

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



November 2023 Term 4

Message from the Head of Campus



As we head towards the end of another school year, I feel a mix of sadness and excitement for our graduating students. Witnessing their growth over the past 4 years has reaffirmed my belief in the power of education and supportive parenting.

Term 4 brings a sense of reflection and impetus for improvement. It's a time to look back on our accomplishments, set new goals and finish the year on a high note. Over the year, our students have continued to show growth in their learning and engagement. Whilst the recent PAT results show that majority of our students are at least at benchmark, what's more noteworthy of celebration is the growth of our students as confident learners. We especially celebrate the achievement of Miss Emma and her reception students. How far have they come! Their growth is evident not only in literacy and numeracy, but in their comfort and confidence in navigating WebEx and being independent learners in face-to-face events. As Miss Emma prepares for the birth of her first child, she takes comfort in knowing that she's given her best effort to build a strong learning foundation for her Reception students, and passed on the responsibilities to the safe hands of Miss Megan.

I witnessed Miss Megan's magic in my visit to the Peake in the first week of term. Over the years, many parents and supervisors have spoken highly of Miss Megan, at the Peake, I observed first-hand what they meant. Like a Duracell bunny, Miss Megan

was enthusiastic and tireless in engaging the four children in their learning, imagination and interests from dawn to well past dusk.

Besides the reward of seeing Miss Megan at work, the visit also afforded me a deeper appreciation of SOTA learning culture and life in the outback. See the children run to the schoolroom, work on their Mental Maths, log in to lessons and work through their follow-up work reinforced the vital role of a supervisor. Full credits to Blythe for establishing strong school routines in a schoolroom with 3 active children.

We also dropped in at Nilpinna and Arconna Station and were warmly welcomed by our students and their mums. The gift of the land for kids to explore and learn makes outback life so intrinsically enriching. My thanks to the Williams families and Willis family for their warm welcome and generosity in giving me a glimpse of their remarkable homes.

Our trials of Teams, live consultation and additional Library lesson are progressing along. We will examine the feedback and identify ways to improve student learning experience in 2024.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our final Get Together of 2023, especially dinner with our graduating students. I can hear the excitement of Brumbies, Dingoes and Eagles cheering and competing with might for the coveted trophy. A celebration of our year of achievements at the Awards ceremony will aptly wrap up another wonderful year together.

See you all very soon.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim



EVENTS

Get Together: **8 - 9 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 3:30pm

CGC: Week 4 (T4) Wednesday 8 November

OPFA: Week 7 (T4) Wednesday 29 November

And term 4 begins! Hopefully everyone sent through their accommodation receipts for the Connellan grant as it's something not to be missed out on. If you know of any new families coming in next year, make sure you let them know about it too so everyone is aware of this great money saving grant.

This term the AGM for both OPFA and CGC will be held so if you think a position has your name on it, please ask Leah or Petie for info and we can point you in the right direction. The roles aren't difficult and are very rewarding so please consider stepping up, even just jumping on as a new member.



Term 3 Week 8

Miss Emma:

Remy for her fantastic effort in maths WebEx lessons and follow up tasks.

Miss Jo:

Lisma for trying super hard with her spelling and taking on feedback.

Miss Morley:

George for his excellent commitment to learning and focused effort in his assessment tasks over the last few weeks.

Miss Kaur:

Anakin for being an active listener and participant in all class discussions.

Ms Mel:

Stella for her effort and continued growth in Big Writes: she has demonstrated the qualities of a terrific author this term.



Term 3 Week 10

Miss Emma:

Simba for his fantastic efforts and friendly attitude at his first face to face event!

Miss Jo:

Daniel for being an amazing role model for his peers at Mini-schools!

Miss Morley:

Jase for his positivity and engagement throughout mini-school.

Miss Kaur:

Magenta for demonstrating a growth mindset throughout the term by trying her best in all learning tasks.

Ms Mel:

Abby for her admirable teamwork and persistence during mini-schools, particularly when playing the Grid Game.

Term 4 Week 1

Miss Emma:

Roy for such a great start back to school in Term 4 and for demonstrating resilience when things go wrong.

Miss Jo:

Sanaisha for being an active and engaged member of class discussion's and sharing her wisdom and knowledge with her peers.

Miss Morley:

Jayden for an organised, enthusiastic, and excellent start to Term 4!

Miss Kaur:

Lachie for active participation in all class discussions and excellent listening skills throughout the week.

Ms Mel:

The Year 7 class for their patience, flexibility and growth mindset's this week while trialling Teams.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL MISS EMMA

We thank Miss Emma for her two years of dedicated service to SOTA. Her enthusiasm and high expectations of her Reception students gave them a positive start to formal schooling.

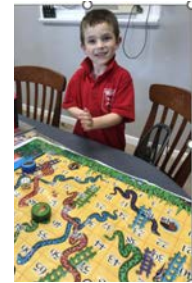
As the extraordinary Quizmaster and Brumbies' cheerleader, Miss Emma injected excitement and fun to the student population. As she heads off for maternity leave, we wish her and her baby, happiness, good health and many nights of uninterrupted sleeps.



Visiting the Peake, Nilpinna and Arcoona Stations



Miss Megan's Home Visits



Since week 2 in Term 4, I have been at a desk and taking on the responsibility of guiding our Reception class through to the end of the year. I am fortunate to have visited each of the Reception students' homes, and I believe that my knowledge of their progress, personal interests and school rooms, will help to make the remaining weeks, a big success for our youngest learners.

Thankyou everyone, for the warm welcomes I have received this year when I have made my visits as an Itinerant teacher. I look forward to saying hello again both online and during our end of year Get Together.

This has been such a wonderful year for me as an educator.

Miss Megan

Miss Emma - Reception

Welcome to Term 4! The Reception class will be taught by Miss Megan this term. Miss Emma will be here for Weeks 1-2 before heading off on maternity leave.

English

In English this term we will be continuing to use Sounds-Write as our phonics program to support students with their reading and spelling. As part of their literacy block students will use Heggerty and Reading Doctor programs to support their learning.

Students will participate in shared reading and viewing and engage with texts for enjoyment. They will respond to literary texts and make connections to their own lives, other texts and the responses of peers. They will listen for and identify rhymes, letter patterns and sounds in words used by authors to entertain and engage an audience. They will recognise that there are different types of literary texts and identify some features, including events, characters and beginnings and endings.



Mathematics

Quantity and Part-Part-Whole (10-20): Students will deepen their understanding of quantities beyond ten. They build on and make connections to their part-part-whole knowledge of numbers to ten, now working with larger quantities.

Space and Location: Students will develop an understanding of what shapes are and how to name, recognise and draw them. Students explore shapes in different orientations and their appearance on objects in their environment. Students will use directional language to describe the position and location of an object, and themselves, compared to another object or person.

The Arts: Music

In this unit students will be introduced to the six key elements of music including rhythm, texture, dynamics, pitch, form, and timbre. Children will build their knowledge of basic music techniques through a set of fun activities based on each element. Students will also be learning how to play the recorder.



Science: Physical Science

Students will investigate the way objects move, and how this movement depends on a variety of factors. Students explore how the body can move, and in what way an objects' shape and size effects if it can roll, bounce or slide. Students engage in hands-on investigations, create visual illustrations, use reasoning skills, and relevant scientific language to support their decision making. They will develop an understanding of Aboriginal Peoples knowledge of movement and how this understanding influences the design of traditional instructive toys.



CPC:

Students will be learning about 'Recognising and Reporting Abuse and 'Protective Strategies'



Thank you so much for a fantastic year! I will miss you all very much,

Miss Emma

Miss Jo - Year 1/2

Final term before the Year 1/2 legends graduate and become the Year 2/3 superstars!

This term Miss Jo and Miss Kiah will continue to share the teaching and learning, with Miss Jo returning to Mondays.

We are both excited to see the students challenge themselves across each learning area and achieve more than they thought they were capable of.

English-

Oral Language- Students will continue to participate in Sharing (Morning Talks) on different topics throughout the term.

Phonics- Students will be continuing to use the phonics-based program 'Sounds Write' to support them in reading and spelling.

Reading and Viewing- Students will listen to, read, and respond to a variety of texts through the use of different books/ texts throughout the term.



Handwriting- Students will complete a handwriting task each week. During this time it is important to focus on correct posture, grip, formation and letter size and shape.

Writing- This term we will have a focus on text comparison and character traits and preferences. Students will continue to build their comprehension skills, with a focus on literal and implied meaning. Students will continue to explore and apply some of the different ways in which language conventions can be used to improve their writing through weekly grammar tasks.

Maths –

This term students will be working on collecting, sorting and interpreting data using a variety of graphing methods. We will explore the value of different Australian coins and notes. Students will also work on the skill of division and then apply the four operations to a variety of contexts. These topics will be taught using the Department Maths Units. We will continue to use 'Think Mentals' workbooks to supplement the set tasks and build up rapid recall of number facts/ topics covered. Students will be encouraged to complete 'Stretch' tasks to extend themselves.





Health and PE –

Students will be looking at sun safety, personal safety and keeping safe around others. They will finish the term by practising the skills for Sports Day.



History – with Miss Kiah

Students will investigate technology in their own home and surrounds, comparing early appliances with their modern-day equivalents. They will spend time considering the development of technology and how things have changed over time, discussing how their own lives are affected using technology. They will investigate technological developments on a global level, considering how technology has changed the world, while also considering some potential problems that technology can create. They will have an opportunity to explore the development of technology through various perspectives, including that of family members and Australian First Nations People.



Music – with Ms Kiah

Students will be listening and responding to music while exploring the different elements. Through a variety of musical activities they will build on their musical knowledge and work towards learning and performing a song on the recorder.



Science- with Miss Kiah

This term students will explore Earth and Space Sciences. They will observe the patterns of the Sun, Moon, planets, and stars in the sky. They will have the opportunity to investigate the Sun's role on Earth, shadows and how time-lapse photography can be used to observe some of the Earth's processes that occur very slowly.



Child Protection Curriculum (CPC) Units 3&4 - with Miss Kiah

The focus topics will be 'recognising and reporting abuse' and 'protective strategies'. Students will further develop their understanding that everyone has a right to be safe and how to communicate when they are not feeling safe. Students will recognise that their body is their own, identify different parts of the body, including those that are private and explore the idea that they have the ability and strength to help keep themselves safe. They will be given the opportunity to practise assertive communication and will be introduced to a range of problem-solving strategies.



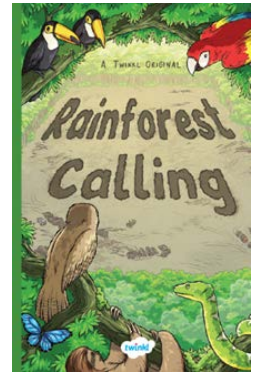


Miss Morley - Year 3/4

Welcome to Term 4! I hope you are all ready for our last term of the year! This term we are moving from Media Arts to Music, Design and Tech to CPC, and Geography to Civics and Citizenship.

English

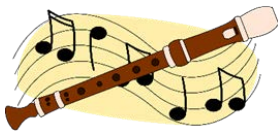
We will continue our VCOP and Big Write program in English this term, focusing on Narrative writing. For VCOP we are learning to expand our vocabulary and use exciting openers. We will continue our weekly reading fluency, spelling, and grammar activities this term, but we are also beginning a new class text – Rainforest Calling, which will be used to practise comprehension strategies



Maths

In Maths, we are finishing the year by exploring statistics, chance, and time. Our class will learn to collect, interpret, and communicate data in tables and graphs, as well as conduct experiments and sort events to determine the likelihood of different events.

Music



This term our Arts strand is Music. Students will learn about music elements and how composers convey moods and meanings within art pieces. In follow-ups, students are continuing to learn the recorder, with video lessons to review how to play different notes and tunes before practising chosen music pieces.

HASS

In HASS we are beginning Civics and Citizenship where we will explore how and why laws and rules exist, the roles of local governments, and our understanding of belonging to communities.

Science



For Science, this term will concentrate on changes to the Earth's surface. We will investigate the causes of erosion and weathering, both natural and human-made changes. Students will determine the positive and negative impacts of change on our environments and what can be done about it.

CPC

This term we will return to CPC, this time with Miss Morley. We will be learning about recognising and reporting abuse and protective strategies to remain safe.



Miss Kaur - Year 5/6

Hello everyone, I can't believe it's Term 4 already.

I am super excited to do lots of fun learning activities with all of you this term.

Let's have a look at what we are doing for Term 4 2023:



ENGLISH

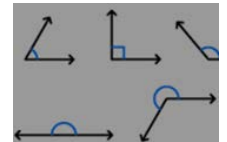
In English, students will listen to and read novels by the same author to identify language choices and author strategies used to evoke responses in the reader. They will prepare an oral presentation analysing author style in the novel and take part in a formal discussion to respond to ideas presented.

Like last term, students will follow our comprehension, grammar, and spelling resources to complete weekly units which will develop their skills in these areas.

MATHS



In Maths, students will investigate the ordering of probabilities, as well as the representation of probabilities with fraction, decimals, and percentages. They will use strategies to determine the possible outcomes of a probability experiment. Students will learn about different types of angles and solve problems using the properties of angles.

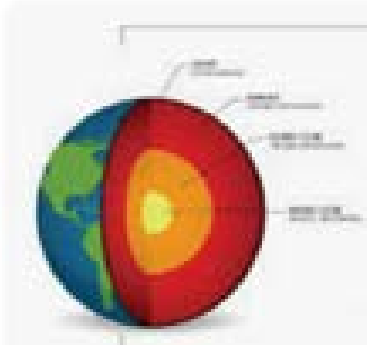


The students will continue to work on their Maths Mentals worksheets to practice various maths



HASS: Geography

This term, students will explore the Indian subcontinent in HASS. They will learn about interesting and beautiful geographical features of India and compare them to life in Australia.



Science: Biological Science

In Science, students will build on their understanding that Earth is a dynamic system, as evidenced by changes to the Earth's surface. Students will be introduced to the internal structure of the Earth and how the structure and properties of the Earth's outer layers may result in sudden geological changes in the form of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

CPC (Child Protection Curriculum)

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 with Ms Mel

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.

Let's continue our learning journey in term 4!

Best wishes,

Miss Kaur

Ms Mel - Year 7

English

This term, we will explore a range of poems and songs that put forward different perspectives on a variety of issues. The class will investigate the social and historical context of these poems and songs, and interpret and evaluate the poetic devices used by poets and songwriters to deliver a message and position an audience.



Math

We will begin our term by identifying, measuring, and classifying a variety of angles and shapes. During the second half of the term, students will expand their knowledge of statistics and probability, including collecting, measuring, graphing, and comparing data.

Health/PE

Students will use feedback to improve control and coordination of specialist movement skills. We will learn how to apply the elements of movement to compose and perform movement sequences in an athletics context (springing (100m), long jump, and shot put). We will also reflect on how personal and social skills can help us improve when receiving and accepting feedback.



Science (Chemical Sciences)

For the first half of this term, students will revise and build upon their knowledge of the properties of substances (states of matter). We will then explore mixtures and separating techniques of both soluble and insoluble materials.

HASS (Geography)

In Geography this term we will examine the role of water in our world. Students will examine the variety and availability of freshwater sources and systems that exist in their real world and beyond. We will explore how water stress can compromise significant Australian resources such as the Murray Darling Basin and the human and natural systems that exist within it. We will also explore the causes, impacts, and solutions to water stress issues in other parts of the world, such as Northern Africa and West Asian countries.





SOTA BOOK CLUB

Hi parents, teachers, govies and students of SOTA!

We don't have many reviews in this issue, but thanks to Ruby, Lawson and Simba for theirs! They are some very interesting books out there which I have heard of from the book reviews, so I'd love to see some more coming in!

Thankyou, Stella

Year 7, Student Council Learning Leader

Title: **Beyond the Bright Sea**

Author: Lauren Wolk

Reviewer: Ruby, Eagles

Age recommendation: 12-15years

What it is about: It is about a girl that was pushed out from the jetty on a boat when she was a baby. She washed up onto a tiny island hours later and then was rescued. She had a birthmark the shape of a feather, a ruby ring and a sea-soaked letter.

Star Rating: 8/10

Title: **The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone**

Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

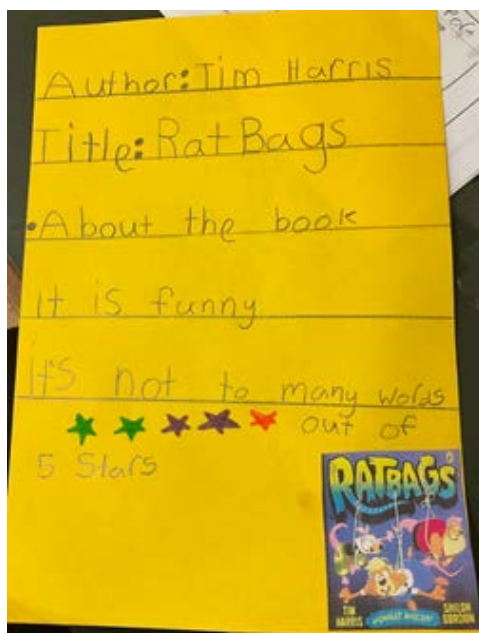
Reviewer: Stella, Brumbies

About the book: In this story a 10 year old girl has to follow her parents will, which is magically bonded to her. She encounters magic and madness on her adventures, and ends up saving both a prince and her thought dead parents.

Star rating: 9/10

Age recommendation: 8 and up

Reviewer:
Lawson,
Eagles.



Reviewer:
Simba,
Brumbies

