SOTA Speak School of the Air Newsletter



December 2024 Term 4



Message from the Head of Campus

Dear Students, Parents and Colleagues

This is my final SOTA Speak. How far have we come since OPFA requested it to be published in the current format in 2020? As I write my final note on our newsletter, I'm quite overwhelmed with gratitude and frankly, a tinge of anxiety.

Over the past three issues, I've given my thanks and farewell to the students and colleagues but, in this issue, my thanks are to the SOTA families and wider community.

I began my first day at work at Arbury Park. Having just uprooted myself from Townsville to Adelaide and arriving a mere day before camp, I was running on adrenalin with nerves working overtime. After the first meeting with all the parents, I was encouraged by their engagement in their children's learning. It also became clear to me that earning their trust was a massive responsibility and disappointing them was simply not an option.

Trust is earned by actions – doing the right things and doing things right. With the list of ten improvements requested by OPFA, we worked through each of them together. Trust began to grow gradually as effort to improve became visible, and as each improvement was achieved. With trust, the SOTA community became cohesive and collaborative, addressing each challenge that came our way.

I still vividly remember almost all parents logged in to the meeting on the Sunday before Get Together 2020 to work through the new CoVID restrictions. No way were we cancelling it, the unwavered drive to move heaven and earth to bring the kids together was electrifying.

I am so grateful and impressed by how responsive parents and supervisors have been to the numerous surveys seeking their opinions, as well as the support they have shown with each new strategy or resource we've trialled. As well as how parents have always been so kind in helping the school in a range of ways, lending a hand or a vehicle, or drawing on their networks to support SOTA for a range of extra-curricular experiences. Our partnerships are deeply grounded in a shared commitment to give our children the best school experience. Hence, we've talked, listened, debated, sometimes disagreed, forgiven, and ultimately moved forward as a more united community. Those frank and fearless conversations were not just challenges, but expressions of the trust we have built over time.

With the incredible support provided by many of you, I'm glad to be leaving SOTA better than I found it. Thank you for trusting me to steer the SOTA ship. Thank you for sharing your lives and wonderful children with me. I've learnt lots, and am forever grateful. I know my colleagues and whoever has the privilege of being the next Head will enjoy the productive and positive partnerships, taking SOTA to greater heights.

I look forward to seeing all of you a final time at Get Together! Onwards and upwards, SOTA.

Best wishes Lai Kuan Lim



EVENTS

Get Together: 8 - 9 December
Online Orientation: 28 - 30 January
Summer School (Induction): 3-7 February

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

CGC/OPFA AGM in the SOTA Studio at 10am, 6th December

REVISE

Hello everyone, 2024 seems to have disappeared very quickly. REVISE has had no station placements, but we were able to support a couple of families when they were down in Adelaide. Zoe, in the librarian at Marden, very kindly let us work in the library which was a lot of fun. Interesting for the students, and for REVISE teachers, to be at the delivery end of library sessions. Also for instant access to information – on several occasions Zoe produced books relating to what we were taking about.

I've recently been involved in two Christmas Pageants here in Adelaide. A lot of work, but also a lot of fun. It's always a joy to see the looks on childrens' faces when they see the floats, and especially Father Christmas. Children grow up so quickly, we need to cherish and appreciate the time when they are young.

A tip for Christmas Eve - to help Santa find his way, sprinkle some reindeer food along where you want him to land his sleigh! Equal parts of glitter and oatmeal (but I guess any cereal would do), the glitter helps light the way for him. This really works, the reindeer pooh across my daughter's front lawn and driveway prove it!

From the REVISE family to all of your families, a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, may 2025 bring you many blessings.

Georgy Ewing REVISE Manager



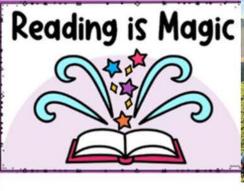
LIBRARY NEWS

A year in review:

We have had some fantastic events this year that allowed us to catch up with our SOTA community: bookweek dress up, Premiers Reading Challenge and STEM design competitions, meeting authors and a face-to-face visit to the library! The library team love a good competition as it challenges us to explore more about the world around us. Exploring new topics and ideas through books and reading can really be 'MAGIC' which was this year's Bookweek theme. Thank you for sharing your creativity and fun this year...it's great to stretch ourselves in different ways.

















Congratulations to Micah and Lachie for 8 years of reading with the Premiers Reading

Challenge – they have been awarded the Hall of Fame level of achievement.

★★SOTA Reading Record for 2024 set by Simba and Micah 500 books between the two of them!!!★★



We are looking forward 2025 with new challenges so we can't wait to see what reading you will do next year!



PUBLIC AWARD NOMINATION!

You may have had suspicions that your library was amazing, and your suspicions are correct! We were nominated for the Public Education Awards this year. Here is a photo of some of the library team all glammed up for the event! L-R: Brenda George (SSO), Zoe Elliott (Library Manager), Jodie Zajac (Teacher Librarian) and Joyce Lin (SSO). Although we didn't come away with the prize, we know that the real winners of these awards are the students who benefit from having a committed and dedicated team supporting their educational experience to be life-long learners. (Cue: Applause)

Goodbye but not forgotten...

It is bittersweet to have to write this, but in 2025 I will be moving onto a new opportunity at Urrbrae Agricultural High School as their Library Manager and Cross-Disciplinary Coordinator. Having come from a farm, I have enjoyed my 5 years working with SOTA students and their families. I always thought I would make a trip to visit all your stations during my time here, however that idealistic fantasy was too difficult to action given that I work for Marden Senior College also. However, you never know, I may just cross paths with you on a holiday adventure! Don't be a stranger, I look forward to keeping connections with the families I have met and seeing the bright futures of the students. I was very impressed by the students who really challenged themselves in their reading this year. Wishing you all the joy, peace, and love this time of year brings...signing off to you all for the very last time, Zoe Elliott (Your Library Manager Ninja!)



Welcome Ms Andrews



Hello to you all.

I'm so excited to be joining you at Port Augusta School of the Air in 2025.

I have been teaching in Victoria for 20 years now, in various primary schools as a classroom teacher, and I have also enjoyed teaching e-learning/technology during this time too. One year, I took a break from the classroom and travelled to Eva Downs, up in the Barkly Tablelands, to be a governess for three children through Mt Isa School of the Air, an

experience I'll never forget. Now I'm selling my house in Victoria, have packed up everything, and will be travelling Australia for many years to come. I have been lucky enough to see many parts of Australia already, through family holidays since I was young, and want to continue to see more of our wonderful country.

My fiancé, Kelly, and two dogs, Nicko (kelpie) and Storm (border collie), will be joining me for our adventures around Australia. They all share my excitement in moving to Port Augusta in 2025, where we will be able to explore more of South Australia during the school holidays and weekends.

I can't wait to meet you all, find out what you love doing, and sharing more about myself.

Janine Andrews





Term 4 Week 4

Miss Stringer

Remy for her continued dedication and concentration towards all learning tasks in all subject areas and showing initiative to continue work, or go onto the next steps of the task without prompting.

Ms Mel

Lilly for her excellent effort in completing follow-up tasks this term, in particular her Mental Maths and Linked Learning activities.

Miss Kaur

Bonnie for using her growth mindset to do challenging learning tasks, and independently uploading her work, on time, each week.

Miss Morley

James for a conscious effort to improve his organisation and commitment to timely uploads of high-standard follow-ups.

Miss Megan

Honey-May for her attention to detail, for trying her best, for being kind and thoughtful and for her wonderful book reports.

Mr Moyne

James O. for learning with enthusiasm, and showing resilience by picking himself up and trying again after each mistake. Keep it up, James!

Lai Kuan

Tiarn for her dedicated support and patience which has sustained Eli and Memphis's enthusiasm for learning and driven their progress.





Term 4 Week 6

Miss Stringer:

Remy for enthusiastically beginning tasks straight away and using her initiative to move to the next step of activities without having to ask. For being consistently kind, caring and respectful while actively participating in class discussions.

Miss Mel:

Jack for his outstanding effort in finishing his tasks, self-editing his work and even taking on extension work with enthusiasm. Amazing efforts, Jack!

Miss Kaur:

Jayden for using his growth mindset to do challenging learning tasks, and taking on feedback to improve his work.

Miss Morley:

PJ for his engagement in feedback sessions while taking on board feedback to improve both his writing and practice of mathematical concepts.

Mr Moyne:

Nelson for his persistence in completing tasks and willingness to adapt to feedback even when tired.

Miss Megan:

Simba for his resilience in writing during my visit and also for applying himself to continue developing his drawing skills.

Lai Kuan:

Micah for his consistently active engagement in the Student Council, demonstrating responsibility and teamwork in the leadership role.



Miss Megan's Home Visits





























This term has been one of the best.

I have seen just how much progress the students have made over the course of the year and it is a lot!

Maths, English, Science, HPE, you name it, the learning has been impressive and in particular, I am so glad to see how many of our students are becoming avid readers.

Thankyou for inviting me into your homes and for your hospitality. Miss Megan





Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

Hi all, what another action packed finish to the school term! I have had the opportunity to visit a variety of places this term and it has been wonderful to support our students in completing their final term by engaging in a variety of learning experiences including music, physical education, mathematics and various creative projects. I look forward to seeing you all at the end of year Get Together to celebrate the achievements of our SOTA students. Enjoy the rest of the term and keep up the great work you all do.

















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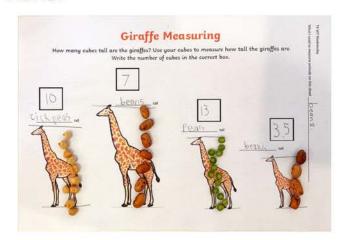






Miss Stringer - Reception / Year 1

Asher





James

We made it!! Another fantastic year of learning, pets, laughs and cattle chat done. Although this was the last term, and a short term at that, the learning didn't stop. We wrote letters, explored poetry, identified Australian coins, read analogue and digital clocks, observed materials and their properties and made algorithms. I am so fortunate to have had 14 wonderful students to teach, learn from and laugh with.







Cameron

Thomas



Simba



Eli

Memphis

ookies are delicious. appy about christmas. eally loud cracters. love christmas. antis on his way reer was presents. Imm yum dinen AMSome tous. So much tun

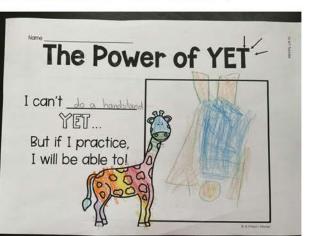
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Emmett

Edward

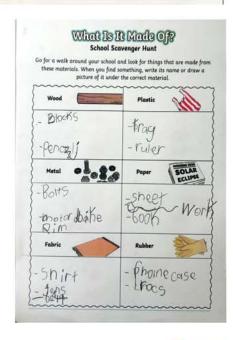








Remy



Beau

Lenny



Airlie



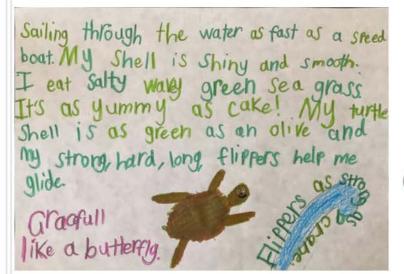
Ms Mel's - Year 2/3

This term, we have been exploring poetry, focusing on techniques such as alliteration, personification, and onomatopoeia to create free verse poems.

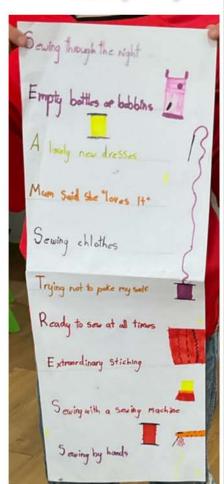
In Math, we have been investigating chance and probability, using coins and dice, while also learning the vocabulary to describe the likelihood of different events. Students applied this knowledge to design their own chance-themed games.

Alex

Honey-May







Clem

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BLACK	WHITE AND	BLACK AND	BLACK AND	BLACK AND	WHITE	WHITE
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What you need

1 set of cattle cards between 2 or more players

1 Dice

The cattle cards are put in the middle

Players take it in turns to roll the dice.

Whatever number they roll, that is the colour cow that they get to "buy

If a player rolls the dice on their turn and there are no more colours of that cow left in the middle pile then they can't buy a cow on their turn and the game goes on.

Players keep rolling the dice and buying cattle until there are none left in the middle

The player who has been able to buy the most cattle wins the game









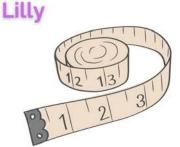


Dan



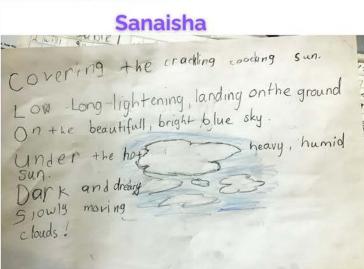
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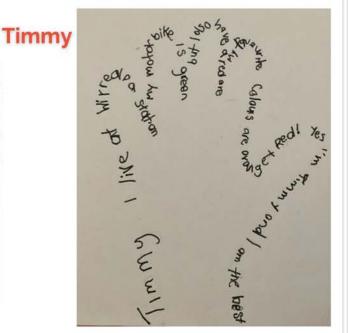


Lisma





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Miss Kaur - Year 4/5

How is it that the end of the year has arrived so soon? Here are some wonderful memories we made together throughout the year, along with some of the fantastic work produced by the 4/5s.



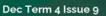






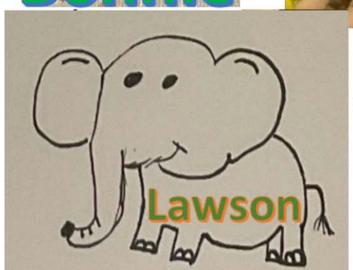




















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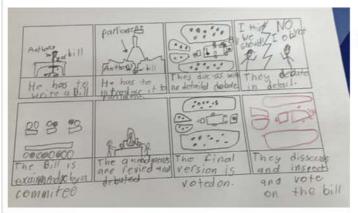


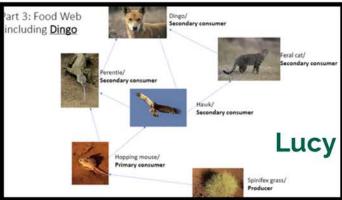
Miss Morley - Year 6/7

Another term that has disappeared before we could blink!

This term, our 6s have been busy creating and playing music as we took to the recorder once more. In Science and HASS, we investigated living things and governments, and finally in English we were busy writing our narratives.

So much to show off from our talented 6/7s in their final edition of SOTA Speak!





summary: Today I learned.... James you can't waste your vote by chosing a united Party because it they lose your second preference is counted even after a Party has wont they take isleas from others.

Part 2: Conditions affecting Growth and Survival

Name of Living Thing: BROWN BEAR

Conditions that impact their survival/growth:

Water-Gum trees need a constant supply of water to thrive. Drought and not much rain can stress the tree they go into hibernation, impacts their growth, energy eserves and survival.

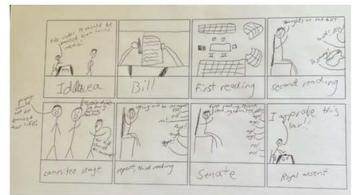
Habitat destruction- the loss of forests, rivers and other natural habitats due to human activities can limit brown bears to getting food and shelter increasing their risk of injury, starvation or contact with humans. This disturbs.

Soil and nutrients — the type of soil and its nutrients content are crucial for gum tree. Well drained nutrient rich soils support healthy root systems and strong tree growth, Poor soil with low nutrients or high salinity can limit the rees ability to survive and breed.

Nelson

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Cody



Lachie

The Jabberwocky

Cody

By Cody Bell

The father and son stared at the dark forest as the wind howled through the trees. The river was flowing calmly and smoothly as the red salmon snacked on the smaller fish trying to hide under the mossy rocks. The trees were filled with life, owls, parrots, snakes, and possums. The father and son stood upon the wall which protected their village. The father patted his son's pack gently with his worn-out hand as he had just finished his job at the blacksmith. The young but courageous son stood there looking at the dark forest.

"Beware my son, of the fierce and almighty Jabberwocky as his claws can cut through even the toughest steel and his faws can cut through the flesh of a dragon also watch out for his brothers, the dangerous Jubjub bird and the stalking Bandersnatch" warned his father.

The boy equipped his blade and set off on his mighty quest to hunt and kill the Jabberwocky. He searched day in and day out for the foul beast. He travelled to every corner of the forest, even every nook and cranny. He then sat down at a tree to think on what to do. As he sat there puzzled, he heard a heavy foot stomp up behind him.

It was the mighty Jabberwocky; he had come to devour the boy hole. The boy had no choice but to draw his sword and charge the beast head on in a mighty clash of skill and determination. The boy and the beast fought for hours on end with no resting. The boy swung and slashed his sword at the beast with the intent to kill.

The beast would snatch and claw at the boy, but the boy would block mostly every attack. The beast swung its claws at the boy and THRASHII The beast had severed the boys left arm off completely. The boy sat there in agony as he pondered what to do next. By then the sun had risen above the forest and the beast looked extremely frightened. The boy was scared to as the sun suddenly got brighter then it launched a beam of light at the boy.

The boy began to hover in the air with a ray of light surrounding him, his sword was glowing like a bolt of lightning. His eyes were glimmering like mini suns. The beast glared at the boy in terror. The boy was looking around at himself and then the beast. "Alright, lets finish this!" the boy stated as he prepared to charge the beast. In one quick and elegant swing, the boy's sword had gone straight through the beast's neck and its head just sat balancing on its neck.

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Magenta

James

above the creepy cold silent and the slimy forest did the beast glide in the ominous and dark night sky.

All was dark and everyone hid in their homes, grottos, tunnels, and nests. They all hid from the beast as terror quaked through them.

The next day a curios boy asked his father about what happen last night the old man told him about

"Beware the jubjub bird my son the beak that snap the talons that grab beware jabawock || and shun the fremitus bandersnach, "warned my father.

as the brave child herd, the story he imagined him slaying the beast as a knight.

And bringing its head and place it next to a head of the Jabberwock home and set his people free from the terror that they feel every dark night.

That night the boy was scared to leave home for the first time, but he needed to do it. He needed to leave and slay the foul fowl. Just as he was about to leave his home when he spotted his grandad's trusty steel sword on display. He knew it needed another adventure.

as the boy started walking the soft gras beneath his feet he looked back to the small town he grew up in he searched for the beast for many years

The boy sat down to rest trees swayed as the man thought then he herds it.

The boy leapt up his hands tightly griping his sword.

His face became as white as a ghost as he replied it was the crazy bird then he saw it it was just a chicken with pilot goggles.



[Text Wrapping Break]

PJ

The bird motion to follow him they step through a clearing he saw it the jub jub bird but it was hollow the creature a dour opened on the <u>macean</u> and he followed nervously the chicken sat in the pilot seat and the boy sat down Aswell the engine <u>roared to life</u> and the chicken started flying to the boys home

On one windy day in the dusky, hazy woods, the trees slowly danced as the wind pushed through the long branches. A father and son sat on a log, focussing on the rushing river dropping down the waterfall and the man told his child about the jabbenwocky.

"Beware the giant jabberwocky is somewhere creeping around out here. He has a sharp dangerous grip, and he will clench onto your pale, dry skin. Don't go near him. He is extremely poisonous and ferocious." said the son's father.

As the sun shone brightly above them, the father and son walked through the towering groves, continuing their discussion about hunting the jabberwocky. The day wore on. They carefully placed their feet so they could keep the noise down as the boy began to think about hunting the tall, creepy labberwocky. The lad was both surprised and excited.

After a while, the son began looking for the Jabberwocky and moving deeper into the woods, he left his father, far behind. The boy was nervous, not knowing what the jabberwocky looked like and how he would face it. On he went, deeper and further into the shadows of the towering evergreens. Fatigued from his long meandering, the boy lent against the mossy trunk of an ancient elm and contemplated his possible fate; should he encounter the jabberwocky, would he survive? The boy grabbed the long, sharp sword from the scabbard by his side. It was a shining sword which he gripped fiercely with his fist as the boy prepared for battle against the jabberwocky.

Concerned, yet spurred on by adventure, the lad moved on and eventually came upon a gloomy clearing where the boy felt an ominous presence.

then there it was with burning eyes like embed from dragon's lairs. It came crashing through the forest thundering with great strides and it roared with fearsome warnings to beware.

The boy stood up and confident he grabbed his sharp blade to fight with the Jabberwocky which threw its slippery hands into the air. Next it buildozed the lad and bowled him over. But the boy got up putting on a brave face. He swished and swiped with the sword three times and cut the Jabberwocky into three gruesome pieces.

Afterwards, the boy made his way back into the deep, dark forest proud as proud could be because he had defeated the jabberwocky. He held the skull in his hand, triumphantly swinging it as though, it was a monkey climbing through the trees.

The son slowly walks into the dusky driveway. "Son you took years to get back but \underline{im} glad you're safe, did you defeat the jabbenwocky?".

"Yes, he threw me to the ground, I got up and fought through the pain then went with and and cut the jabberwocky into three pieces and collected its head!" Said the son.

"Oh, come here, I'm so proud of you for defeating the jabberwocky!" Cried the father.

The two boys looked at the jabberwocky in disbelief. "His head is bigger than I expected, and the teeth are as sharp as a knife" said the dad.

Let's take it to the local council to see how much he's worth. Jump in the truck son and <u>lets</u> go to the rugged town.

THE END

Lucy

The jabberwocky

in the deep, dark forest the tall, lanky ghost gums whistled, the branches growled fiercely in the death dealing wind. A huge fat man sat on a log at the edge of the forest with his son cried, "Beware of the Jabberwocky that lives in the forest! It has jaws that will devour your fiesh and teeth which are as sharp as blades." The man added in a loud cry, "Also beware of the Julyjub bird's claws that snatch if you're not looking. Finally, watch out for the Bandersnatch's jaws that will tear your flesh and has claws that violently snatch, like lightning strikes the ground". The boy was in excitement because he knew that he had to catch the Jabberwocky and bring it home.

The brave boy excitedly grabbed his sword from the post, his heart was racing, and his hands trembled as he held the sabre. The boy had trained for years to fight the Jabberwocky, and the time had come for the boy to find the ferocious beast.

The boy proceeded into the dark, gloomy forest to search for the Jabberwocky. The boy had been walking for hours looking for the Jabberwocky but didn't find the ferocious beast, he was about to give up and then he heard something in the distance was it a bird was it a oldane or was it the Jabberwocky?

After about 10 minutes of looking, the boy saw the Jabberwocky's fierce eyes and sharp teeth staring from behind the bushes. The Jabberwocky had been watching the boy to discover his weaknesses. The boy ran over to the Jabberwocky when the beast swung his arm to crush the boy against the tree behind him. The beast missed the boy when suddenly from behind, the boy ferociously swung his sword at the Jabberwocky's thick neck. The beast's head flew at high speed across the forest, the head hit a tree with a deafening bang and rolled down into the creek nearby.

The boy came home and put the Jabberwocky's head near a tree and his dad ask if he had killed the Jabberwocky the boy went and got the

His dad cried with excitement because his son had killed the jabberwocky. The boy and his dad hugged each other as the boy had defeted the jabberwocky. They both laughed as the boy as made the forest safe from the Jabberwocky and made it a safe place for people to play the boy took the Jabberwockys head and hung in on the post with his sword.

PROMPTS

From working they If they get a rected they will resent the main roles of government

I would fick this state that it is working setters a religion with your work need to be in once you send them in who ever had the most work wins.

Magenta

Micah



SOTA BOOK CLUB

Dear Readers and Reviewers

Thank you for all the reviews over the year. Keep reading and sharing what you read. I hope someone will continue the afterschool Book Club that Magenta started this term!

Have a wonderful reading adventure this holiday! And remember to send in your reviews in the new school year.

Title: Pig the Fibber

Author: Aaron Blabey

Reviewer: Alex (Dingoes)

What it's about:

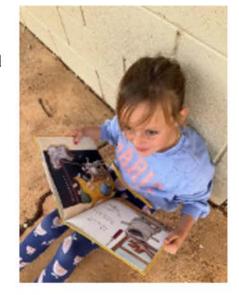
This book is about a greedy pug named Pig and a little sausage dog named Trevor. Pig is a big fibber, and he always blames poor little Trevor when pig does something naughty. One day, Pig had a cunning plan which has something to do with doggy treats...

What I enjoyed about the book:

I enjoyed when Pig did a smelly pop off and blamed poor Trevor. It was funny and I really laughed.

Age recommendation: Probably 6–8-year-olds

Rating: 10/10





Title: Puppy Place Series: Snowball: Chapter 5

Author: Ellen Miles

Reviewer: Lara (Yellow Brumbies)

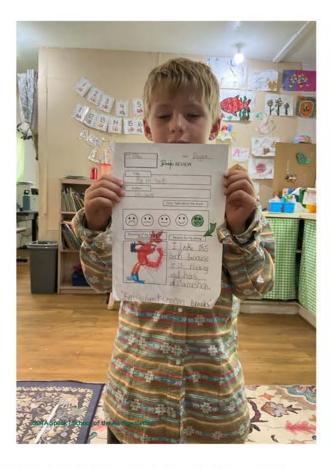
What is it about: They did choose a name and tried it out, then they took him to the Peterson's backyard and gave him a bath.

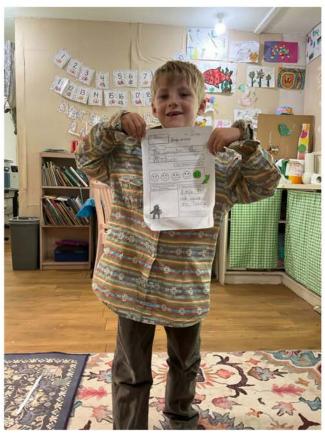
What I enjoyed about it:

How he kept running out of the door and running from the bath.

Age recommendation: 5+

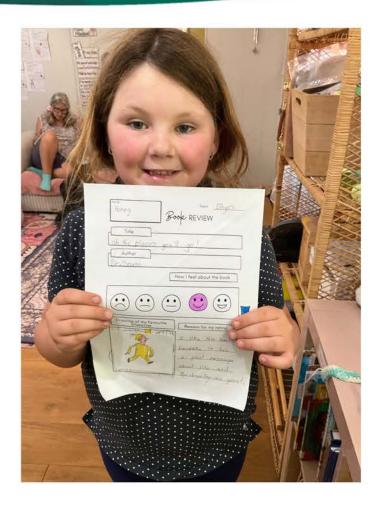
Rating: 9/10











Title: Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian

Author: Rick Riordan

Reviewer: Bonnie (Brumbies)

What it's about:

This book is about a boy named Percy, who is the son of Poseidon – a mythical ancient Greek god. In the story, Percy and his friend Annabeth have lots of trouble because a Titan god named Kronos tries to destroy the home of all the gods.

What I enjoyed about it:

This book is very adventurous. It doesn't have too many chapters and it's the last book in a big series about Percy Jackson. So, I felt that I knew the characters really well and I really enjoyed finding out how the whole saga ended.

Age recommendation: 8 and above years of age

Rating: 10/10



SAPSASA Cricket in Adelaide



Carrieton Gymkhana





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Do you or your child play club sport?

Then we want to hear from you.

Complete a short survey to help us understand how much it

costs to play sport



Ethics reference number: 2024/179





