



March 2025 Term 1



Message from the Head of Campus

As we come to the end of Term 1 and School Experience Week (SEW) wraps up, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on some significant achievements within our school.

Firstly, a big congratulations to our Year 3 and 5 students for demonstrating resilience while undertaking NAPLAN over two days. While there were some nerves, all students showed perseverance and put in an exceptional effort.

Our senior students also stepped up in a big way. Leading into SEW, they expressed their desire to take on a new challenge—leading our assemblies. Watching them take ownership, from preparation to confidently managing the stage, has been fantastic. As they continue to learn how to engage an audience, I ask for everyone's support. Adults play an important role in modelling the behaviours we expect from our students.

Families with young children—while we absolutely want them to be involved—please ensure they are supported to sit and listen so our senior students have the best opportunity to lead effectively.

SOTA students continue to strive for excellence, always working towards being the best version of themselves. Maintaining high expectations, holding ourselves and each other accountable, and taking personal responsibility are key values that create a strong foundation for our learning community.

We are committed to making SOTA an inclusive learning environment for all. During a recent visit to the Year 5/6 classroom, students were discussing the legacy they want to leave behind. One comment from Eli R really resonated with me—he shared that SOTA does not have bullying, and that our students genuinely get along. He's right. For the majority of the time, our learning and social culture is rich with care and kindness, and it is important that we all work together to maintain this.

I encourage everyone—students, teachers, families, and supervisors—to continue conversations about the behaviours we want to see and model, including:

- Staying focused on learning
- Keeping hands and feet to ourselves
- Raising hands to speak
- Listening to our friends
- Respecting personal space
- Not talking while others are speaking

Our teachers will continue reinforcing behaviour expectations, and your support in these discussions at home and during school events is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Let's continue working together to make SOTA a positive and inclusive space for all.

Best Wishes

Rachael Russell





School Experience Week

It was a welcomed sight to see all our families and student back at Port Augusta. With the week packed full of activities and learning.

Monday:

We had a visit from Landcare who shared many important facts about native Australian animals with our students. The hands on activities were spot on for our children with a lot of take away learning. Thank you to Chris and the Landcare team for taking time out of your day for this experience.

Our DES girls held a sports afternoon for students with a healthy snack and fun games to enjoy.



Tuesday:

Tuesday and Wednesday NAPLAN ran without a hitch and the students gave it their best go, working through Writing, Reading, Language conventions (spelling and punctuation) and Numeracy. Thank you to Jordan for working hard behind the scenes to make this run smoothly.

Tracy and Michelle visited from OAC and held Indigenous art workshops for all students. They created wonderful dot paintings learning all about symbols, colours and special painting techniques.

Our Year 6 students participated in aquatics on Tuesday, which was postponed from Week 2.

Although no wind made it difficult to sail, the snorkelling, canoeing and kayaking was a highlight for all.



Wednesday:

The Reception class visited the Kindy class at RICE and it was great to see students socialising with each other and for the Reception kids to share Kindy stories with Miss Stringer. The Kindy students then visited SOTA and were fortunate enough to create dot paintings with Tracy from Marden.

Tracy, Michelle and Matt, worked across the school to explore Indigenous connections with several students having the opportunity to be front and centre in the new OAC - Marden and School of the Air Acknowledgement. We can not wait to share this with you all. James one of our new Reception students

had some big lines to remember and did a great job!

Thursday:

Students visited the Field Days at the Racecourse learning all about ecology, sustainability, water levels and got to get up close and personal with a mulga snake learning about snake safety. Thank you to our teachers for your work to make this happen and our families for picking up students from the Racecourse.



We enjoyed an early Easter surprise participating in an Easter egg hunt and the joy on everyone's faces was worth the sugar buzz that followed.



Friday:

Once again, we worked with Ramsey Retirement Village for a whole school visit. Students read books, played games, shared station stories and found out all about school and living of the residents time. We met a man that is about to be 100 and celebrated an early birthday with him with the students being astounded with his milestone. Thank you to Ramsey Village for the cordial and biscuit treats.

The DES girls held a sausage sizzle and zooper dooper fundraiser to raise money for the zoo excursion for Term 2, Week 10.



We would also like to thank Mrs Jenny Wright who stepped into the F2F fun and chaos for the week and assisted us with her relief teaching skills while Miss Megan is out looking after herself and recovering.

These face to face weeks always go by so quickly with our families and students and we cherish the face to face time we get to spend together. We would like to thank the families for the effort they put in to get to Port Augusta and look forward to Woodhouse camp in Term 2.



EVENTS

Pupil Free Day: **4 April**

Canberra Camp (Years 5/6): **28 April - 2 May**

Camp @ Woodhouse: **30 June - 4 July**

Mini School @Coober Pedy: **22- 26 September**

Get Together: **5 - 6 December**

Rachael will be on a visit next week -
week 9 at Cooper Creek

OPFA and SOTA CGC

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

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

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

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

OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates

All meetings at 3:00pm

OPFA: Week 3 & 7 (T2, 3 & 4) Wednesday

CGC: Term 2 TBA

DES

During school Experience week, the governesses spent time in the classroom with students. Forming deeper connections and relationships with teachers and students. These bonds help governesses to communicate with teachers and pick up plenty of handy tricks of the trade.

On Monday 17th kicked off with a fun-filled sports afternoon! After school, the students had a healthy snack after school kindly donated by DES, followed by sports games which fostered fine motor skills, physical activity and many smiles and laughter. To wrap up the week, on Friday the 21st, DES ran a sausage sizzle for the kids. All SOTA and RICE families were invited - with over 60 sausages sold! It was a smash hit, these funds raised will be used to continue to support our SOTA students with learning resources and experiences that are not typically available to them.

A very big thank you to Terry Gardiner's Meats & Smallgoods for their donation of a portion of the sausages and Clare Pony Club for the bread donation.





Term 1 Week 6

Miss Stringer: Asher: for improved concentration during online lessons, contributing to sharing, being more independent to source her own materials and a GREAT diorama showing all 4 rainforest layers as well as living and non-living things.

Miss Andrews :Eli C: For being responsible and focused during our online sessions and making Miss Yarn proud of his efforts to complete all his work in the schoolroom.

Miss Kaur: Honey-May: For trying her best in all learning tasks, participating in class discussions and asking great questions.

Miss Morley: Bonnie: for her efforts to develop her growth mindset, uplevel her narrative writing, and her continuing enthusiasm in making Book Club fun and inclusive for all students.

Miss Megan: George: for demonstrating a strong work ethic and working well on independent tasks, with a team spirit during collaborative activities and for being a reflective learner during the Week 6 itinerant visit.

Mr Moyne: Eli R: For consistent, detailed work submission for Health this term and engagement in all activities.

Head: Hudson: for enthusiastically engaging and contributing his knowledge in learning tasks for Literacy and Mathematics.

Term 1 Week 8

Miss Stringer: James : for putting maximum effort and enthusiasm into every task and being such a responsible role model and helper during our Kindy visit.

Miss Andrews: Remy: For consistently putting in 100% effort during all activities and being a respectful member of the class.

Miss Kaur: Alex: For excellent participation in all learning activities this week and actively engaging in group tasks with her classmates

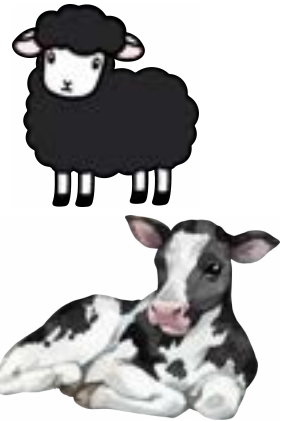
Miss Morley: George: For a proactive approach to his online learning throughout this term and excellent participation in class activities this week.

Mrs Wright: Aria: for going above and beyond when doing crayon resist and helping others learn the skill with kindness and compassion.

Mr Moyne: Jack: For active, enthusiastic participation in all HPE lessons, supporting others and developing skills in softball.

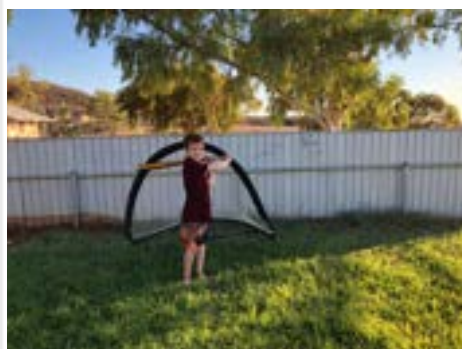
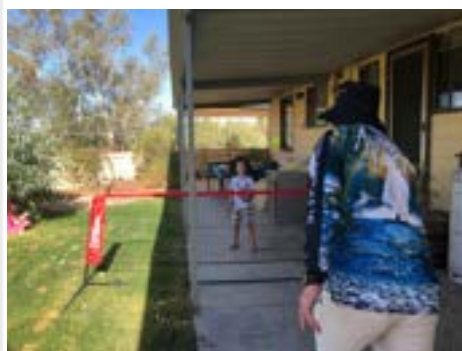
Head: Angela: for working hard behind the scenes to keep SOTA operating smoothly.

Miss Megan's Home Visits



Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

Thank you to all families who had the opportunity of a visit this term. I was warmly welcomed and it was great to see students enjoying learning with the support of their supervisors and family members. Students have enjoyed participating in all kinds of activities including sport, technology and a variety of literacy activities. For those yet to have a visit, I look forward to providing support in your schoolrooms in the future. Thank you all and wishing everyone a wonderful finish to Term 1.





Miss Stringer - Reception

Aria

We have been learning all about phonemes and graphemes of new letters. These concepts teach us about how the letters sound and look, we also know learn that each letter has a name! When we learn these, we play games, practice our letter formations and make creative displays for our school room.



^ Elsie

James >

Hudson



In Maths we have been practicing all things number. This includes:

1:1 counting

number formation

collecting groups

manipulating groups

what comes before/after

< Airlie

Had to match the number to a colour to make this sunflower picture

^ Memphis

Memphis used her 1:1 counting to count all the rainforest and jungle animals

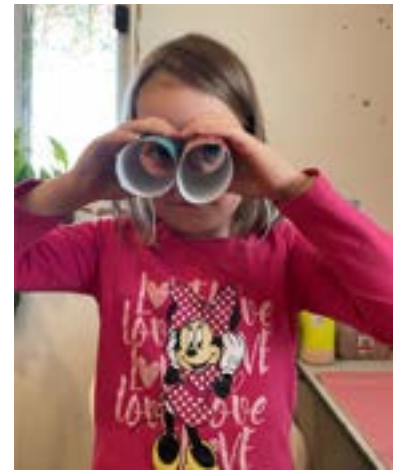


Our Linked Learning Project is all about the rainforest, tying in arts, technologies, science and HASS. We have looked mainly at living and non-living things, but Miss Stringer snuck some other learning in there too!



Asher

Living things can have footprints. We are most likely to find these on the rainforest floor. Here you can see we matched up the living thing to their footprint.



^ James and Memphis

Memphis and James were explorers and made binoculars and a magnifying glass to search high and low for living and non-living things on their station!



^ Aria

Sorting animals into their habitats. Habitat was a new word that we were learning!



^ Airlie

Using rainforest items, Airlie sorted them into living and non-living.



> Elsie

We learned that living things need 5 things to survive. Here, Elsie has drawn ways that she gets these 5 things.



Miss Andrews - Year 1/2

What an amazing 8 weeks of learning we have had in the Year 1/2 class, including School Experience Week. During SEW, we enjoyed creating dot paintings as part of the Indigenous Connections session with Tracey. The Field days experience was a highlight too, exploring the soil and painting with it, testing waters, and learning about animals we may find on our stations and where we live. We also listened to the snake man and saw a big Mulga snake.



Cameron's poster



Remy's art



Simba's diorama



Lenny's diorama

Linked Learning has been lots of fun diving into the layers of the ocean and exploring all sorts of fascinating sea creatures. Students have been busy creating their dioramas, conservation posters, and showing off their artistic flair.

Emmett's poster



Jovie's coral art

Edward's poster



Eli's ocean art



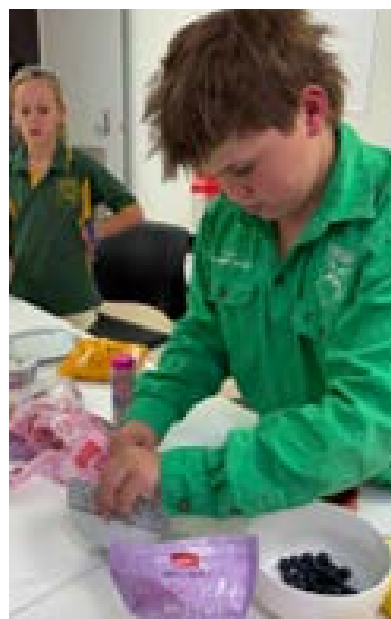
Roy's clean and polluted oceans

Beau's art



Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

What an amazing term it has been so far! Students have been diving into the world of chocolate—exploring its history, experimenting with chocolate coating, and mastering arrays in Math. They've also put their creativity to the test by designing and advertising their very own chocolate brands.



Students had a fantastic time creating their own delicious chocolate treats!



Soil painting by Alex and Jack at the field day in Port Augusta.



Honey-May

Chocolate advertisement by Honey-May, Lilly and Sanaisha.



Arrays by Dan and Timmy.



Sanaisha



Congratulations to Lisma for creating the winning entry in our class flag competition.



During the field day in Port Augusta, students had an exciting hands-on experience learning about different types of soil and water while also exploring animal footprints.

Miss Morley - Year 5/6

This term has gone by in a whirlwind! Over the last eight weeks, we have learnt so much - and this week we've had an absolute blast during School Experience Week, packed with non-stop learning, excursions, curiosity and creativity!



Bonnie and Lawson

Using their knowledge of factors and divisibility rules to determine if numbers were prime, composite, and/or square numbers.



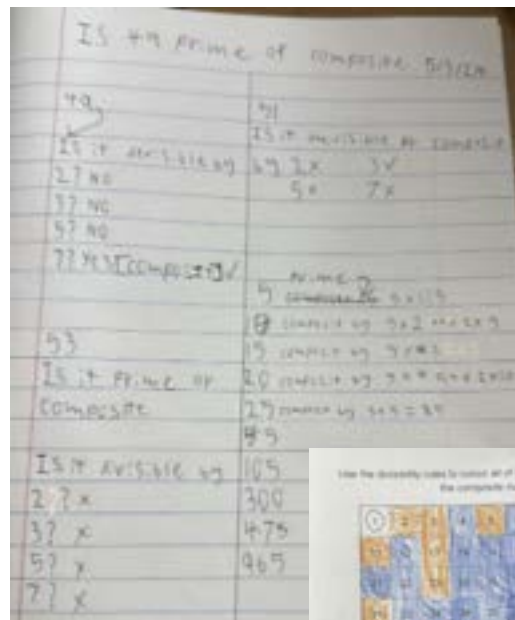
Lara and Eli

Practising representing numbers and their factor pairs in arrays.



Jayden, George, Lara and Lawson

Racing to determine if their number was prime or composite!



Shaquille

Using his knowledge of divisibility rules to determine if numbers were prime or composite.



Year 6 Hoodies

Our year 6 student's have received their hoodies!



Shaquille

Demonstrating his understanding of the climax of the Jabberwocky



Indigenous Connections

Our students made some gorgeous dot paintings of Australian Animals led by the talented artist Miss Tracey from OAC.



SOTA Staff timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rachael		Reception class all day Leadership meeting 11:20 - 1:00 Staff meeting 2:35 - 4:40	9:30 - 10:00 - Meeting		9:00 - 11:00 Executive leaders
Madlen	In Class	Leadership meeting 11:20 - 1:00 Staff meeting 2:35 - 4:40	In class 3:00 - 4:00pm - DES meeting	In Class	In Class
Angelo	8:30 - 3:00 office	8:30 - 3:00 Office	8:30 - 3:00 Office	8:30 - 3:00 Office	8:30 - 3:00 Office
Jordan	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00 SOTA	8:00 - 4:00 SOTA	8:00 - 4:00 SOTA
Louise					9:00 - 1:00

Open Access College Values

Respect

We seek opportunities to treat each other with compassion and empathy. We acknowledge each other differences as strengths and are committed to creating a safe learning environment.

Resilience

We face challenges with curiosity and the belief that we can succeed or learn from them. We persevere in overcoming obstacles with the help and guidance of the school community.

Responsibility

We take ownership of our actions to ensure we are being the best we can be. We understand how our actions can affect others, and we act to improve ourselves and our community.

Inclusion

We create an equitable environment where everyone can participate and develop a sense of belonging



YOUNG WRITERS AWARD 2025

A writing competition open to ALL South Australian students

FREE TOPIC: POETRY OR PROSE. UP TO 1000 WORDS

Entry form & information at saeta.org.au
Categories from Reception - Year 12



Plus, cover design competition
See the SAETA website for full details

ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY 15TH MAY