Emmett felt nervous and excited and Roy was terrified. But after they had finished the tests they realised that it was fun, even if Roy's brain hurt and Emmett's brain felt crushed. SOTA staff were very proud of us all as we were really resilient and even though we were all nervous, we tried our best. PAT testing results will help teachers to guide lessons and future learning.

Tom's Opal Mine

After our Breakaways National Park excursion, we went to Tom's Opal Mine. We had to wear hard hats and went down underground into the cave. It was cool because the opal shop was underground. Kelsey let us search for our own opal, Roy found 23 pieces! Jack liked exploring underground and finding the opal, he got to barter with Paul and exchanged opal for lollies, money or chocolate. Some students chose to keep their opal. Emmett tricked Paul and got a lot of money and chocolate! Emmett and Asher got to go in a real-life chair lift that opal miners might use when mining.

John's Pizza Bar

On Wednesday night we had dinner at John's Pizza Bar. Roy thinks John has the best pizza on the Stuart Highway. Asher liked it because she got so many olives and picked them off everyone else's pizza! We also got a chance to play board games and card games with our friends and see Beau and Honey-May.



Coober Pedy Police visit

Constable Zac from the CPPS visited us and we learned all about what you have to do to become a Police Officer. We learned that you are in the Police Academy for about 9 months and then you get to be a Police Officer if you pass. After you have been a Police Officer for a little while then you can work towards becoming a detective, or training with dogs. He took us to the police car and we got to sit inside. It was loud when he put the sirens on.





Drive-In

On Thursday night we stayed up late after the sun had gone down and went to the drive in. Students had voted at Woodhouse and we went to see Lilo and Stitch. Some students, and their parents had never been to the drive-in so it was a cool experience. Lawson thought it was a good time to have a nap but everyone else managed to stay awake the whole time. Thank you to OPFA who funded this experience for us.



Robotics

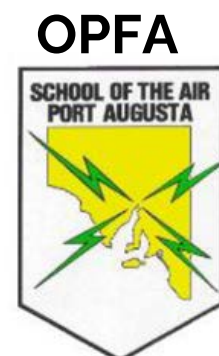
On Thursday we got to play with robotics with Mr Moyne. It was hard, but we tried our best and in the end when all the tech was working we had a lot of fun.



Thank you to our mums for taking us to Coober Pedy for the week, and to our little brothers and sisters that had to come even if they didn't want to! Thank you to the teachers that came along to Mini School and worked with us for the week. We had fun getting to know you and seeing you all and not just our class teachers. Thanks to Angela for getting all the forms ready and making sure we were safe to go.

Thank you to Coober Pedy Area School for having us for the week. We think your school is awesome. Staff and students were so kind and thoughtful and friendly.

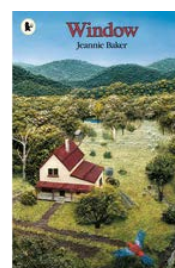
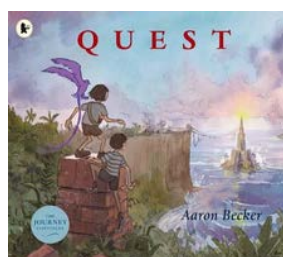
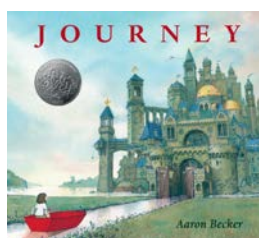
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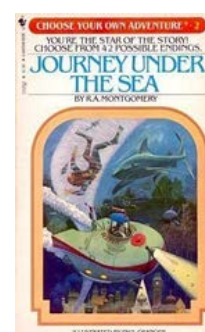
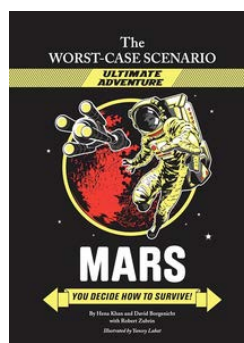
LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to the students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2025. SOTA had a 93% participation rate in this year's challenge. Certificates and medals will be handed out during the SOTA end of year celebration.

At the end of last term, students in Middle and Junior Primary explored wordless picture books, discussing their unique benefits and sharing thoughtful insights. Students explored, *The Boy and the Elephant* by Freya Blackwood and *Window* by Jeannie Baker, admiring both the visual storytelling and the creativity behind each page.

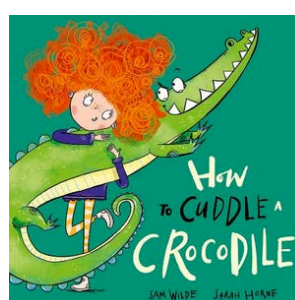


This term middle primary students have started to look at Choose Your Own Adventure Books. These students have been emailed a template and are encouraged to write their own choose your own adventure stories. We have prizes for students that complete this task and share their work with Jess! If you're not a middle primary student, and you would like to try writing your own story, you can find the template on the Marden Education Centre Teams page.

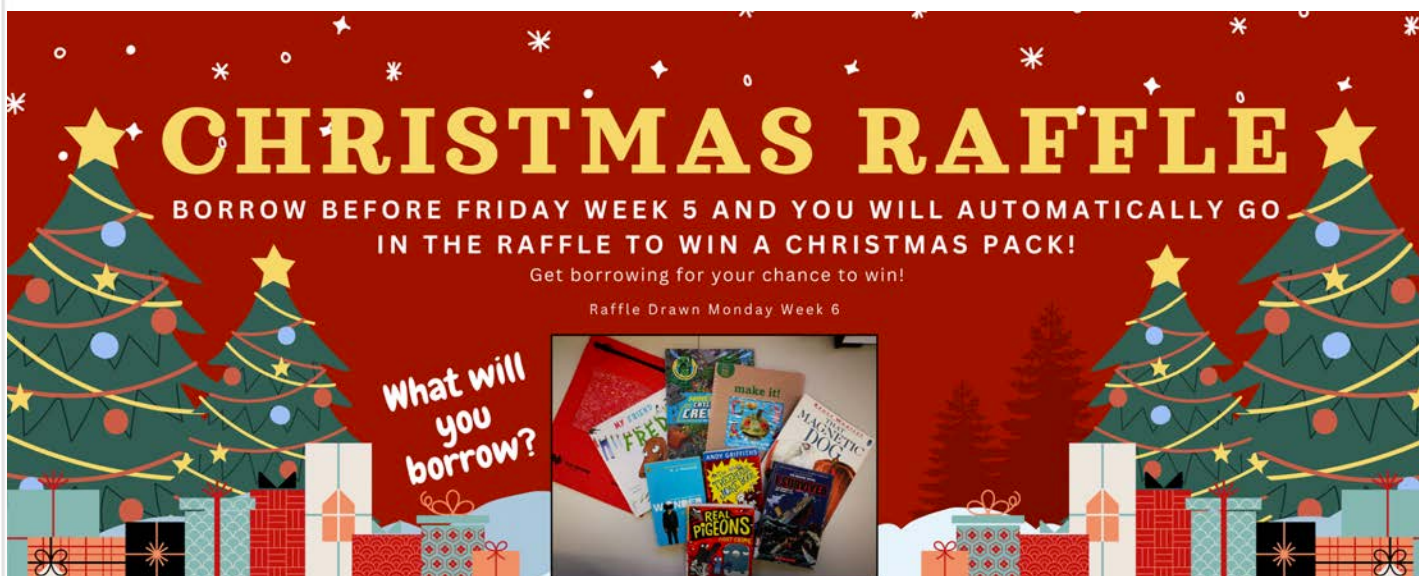


The junior primary class continue to engage with a variety of different books, constantly making connections and sharing observations. In Week 2 they listened to "How to Cuddle a Crocodile" By Sam Wilde and learnt a rhyme about a crocodile. In Week 2 they heard a fun rhyming book by Kes Gray called, "Oi Frog".

93% PRC



We encourage students to continue to borrow throughout the term. For each order that is placed this term, students will receive an entry into our Christmas raffle. Borrow for your number for your chance to enter the draw to win a prize! **Last chance to borrow is Friday Week 5.**



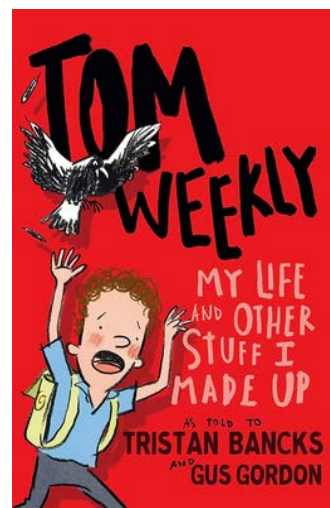
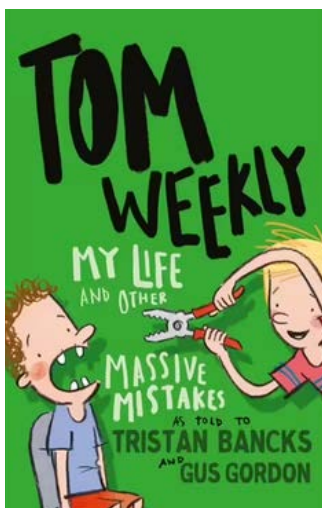
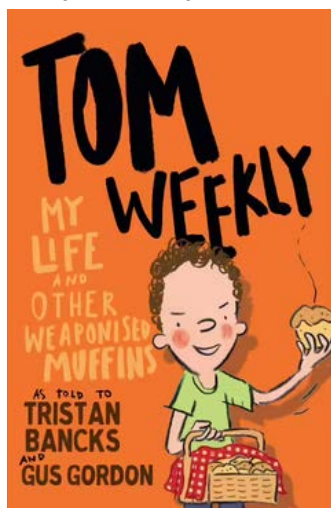
Students competing for the **"Most Books Read"** award will be excited to hear that results will be announced at the SOTA End-of-Year Assembly, alongside the Premier's Reading Challenge awards and certificates. Please make sure to submit your final book count and list by **Friday of Week 6.**

Year 5/6 students have continued with their research skills, researching a topic of choice, with everything from gyrocopters to UFOs and more – our presentation skills on Canva are really kicking goals! Tom Weekly, is still a fan-favourite at the start of our library sessions and we've enjoyed reading about his ridiculous misadventures. Below are some titles you may wish to borrow!

Until next time,

Happy Reading
(and borrowing),

Julie and
Jess





Term 3 Week 10

Miss Stringer: Asher: for positive and respectful listening with independent participation in all CPAS activities and confidently engaging and working with SOTA and CPAS students.

Ms Andrews: Eli C: For actively participating in all activities during our time in class with CPAS Year 1/2s, confidently engaging with other students and neatly completing writing tasks.

Miss Kaur: Lisma: For being on her best behaviour this week, engaging positively with the CPAS students, listening respectfully, and following instructions at all times.

Miss Morley: Bonnie: for consistently respectful behaviour and engagement in our CPAS classes, as well as clear leadership in her role as a Student Council leader.

Mr Moyne: Lawson: For showing initiative, creativity and leadership when working with the Kai's clan robots.

Mr Pitkin: Lisma: For her curiosity and ability to engage with thoughtful questions and connecting with Mr Pitkin.

Term 4 Week 2

Miss Stringer: Memphis : for a positive start to the term, being respectful and showing a positive attitude to begin all tasks as asked. For listening to instructions, trying her best and giving everything her best effort.

Ms Andrews: Jovie: For starting a new program with a positive attitude, actively participating in all activities, and showing patience when things don't go to plan. Well done for showing resilience when faced with new challenges.

Miss Kaur: Alex: For showing consistent commitment to learning by being an active participant in all class discussions and taking on constructive feedback to improve her work further.

Miss Morley: Jayden : For a positive approach at the start of the term, consistently seeking clarification on tasks, and demonstrating commendable resilience despite unexpected challenges.

Mr Kelly: Remy: for demonstrating a consistent and mature approach to actively improving her handwriting skills over the past few months, as well as showing a willingness to be an attentive listener when asked to follow instructions.

Mr Moyne: Lisma: For making a great start to Term 4 in completing all of Week 1 and Week 2 HPE activities and by explaining your reasoning in your answers.

Mr Pitkin: James: For being a problem solver. He consistently works on being persistent and not giving up when faced with various challenges. Keep it up James !

Mr Kelly's Home Visits

It has been another great start to the term. I have already visited Airlie and Remy at Innamincka and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Get Together in December. Meanwhile, as we progress through the term you will notice the lesson's will change to physical activities you can practise to help you improve your athletics skills. Remember to stay active and keep submitting your work. As always I enjoy reading everything you submit.



Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

Hi all, the end of Term 3 and start of Term 4 has had me travel to a number of locations in which students have been keen to share their achievements and demonstrate their skills both within and outside the schoolroom. It was also rewarding to have Miss Kaur join me in a visit to one of her students! As always, it has been a pleasure supporting enthusiastic students and dedicated supervisors and I look forward to seeing you all in a visit soon.

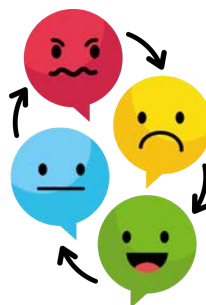
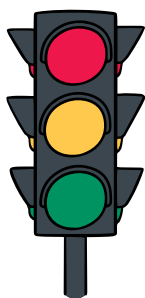


Miss Stringer - Reception

Term 4 Overview

Literacy

Students will continue to use the Literacy Guarantee Unit and the daily recorded Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program to enhance their literacy and phonemic skills for reading, writing and oral language progression. The term will focus on building writing stamina to write weekly recounts, exploring the genre of letters while learning to stretch sentences adding more detail using who, what, where, when, why and how detail. Students will continue to read daily reading fluency passages (DORF) and weekly fluency lists as well as the program Reading Eggs for phoneme and grapheme consolidation. Weekly readers have been supplied to students.



Health and Physical Education

This term in Health and Physical Education, students will explore topics and develop valuable skills that will help them stay safe, healthy, and active. From road safety to sun safety, everyone has the chance to discuss and practise ways to look after themselves and those around them. Through a range of group activities, students will explore social skills like cooperating, sharing, and working together. Different feelings people might have in various situations will also be explored. By learning to recognise emotions, students are better able to understand themselves and support their classmates. Students will explore actions that promote physical and emotional wellbeing. They will also discuss what to do if they ever need help or support. Towards the end of the term, students will embrace the great outdoors, participating in activities and games that connected them with their natural surroundings. It will be a wonderful term of learning, playing, and growing together in Health and Physical Education!

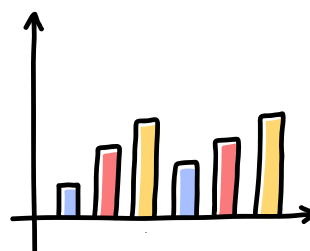
LLP

Students will explore forces and motion, specifically push and pull and how an objects properties such as shape, size and material alter the way it moves. Students will engage with scientific activities and investigations to relate findings to learn about space and our planets.



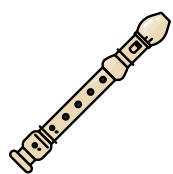
Numeracy

This term students are learning about data, and the data we collect every day. Using the data collection process students will collect data in a variety of ways such as tallying, sorting and counting to display the data in a variety of ways using the skill of reasoning to justify the collection method. Students will make picture graphs and column graphs using data they have collected relating personally to their lives. Lastly, students will analyse each other's data and displays to answer their original asked questions reflecting on their data collection process.



Music

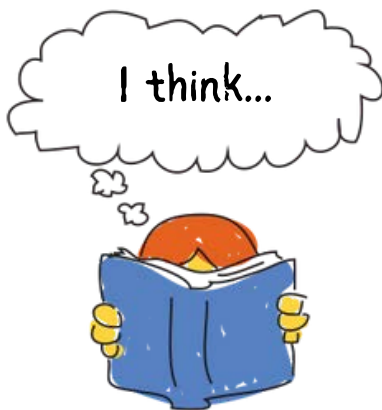
Students will study rhythm and pattern through body movements, dance, our outer world and through learning the basic finger positions and notes of the recorder. Students will build skills, confidence, self-expression, self-awareness and creativity to perform a Christmas song at the end of year Get Together event.



Miss A 😊 - Year 1/2

Term 4 Overview

The Year 1/2's are coming off an exciting end to Term 3, with Mini School attendees enjoying interactions and activities with Coober Pedy students, while the rest of the class got creative at home using the Scratch program and completing various STEM projects. We have started the final term of the year with a focused approach and a commitment to working hard to meet expectations.



Literacy

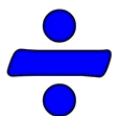
In Literacy, students will trial the Writing Legends program to write an animal information report, further developing their skills in creating informative texts.

There will also be a continued focus on handwriting, reading comprehension, and spelling, including phonemes and morphology.

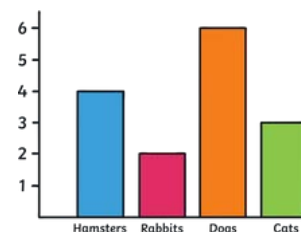


Maths

For Maths this term, we will be investigating data through collecting, tallying, graphing, and analysing information from observations, questions, and measurements.



Multiplication and division will also be key areas of focus to strengthen number skills.



Linked Learning

For our “Wonders of Water” unit in Linked Learning, we will cover the science of water (states of matter and interactions), design and technology challenges, movement through dance in The Arts, and the importance of water to communities and the environment in HASS.



Health & Physical Education with Mr Kelly

Looking After Yourself and Getting Active!

During this term we will discover there are lots of ways you can look after your health and wellbeing and have fun with friends along the way. If you ever feel worried, unsafe or need help with something, it's important to know some strategies to use—like talking to a trusted adult, asking a friend for support, or using positive self-talk. You can make positive choices that promote health and safety for yourself and others. You may also learn to recognise when you or your friends might need help to stay safe and healthy and look for opportunities to support each other. You'll get to practise important movement skills, like running, jumping, throwing and catching. These are the building blocks for all sorts of fun activities and sports. Using your imagination, you can make up your own games with or without equipment. This is a great way to work together, have fun, and keep active. Enjoy this term's activities and stay safe, be active, and look after yourself and your friends!



Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

Term 4 Overview



Welcome back to Term 4! I hope everyone had a fantastic break and is feeling energised and ready to jump back in! This term is going to be packed with fun, learning, and lots of exciting activities as we wrap up the school year together. Here's a sneak peek at what we'll be exploring! This term, we will have three online lessons each for English, Maths and Linked Learning, and one lesson each for CPC and Japanese.

Maths

In Mathematics this term, we'll explore Statistics and Data. Students will become data investigators as they collect, record, and represent information using tables, pictographs, and column graphs. They'll learn about categorical and discrete numerical data, create surveys, and use digital tools to display their results. Through guided investigations, students will compare data, discuss patterns, and understand how variation and distribution help describe information.



English



In English this term, we'll be exploring the beautiful picture book *Piano Fingers* by Caroline Magerl, a lyrical story about a young girl discovering her own musical talent. Students will examine how the author and illustrator use words, images, and artistic techniques to create mood and meaning. Through close reading, discussion, and creative responses, students will practise using adjectives, verbs, and conjunctions to enhance their writing. They'll explore personification, metaphors, and imagery, connect personally with the text, and create own narrative inspired by the story.

We will also continue with our weekly spelling, comprehension, DORF, grammar and IXL tasks.

Linked Learning: Patterns of culture



This term, our Linked Learning unit celebrates the beauty of patterns across cultures. Students will explore how patterns tell stories and express identity through different traditions, histories, and art forms. From the intricate henna designs of India to the symbolic markings in Aboriginal dance and body art, we'll uncover the meanings and techniques behind these cultural expressions. Linking across History, The Arts, Technologies, and Science, students will investigate how materials, design, and pattern-making connect people and cultures around the world. Through creative projects and hands-on exploration, they'll design and share their own meaningful patterned artworks inspired by global traditions.

CPC:

This term in CPC students will learn to recognise different forms of abuse including cyberbullying. They will review the network of people they could talk to and learn some protective strategies.



Arts: Music



This term our Arts focus is on Music. We will explore the function and importance of beat in music, improvise, and experiment with beat and rhythmic patterns, and record and perform musical ideas using graphic notation.

Health and Physical Education (With Mr. Moyne)

In Health this term, students will be examining the need to balance time spent using electronic devices and playing outdoors. They will also learn about interacting safely, securely and respectfully online including how to create secure passwords and getting help when needed.

Within physical education, students will be practicing and refining their skills in athletics in preparation for the upcoming SOTA sports day.

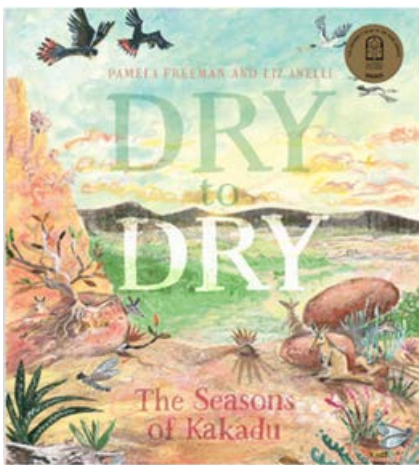


Miss Morley - Year 5/6

Term 4 Overview

This year has been packed full of learning and excitement, but we are not quite finished yet – Welcome back to Term 4, our final term of 2025!

English

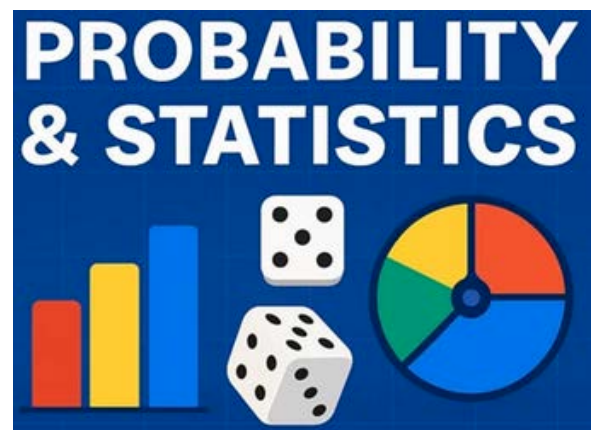


This term in English, we are examining a range of hybrid texts with the theme of Kakadu National Park. Our class will explore how structural elements and language features from different genres can be combined to engage or convince an audience.

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

Mathematics

In Maths, we are learning about probability and chance, as well as statistics and data representations. During the first few weeks, students will estimate and calculate probability, conduct probability trials, and compare expected and observed results in chance experiments to learn how make informed predictions of the likelihood of events.



Our class will finish the term with data and statistics, with students interpreting, collecting, and comparing data sets from statistical investigations.

During our morning mathematics practice, we are continuing the "Automatic" program to enhance students' fluency with mathematical operations.

Linked Learning



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For our final Linked Learning theme for this year, we are exploring natural disasters! We'll begin by exploring different types of natural disasters, developing our understanding of how they occur, their social and environmental impacts, and how people can prepare for or prevent damage during these adversities.

In the second half of the term, we will move to music – exploring different styles of music through listening and response activities, and learn about the elements of music by creating digital compositions. Students will also continue to develop their recorder skills for our end of year performance at Get Together.



Child Protection Curriculum (CPC)



This term we are continuing CPC on the topics of Recognising and Reporting Abuse, and Protective Strategies. Students will be learning to identify body parts, examine the difference between safe and unsafe touching, recognising abuse and manipulation, and protective strategies to remain safe.

Health and Physical Education (Mr Moyne)

In Health this term, Year 6 students will be exploring how they are feeling about 'change' - in particular the transition into secondary schooling. They will develop the skills necessary to deal with any concerns about change in an optimistic and encouraging way.

Year 5 students will be considering how to stay safe online. Students will learn about clickbait and keeping safe online as well as understanding gender stereotypes.



Within physical education, students will be practicing and refining their skills in athletics in preparation for the upcoming SOTA sports day.

Diwali

Diwali is the "Festival of Lights," a major holiday celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists that symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar months of Ashvin (according to the amanta tradition) and Kārtika – between around mid-September and mid-November.

This year Australia celebrated Diwali on October 21st and Angela treated us to a delicious and flavourful Indian lunch to celebrate Diwali.

THEME: Paddock Portraits – A Livestock Drawing Challenge

Nutrien & Elders invite all budding artists to enter the 2025 SOTA & RFDS Wool Show Drawing Competition!

We want to see your best original drawings of livestock — from woolly sheep and majestic horses to mud-loving pigs, curious goats, cattle, chickens, and more!

Show off their quirky personalities, their hard work on the farm, or just how downright adorable they can be.

Use pencils, pens, charcoal, pastels — whatever medium brings your paddock to life!

Entries will be displayed at the 2025 Wool Show — don't miss your chance to be part of this creative celebration of country life! Let your imagination run wild — from the paddock to the page!




Please see class teacher for more information

SOTA ART SHOW 2025

It is that time of year again to get crafty and show us your creative talents.

Each student and SOTA community member is invited to submit one creative piece to our 2025 SOTA Art Show

Entries must be:

- new entries – not entered into any previous SOTA Art Show
- be made by the person submitting them
- created in 2025

Entries can be any art form – some art forms include:

- sculpture
- drawing
- model – clay, pottery, plasticene, lego, diorama etc
- painting
- printing
- media arts

PRIZES TO BE WON

Classes are

- R-2
- 3-6
- Adult – anyone above Grade 6

Entries will be judged on creativity and originality.

Please bring your entries to the SOTA office no later than Friday December 5, 12:00pm with name and class displayed on the back of the entry. Winners to be announced at Elders and Nutrien Ag Woolshow.



SOTA CHRISTMAS FLOAT COMPETITION 2025

THE TASK:
Come up with a theme for SOTA and Kindy to use as our idea for the Port Augusta Christmas Pageant float.

Email ideas and pictures to Miss Stringer by the end of Week 5.
madlen.stringer12@schools.sa.edu.au

One entry per student only. Families can come up with a family design.

DESIGN IDEAS

- Bauble shapes and ideas to go on the Christmas tree
- Items to decorate and hang on the back of the ute
- Cardboard costumes for students to make
- Face paint ideas

Design ideas that we can create as a school/kindy for the back of a ute, and potentially EASY Christmas costumes for students, govies and staff.

