

Mount Isa School of the Air

Term 2, 2022 Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear MISOTA families,

As we head into Term 2, some of the uncertainty we faced at the beginning of the year is now behind us and we can focus on teaching in these 'new normal' circumstances.

COVID-19 is something that continues to have a global impact, bringing isolation, social distancing and a greater reliance on internet and phones for business and personal events. Reflecting upon this from our rural and remote perspective, these are experiences that we are already very familiar with, particularly in Distance Education. This of course does not take away the seriousness of what lies ahead of us, but assures us that we as a school community understand more than most, the impact of COVID-19 conditions, and have experienced adversity in many forms in the past.

As a school staff, we used the Pupil Free Week and Week 1 and 2 to organise and prepare for these uncertain times, and we have prepared for continued delivery of distance education and also for any sudden changes to current programs and processes. Some staff worked from home, and this in itself made us develop online platforms for school operations that could be accessed offsite in a short period of time. Our staff all contributed in some way to create new processes, for when we moved one domino you can be sure the ripple effect incurred further change somewhere else.

Our Field Teachers, as were many of our other teachers, were itching to get out and about for home visits, but unfortunately, Government restrictions meant they had to stay put for a period of time.

The delivery of over 10 packs for Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) occurred in Term 1 and our staff soon needed to use them to test themselves for COVID. Luckily, the platforms we had in place ensured that many staff who were required to stay home and isolate, could continue to work from home, teaching their on-air lessons using the equipment they had taken home with them as a precautionary measure.

We started the year with 4 staff not able to return due to the no vaccination mandate. As I had discussed at previous P and C meetings, trying to recruit teachers and non-teaching staff to our school had proven difficult, however, we were able to introduce Miss Browning, Miss Caldwell and Miss Thompson to our team at the start of the year as well as welcome back for the 2022 school year, our returning staff.

In late February, COVID was not at the forefront of our minds, with the devastating floods ravaging SE Queensland and taking our thoughts away from the global pandemic for a short period of time. While we were not affected by school closures or loss of property or income, one of our students, Zander Wilson in Year 3 showed me what a true MISOTA student is like, by suggesting we gather any excess resources and write letters to send to schools who have lost resources during the floods. This notion of 'giving back' is wonderful and I was so proud to know that such kind thoughts were being had for people other than ourselves. Thank you Zander!



From the Principal
Deputy Principal
Head of Department
MISOTA Staffing List
Communication
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NAPLAN
eKindy
Instrumental Music
Field Team
Library
Mailroom News
P&C Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

EASTER

Fri 15th & Mon 18th April
ANZAC Day Monday 25th April
MAY DAY Monday 2nd May
SHOW DAY (TBC) Fri 17th June

STUDENT ACTIVITY DAYS

Monday 16th -Wed 18th May

HOME TUTOR SEMINAR

Tuesday 17th -Wed 18th May
(Wednesday 1/2 day only)

SPORTS DAY

Thursday 19th May

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

FANFARE HEATS

Friday 20th May

WESTERN ALLIANCE CAMP & YEAR 4/5 MAGNETIC ISLAND CAMP

Monday 6th – Friday 10th June

Our school plan for the year focusses on 4 main areas:

1. Quality Teaching
2. Successful Learners
3. Evidence Based decisions
4. Wellbeing

This plan has been discussed at the P and C meeting, but if you would like more information about our specific strategies and actions, please let me know.

Planning is well underway for Term 2 Activity Days, the sports carnival, Instrumental Fanfare, Home Tutor sessions and various camps. Of course, a spanner was thrown in the works for the Term 2 Activity Days, with a mine shut down on at the same time. The delivery of NAPLAN off site also saw a lot of paperwork being done to get this happening.

So, in the times ahead, please forgive us if something does not work seamlessly. Our intent is always focussed on making education in your isolated classroom as efficient and equitable as possible, for the children and home tutors in the isolated classroom. As always, we welcome feedback to make our services as functional and as useful as they can be. Online learning is our forte, however COVID-19 has changed even our learning environment.

I encourage you to follow the health guidelines, enact social distancing, self-isolation and practise the necessary hygiene recommendations to stem the spread of the virus. Together we will stay well, support each other, and face whatever comes our way.

As always, communication between home and school is so important. I think the acknowledgement that everyone is doing the best they can, is also important. Please keep in contact with the school and reach out for help if you need it.

Yours in Education,
Vanessa

Deputy Principal

Leading professional learning throughout the school for our partners in education in the isolated classroom has been the focus for Term 1, with a few things occurring that have been new and improved based on feedback provided from the school community in past years.

This year, based on feedback, the below Professional Development Schedule has been delivered to our community:

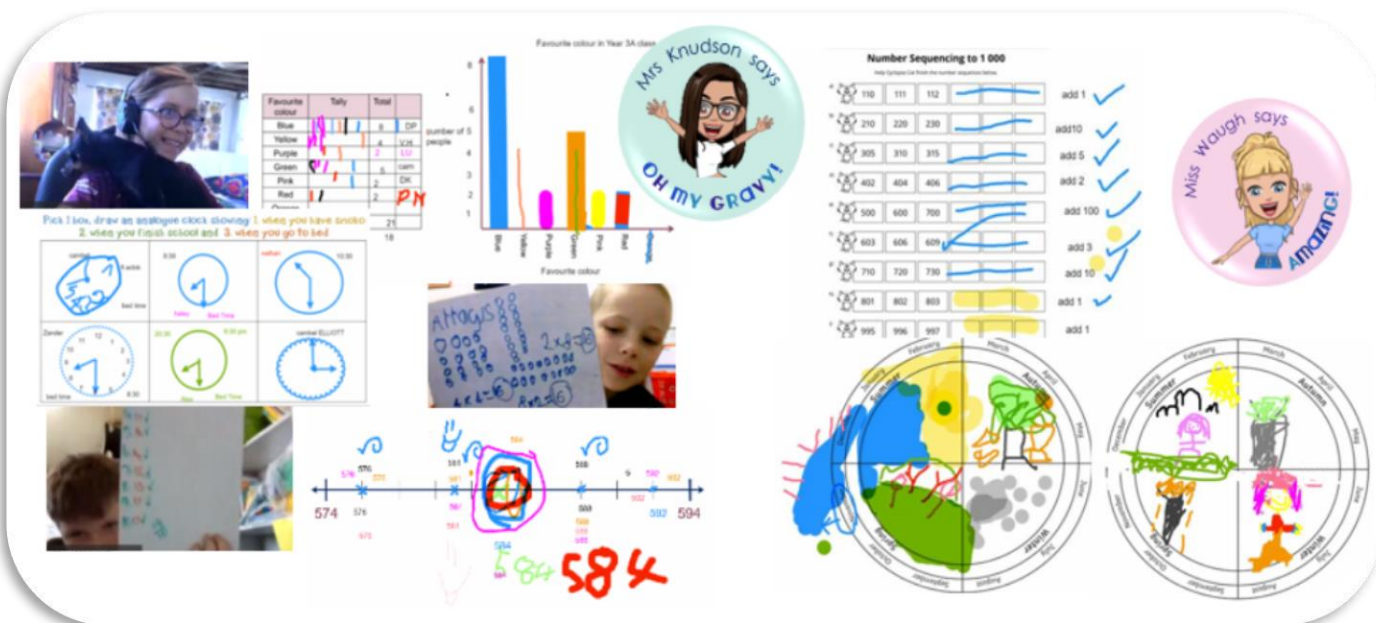
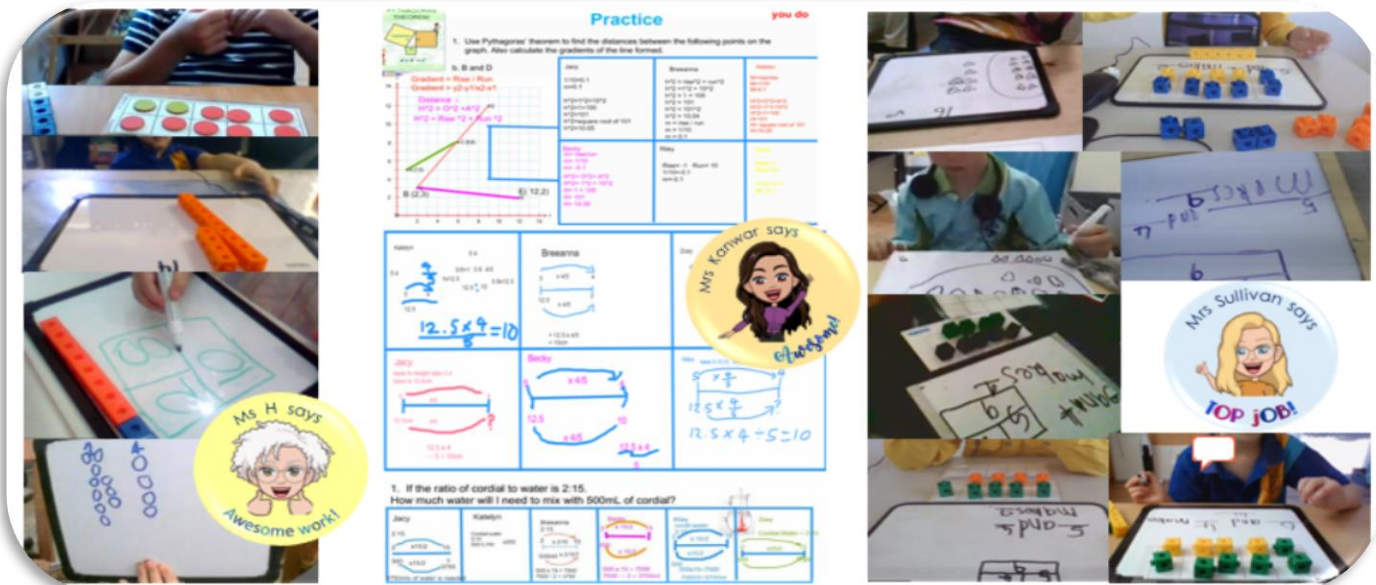
Term	Week	PD	Audience	Resources Located
1	Throughout the term	Year level Home Tutor Sessions	All Home Tutors & Govies P-6	Session PDF and accompanying notes located in Year level Onenote
	2 & 5	Literacy Groups	Years 1-2 Home Tutors, Govies & parents	Powerpoint with accompanying notes emailed to families with sessions recorded and stored in Blackboard
	5-7, Monday & Friday	-Introduction -New Home Tutor and Governess Handbook -Work refusal -Assisting students when they become frustrated	All Home Tutors and Govies ek-10	Session PDF with accompanying slide notes sent to all school community
	8	Activity Days	All attending HomeTutors & Govies ek-10	PDFs of powerpoint presentation with accompanying notes emailed to community

Complimenting these development opportunities will be our Term 2 Activity Days in Mount Isa on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 5. The venue and schedule are yet to be finalised, and when this occurs, information will follow.

Thank you to all Home Tutors and Govies who have undertaken the opportunities offered thus far this year – I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Head of Department

This year, we've seen some changes to the way we're delivering on air lessons. One of those changes has been the addition of Monday Mathematics tutorials in Years 1 to 6. Teachers and students have been practising essential Mathematics skills on air and are engaging with concepts that are coming up in lessons taught by Home Tutors and govies in isolated schoolrooms. It's wonderful to see students shine in these lessons, witness their confidence in Maths grow and to give them opportunities to share their new learning with their classmates. Often students learn more from their peers and we are seeing the benefits of these lessons from the students' perspective. They're also receiving affirmation and positive feedback immediately and regularly which is invaluable. I personally LOVE the Maths on air lessons and I can honestly say they make Mondays my favourite day of the week. Maths in the Western Alliance continues to be interactive, with teachers engaging students with opportunities to practise complex questions and again, working collaboratively with their classmates – how good is this working out?!



We've also, for the very first time, taught Science on air in Years 3 to 6. Students have had opportunities to engage in scientific conversations with their peers, explore living and non-living creatures, investigate different habitats, analysed environmental data and experiment with mouldy bread. In Year 3, students investigated living and non-living things, they also explored the relationship between the sun and the Earth. Check out the amazing work they did on air – how good is the detail in these scientific diagrams showing the rotation of the Earth! We've even had special guests visit MISOTA – thanks again for dropping by Bindi and Bob Irwin, Year 4 students loved listening to your thoughts on the life cycle of the frog.



With Term Two comes the delivery of HASS lessons on air for Years 3 to 6, we can't wait to explore aspects of Australia and its history along with students.

Di Knudson

dknud3@eq.edu.au

MISOTA Staff List 2022

My name is Tracey Kowalski and I've lived in Mount Isa for the past 17 years where I've been very lucky to have been able to enjoy my two biggest passions, books and sewing.

I'm enjoying being back working with books at MISOTA, my job includes adding new books to the collection for students to use and sending books out to families. Some of the families' names are familiar to me from my 14 years at the Mount Isa City Library, where I was the Toy Library Officer for most of that time, and studied to become a Library Technician.

I miss all the wonderful families I was fortunate to spend time with, some of whom became good friends. I dreamed of being a librarian when I was young and sorted everything into categories and I still do.

My second passion is sewing and I have been sewing since I was very young. I returned to sewing a couple of years ago which has been my other dream come true, made possible by my wonderful husband who built me an amazing sewing room (which is already too small).



Hello from Miss Faith! I'm your new teacher aide and I work in the mailroom and the library. I moved to Mount Isa from Brisbane and my favourite hobbies are hiking, reading and playing board games with my friends. I'm very excited to be a part of the MISOTA family.

Hi, I am Miss Browning! I have just moved up to the Isa from Brisbane with my partner and our dog, Pacho. I am originally from a small country town called Inverell. I am loving it in Mount Isa and at MISOTA, I have met so many amazing people and have already explored so much.





Hi Everyone! I'm Miss C, I have just started here at MISOTA this year with the most wonderful class. I have just moved to Mount Isa from Victoria (via Brisbane for a couple of years) and so far am loving it both at school and outside of school.

I am loving all the opportunities to go camping, four wheel driving and to just go exploring in general! So far I have felt so welcomed at MISOTA and in the Isa! I cannot wait to get to know everyone better and for what the year has in store! 😊

My name is Ms Sarah Hood and I am excited to join the MISOTA team. I will be taking over the amazing Miss Cullen's 4B class for the remainder of the school year.

I have been teaching since 2008 across various primary year levels and cannot wait to experience the wonder of on-air lessons.

I look forward to meeting you at the next Home Tutor week and encouraging a love of learning with your children.



WELCOME MISOTA Families



Maureen Capuno
A / Business Manager



Sharon Woods
Administration Officer



Linda Ryan
Community Wellbeing and
Enrolment Officer



Leah Allingham
Resourcing – Curriculum
Development



Faith Thompson
Resourcing



Cheryl Nicolas
Cleaner



Cara Taggart
Instrumental Teacher



David Yang
Teacher (Field Services)



Carly Cooper
Teacher (Field Services)



Vanessa Koina
Principal



Nikki Barlow
Deputy Principal



Di Knudson
HOD (Teaching and Learning)



Luke Hughes
Technical Officer



Katrina Kuhne
Support Teacher: Literacy and
Numeracy



Mount Isa School of the Air Staff 2022



Tiarna Rogers
Teacher (Prep)



Georgia Plant
Teacher (Prep)



Nat Sullivan
Teacher (Year 1)



Fiona Hjortshoj
Teacher (Year 1)



Claire Armstrong
Teacher (Year 2)



Liz Waugh
Teacher (Year 2)



Mat Whitney
Teacher (Year 3)



Jo Mills
Teacher (Year 3)



Morgan Cullen
Teacher (Year 4)



Rachael Caldwell
Teacher (Year 4)



Amy Briggs
Teacher (Year 5)



Myah Browning
Teacher (Year 5)



Aneka van der Kleij
Teacher (Year 6)



Peta Wirth
Teacher (Year 6)



Priyanka Kanwar
Teacher (Secondary)



Mia Hubert
Teacher (Secondary)

We extend a very warm welcome to our new MISOTA families and welcome back to our pre-existing MISOTA families. I encourage experienced home tutors to contact new families in their area to give them some encouragement, advice and comforting words. As many of you will remember, starting School of the Air can be very daunting. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that everyone feels confident and comfortable teaching their children as quickly as possible.

Gumbuya School Magazine

We hope that you enjoyed reading the 2021 Gumbuya. It is a great record of the school year and events throughout the year. Thank you to all our sponsors and those who have contributed to putting the magazine together to make it the amazing production it is. Visitors from far and wide comment on the magazine and also on our students' vast range of activities and achievements. Each year the magazine looks better and better, so if you haven't had a chance to read the magazine yet, take some time out, sit back and reflect on the wonderful 'year that was' at our school.

Bush Kids' Calendar

The P&C organise a Bush Kids Calendar every year with photos of our kids on their properties. Remember to get your cameras out and click away as families will be asked to provide photos for the next year's calendar. Calendars are distributed during the last week of school through a pre-ordering system. We still have a few copies left for this year in stock. If you would like to purchase a \$10.00 copy of 2022 Calendar, please contact Linda Ryan lryan48@eq.edu.au

Communication

As a school it is essential that we are kept up to date with who is the Home Tutor for your child at any given time. As a priority, if your Home Tutor or Governess/Governor details change at any time (this includes your contact details and address), please contact **Linda Ryan our MISOTA Community Wellbeing and Enrolment Officer** so that she can provide an induction to our school and make that initial contact. Linda can then also communicate this information with all the staff of our school (including the teachers, field team, administration team and mail room). Linda will, with their permission, pass on their contact details to other governesses so that a network of governesses can be formed.

There is a policy in place that we must notify parents if their child is absent from on air without explanation. If your child misses on air and we are unaware of why the absence has occurred you will receive an email from the school seeking an explanation. To avoid receiving the email please let your teachers know the reason why your child has missed on air. Occasionally we send these emails out in error as you have let someone know of your child's absence, if this happens please respond and let us know. *We apologise for these occurrences.*

Our teachers have also shared their daily timetables with families so that you can see the best time to make contact with them. During the school day our teachers have on air, reading and PLT commitments as well as other scheduled appointments – all of these are shown in their timetables which have been emailed to you. If you or your teacher have to miss a reading or PLT session this should be communicated in advance where possible.

We realise that prompt return of phone calls and emails is vital for your classroom operation. If your teacher is busy, please leave a detailed message so that he/she can respond in a timely manner with an effective/efficient response.

Daily Communique are our best method of communicating with our Home Tutors and we take this time to detail school news, upcoming events, timetable changes and staff absences. Please endeavour to check the Daily Communique each morning. If you would like to receive a copy of the Daily Communique, please contact Linda Ryan via email lryan48@eq.edu.au

As a school, we are working at supporting and educating our Parents and Governesses/Governors so that they can perform their duties as the teacher of your children to the best of their ability.

We feel confident that our ongoing support throughout the year will go a long way towards achieving this.

School Invoices

Please note that the school's accounts are completely separate from the P&C accounts. The school operates on an invoicing system. Families have previously been issued invoices for their student's individual year level Essential Booklists. The school activities will be invoiced as needed / applicable throughout the year. These invoices will be emailed / posted home at the time of invoicing.

It is greatly appreciated if pay your accounts on issue of the invoice.

If you have any issues with your accounts / invoices, please email Sharon Woods smcca174@eq.edu.au

ALL MISOTA INVOICES NOW INCLUDE CRN

Parents:

www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete



1. Online System | Pay School Invoices

- Pay School Invoices (SRS; Text Book Fees; Camps; etc.)
- Access via **ANY** Computer or Smart Phone

2. Payments Accepted:

MasterCard | VISA

3. Secure Payment Method



NAPLAN

Late last week, we received notice from QCAA that the majority of our students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 have approval to complete NAPLAN off-site. MISOTA families will be completing NAPLAN in their schoolrooms in Week 4 of Term 2.

For Home Tutors/parents/govies of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, we will hold two NAPLAN information sessions in Week 10 of this term, you only have to attend one. **In this session, we will go through the steps to install the NAPLAN online lockdown browser that is required for the test.** This session is **mandatory** if your child is participating in NAPLAN and we will be taking attendance. If you are unable to attend either of the live sessions, you must watch the recording then please email Luke or Di once you have viewed the recording so we can mark your attendance. lugh124@eq.edu.au dknud3@eq.edu.au

Times for these information sessions (only attend one):

1:00pm – 1:30pm Tuesday 29th March

2:30pm – 3:00pm Thursday 31st March

Log into the Blackboard session: **MISOTA Meeting Room**

Dial into conference code: **8145 968 840**

In Week 1 of Term 2, on Wednesday the 20th April, we will be running a compulsory practice test. More details about the session will be sent at the beginning of next term.

This session is **mandatory** and is essential for us to determine whether families have the necessary internet capability and that computers or laptops have the technical ability to complete the test off-site. The practice session will be open for 2 hours but the test itself can be ended in your schoolroom after approximately half an hour. We will have staff at MISOTA facilitating and supervising this practice test and will be available to answer questions on the phone.

Who must attend?

The student/s who is/are sitting the NAPLAN test in Week 4 of Term 2 and the supervisor (Home Tutor, parent or govie) **must be present for this practice test.** If you have more than 1 student in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9, you will only need one person to log into the Blackboard session but each student will need a computer/laptop to test the NAPLAN platform.

What is it?

The purpose is to give students and supervisors a feel for the NAPLAN platform, try a few practice NAPLAN questions and to ensure you are able to navigate through and utilise the tools.

When is it?

In Week 1 of Term 2, on Wednesday the 20th April at 8:30am (session may run for up to 1 hour).

Where do I go?

Log into the Blackboard session: **MISOTA Meeting Room**


Dial into conference code: **8145 968 840**

We are wanting all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 to log in at the same time for this practice test to investigate the system's ability. If we find that it is struggling with this number of students, we may have to split the NAPLAN test into sessions for smaller groups for the real test in Week 4.

While this test is happening, there will be **no other on air lessons, reading or PLT sessions running at MISOTA.** This is to mimic what will happen during the real NAPLAN test and to reduce internet and technology issues.

Please contact Luke Hughes or Di Knudson if you have any questions. lhugh124@eq.edu.au dknud3@eq.edu.au

Below is a draft of the proposed NAPLAN timetable for Term 2, Week 4: (These dates and times are subject to change.)

	NAPLAN OFF-SITE 2022 TIMETABLE [DRAFT]				
	Term 2, Week 4				
	Monday 9/05/22	Tuesday 10/05/22	Wednesday 11/05/22	Thursday 12/05/22	Friday 13/05/22
8:30 – 9:00					
9:00 – 9:30		Writing (Year 3 and 5) Intro time: 10 minutes Test time: 40 minutes (5 mins planning, 30 mins writing, 5 mins editing)	Writing (Year 7 and 9) Intro time: 10 minutes Test time: 42 minutes (5 mins planning, 32 mins writing, 5 mins editing)	Conventions of Language (Year 3, 5, 7 and 9) Intro time: 15 minutes Test time: 45 minutes	
9:30 – 10:00					
10:00 – 10:30					
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea				
11:00 – 11:30		Reading (Year 3 and 5) Intro time: 10 minutes Test time: Year 3 (45 mins) Year 5 (50 mins)	Reading (Year 7 and 9) Intro time: 10 minutes Test time: 65 minutes	Numeracy (Year 3, 5, 7 and 9) Intro time: 10 minutes Test time: Year 3 (45 mins) Year 5 (50 mins) Year 7 and 9 (65 mins)	
11:30 – 12:00					
12:00 – 12:30					
12:30 – 1:00	Lunch				
1:00 – 1:30					
1:30 – 2:00					
2:00 – 2:30					
2:30 – 3:00					

Dates and times are subject to change

Di Knudson

eKindy



Connecting and Learning through Music

Music plays an enormous role in the everyday in eKindy. We sing, listen to others sing, incorporate dance, movement, games, and imagination, and generally have a great deal of fun in the process.

Music also plays an important role in children's development and learning. During music activities, children learn to engage and focus, as they become ready to learn new actions and words - and to join with others (their siblings, Govies or parents) to enjoy the experience.

Children are social learners and music sessions provide a perfect format to interact, have-a-go at something new, be brave, work towards finding a sense of belonging and be part of the whole group (during our Activity Days).

- Learning new songs and rhymes introduces children to different vocabulary, word sounds and syllables and pronunciation.
- It supports children's understandings about learning to listen and concentrate, to retain and recall information and then repeat back what they have heard.
- It creates opportunities to learn more about number value, counting, size, shape, time and patterning.

- Musical games and transitions can be used to promote executive function skills such as working memory and inhibitory control.
- Children begin to learn to distinguish the words from the actions (for example when we sing 'Open Shut' them, starting with hands closed on the 'open' part).
- Music helps children to remember parts of the kindy routine (our Welcome and Goodbye Songs), to learn each other's names and to support afternoon rest and relaxation time after a busy day playing.
- It helps us to realise that we are all different but all part of a community.



Singing and dancing is a feel-good experience. It makes us joyful and tunes our hearing to rhythm and beat. It builds muscle strength, coordination, and balance, and supports healthy brain development.

We are free to sing - it costs us nothing, but the rewards are endless. So be a great role model to your child(ren), sing or hum out loud... in the car, in the shower, at bedtime or when you are playing together.

Instrumental Music

In conjunction with activities days, the MISOTA String Ensemble had their first practice leading up to the regional heats of the 2022 Fanfare competition being held in Mount Isa on the 20 May. Fanfare aims to

- promote excellence in ensemble performance
- highlight school-based ensemble performance offer students and teachers of ensembles the experience of expert adjudication
- provide students and teachers with the opportunity to perform in a music festival with ensembles from other state schools.

We are looking forward to practicing at the May activity days, and our performance on the 20 May. In Term One, we also had students attend the inaugural State Honour Ensemble Program in Longreach. This was a wonderful weekend of community music and we are looking forward to supporting this program in the future.

All places in the strings program are currently full, but if you would like your child to learn an instrument please contact Cara Taggart ctagg6@eq.edu.au to be placed on the waiting list for 2023.



Field Team

Thank you for being a part of our spectacular Term 1 and your involvement with our school we truly couldn't do it without you! It is such a unique place to work and there is no where else in the world like this.

Forms for Field Events

FORMS! FORMS! FORMS! Who doesn't love forms. We excited to announce that we are going online! From Term 2 on, we will be trialling Microsoft Forms online. We will send out links via email and be placed on eLearn which will hopefully make life easier for everyone! Just access the tab for each field event on the left menu of the MISOTA Home Tutor Site.

There are some exceptions though, medical forms and payment forms will still be completed via email (this is for security purposes). Don't worry though, we will remind you when this happens. We hope that this will save everyone

some time, energy and paper! We understand that there may be some questions on the rollout and are happy to take phone calls/emails.

Home Tutor Week Activity Days 16-18 May

Sports Day 19 May

Teachers prepare the learning experiences for activity days and it is planned to include hands on learning with a typical school day look. Activity Days replace on air lesson commitments for these days. Students often wear their MISOTA school shirt on the day and need to bring a school bag with pencil case containing glue stick, scissors, lead pencils, sharpener, coloured pencils/pens, ruler, water bottle, hat and wear closed in footwear for this school event.

More information and timetable to follow at a later date.

Please pre-order your School / Sports Uniforms from the office by emailing Sharon Woods smcca174@eq.edu.au

eKindy arrangements

David Saunders will communicate to parents what group their children will be in prior to Activity Days.

Catering and Costs

The office is coordinating catering and will send out separate advice on this.

School Photos During Activity Days

This year we are having a new photographer and are planning to complete all school photos on one day. Group photos will be taken at the conclusion of the school day. Families who are interested in sibling photos (siblings photos only. The photographer will not be taking family photos or photos with adults) will be sent further details.

Term Two Group Days: Teamwork makes the Dream Work – Active Learners

Group days provide the opportunity for students to learn with other students. The curriculum has a hands-on focus in Technology, Science, The Arts and Health and Physical Activity. Group days also provide the opportunity for Home Tutors to share ideas. Each family will have the opportunity to attend a group day in Term Two.

Program

The theme for the Term Two group day is 'Teamwork – Active Learning'. We plan to provide the children with activities involving a broad range of learning areas. The day will provide a cross curricular approach with a strong collaborative learning approach.

Groups days commence at 8:30am and conclude at 2:30pm. Families arrange their own transport to and from group days.

Date	Venue	Contact	Please Bring
Week 2 27 April	McKinlay Hall	Janice Fleming rj.nosilla@hotmail.com	Hat, drink bottle, closed in shoes, catering as per food contact
Week 2 28 April	Glenormiston Station Boulia	Necleisha Gurney glenormiston@napco.com.au	
Week 3 4 May	Alexandria Station	Kate Drury ks.drury@bigpond.com	
Week 6 24 May	Normanton Hall	Shelby Heslin shelbs87@hotmail.com	
Week 7 31 May	Hell's Gate Roadhouse	Sophie Elliott sophie_elliott@live.com	
Week 7 1 June	Gregory Downs Gregory Area	Hannah Simms simmsy87@hotmail.com	
Week 9 14 June	Dalgonally Station Julia Creek Area	Sarah Acton actonschoolroom@gmail.com	
Week 9 16 June	Tara Station Cloncurry Area	Cindy Walsh cindylouwalsh7@gmail.com	

Many thanks to our families for offering to host these days.

Home Visits

Class teachers are excited and would love to visit you and your family! This year, class teachers will be taking the lead to conduct home visits in addition to the field team. We aim to conduct a home visit within our designated enrolment area of Hughenden, Julia Creek, Cloncurry, Birdsville, Boulia, Bedourie, Camooweal, Burketown and Normanton at least every two to three years.

Home visits are a fabulous way to help your children, home tutor and govie feel connected to their school. Children love showing off their home, station and classroom and once this connection is established, it can positively influence

their attitude to learning. It is also the perfect opportunity to access extra ideas and support for the home tutor or govie to implement in the isolated school room.

If you are approached for a home visit, don't be concerned, we are not checking up on you. Our focus is supporting learning – ours, yours and your student's. Instead embrace it and take as much from it as you can. Note, we can also make further arrangements to accommodation.

Minischools – Mind, body, Soul

Each year, the school conducts six minischools which are held in the field over one-week periods. This year these are conducted at Normanton, Boulia, Cloncurry, Camooweal (MISOTA Outstation), Julia Creek and Gregory. Families are invited to attend one of these and it is important to let the field team know which one you wish to attend via the parent consent form. Parent Consent forms are online and available on the MISOTA Home Tutor Site and are due in by 9:00am Monday 30th May to assist with staffing decisions.

The week provides the opportunity for children from eKindy to Year 6 to mix and learn together in a central location.

eKindy Arrangements

We are planning that the eKindy Teacher from BSDE will be able to attend our Minischools where the bulk of eKindy students are attending. Due to group size and staffing ratios, students may need to attend specific days as advised by the eKindy Teacher. A Kindy program may not be able to be offered where the eKindy teacher is unable to attend.

Planning Sessions

There will be on air planning to seek input by Home Tutors into the specific needs for the each Minischool. Planning sessions will be announced via email.

Below is the Minischools timeline:

Date	Minischool	Venue	Please Bring
25 to 30 July	Normanton	Normanton Racecourse	Costume, hats, closed in shoes, sunscreen and water bottles
1 to 6 August	Boulia	Boulia Hall	
8 to 13 August	Julia Creek	McIntyre Park Racecourse	
15 to 20 August	Cloncurry	Cloncurry Racecourse Julia Creek	
29 August to 3 September	Gregory	Gregory Racecourse	Pencil case containing glue stick, scissors, lead pencils, sharpener, coloured pencils/pens, ruler
5 Sept to 10 September	Camooweal	MISOTA Outstation	

Further details and also available at the MISOTA Home Tutor Site via eLearn (you will need your student's log in and password to access this).

Insurance Cover for Students Undertaking Physical Activity

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education & Training does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has Public Liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

David and Carly, Field Services Team

Swimming Carnival Congratulations to all of those who participated

Dear families!

What an exciting swimming carnival we just had! In true MISOTA fashion, we saw the true spirit of giving things a go with all of our students showing immense grit and determination to get across the finish line!

We are happy to report this year's Age Champions:

10-12 Years Junior Girls – Marleah Moll

10-12 Years Junior Boys – Clinton Murray

13-16 Years Senior Girls – Claire Scott

13-16 Years Senior Boys – Cooper Parry-Pope

Overall Points:

Flynn Total	287	O'Sullivan Total	176
Students	42	Students	40
Points per student	6.83	Points per student	4.4

The points per student tally will be added on to sports days tallies to work out the overall champion house for 2022!



Mailing Room

Below are a few reminders regarding our MISOTA 2022 mailing system. Please keep this note in a handy place for future reference.

Three blue satchels are allocated to your family. They remain the property of Mount Isa School of the Air and should be returned at regular intervals and at the end of your enrolment here. The laminated address label should always be reversed and "tucked in" and the bag 'sealed' by using the zip tie provided before returning the mail satchel to Mount Isa School of the Air. Postage is reply paid. If you have 3 bags at home, please return an extra one with your mail, I usually have more mail to send to you than you have to return.

Mail is sent to you once per week on either Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. I try to line this up so you get your mail as quickly as possible. Mail should only be sent to us once a week. If all your return mail does not fit into a blue satchel, you can either use two satchels or pack the lot in a box. Please do not use a separate blue satchel for each child in your family. It is not necessary.

If you are a travelling family and are not at the same address for any length of time, it is your responsibility to advise mailroom staff of your new address and how long you will be there. Please keep in e-mail contact.

If you are consistently receiving your mail in a post pack bag not a blue satchel, you can assume that I don't have a blue bag here for you. If you don't have any either, let me know and I will organise more for you. Post pack bags can be returned if they are in good condition, I will use them again if necessary.

If you don't have a blue satchel or only an envelope is required, it is quite okay to use our reply-paid address:

**The Principal
Mount Isa School of the Air
Business Reply Paid No. 1683
PO Box 1683
MOUNT ISA Q 4825**

When returning work or USB to your child's teacher, please ensure it is packed inside a plastic bag/book/folder with your child's name and teacher marked on the front of the bag/book/folder. Loose items inside should also be marked with your child's name.

- **Please mark miscellaneous items for other staff with their name and your name.** This is especially important if you have sent payments. Australia Post recommends that cash not be sent in the post.
- Govies please when e-mailing school staff, reference the families for whom you are working. Station names are not always recognised by all staff.
- Please keep personal items to be forwarded to other families to an absolute minimum. School will not be responsible for the postage of these items.
- Please keep resource books inside the plastic bag provided for protection from dust and water. (Please keep these resources as clean as possible. Dust them off before returning and have clean hands before lessons. Other students will receive these packs after you.) The pack also lists what is to be returned so it and the contents should be kept together. It is highly recommended that these packs are checked and contain all marked items.
- Please return the entire pack as soon as you are finished with the contents (at the end of that unit).
- Please do not keep these packs longer than necessary. All items marked on the front of the pack should be returned inside the pack. Don't send them back early! If an item is damaged please leave a note on the front of the pack. It is a good idea to keep all items inside the resource pack on a daily basis, they will be less likely to get lost or damaged.
- Please advise Linda of all contact details, including new mail days, if they change. If you have satchels with the incorrect address on them please correct them before sending them back to school.

If you are coming in to school and want to collect your mail please let me know and I will hold it for you. If you are attending an activity day, mini-school etc. outside Mount Isa and want to collect your mail there, please let us know and we will endeavour to get it to you via our attending staff.

**Many thanks
Mail Room and Curriculum**

Library News

This semester, unfortunately our Mount Isa School of the Air Library has had been affected by staffing shortages. Library lending may look a little different at present. Faith Thompson is sending out Library books for students that have either sent back library books in this year's mail or have library bags in the library.

If you would like library books for your student, please let Faith know on fthom120@eq.edu.au with a short description of your student's likes, dislikes and which level they like to read. ie. Junior Fiction or Easy Fiction etc. We will try to include a range of books for you to look at. Please rate them with a note when returning if you like or dislike them and if the level was too high or too low.

Please take note of when items borrowed from the library are due back. Returning items by the due return date ensures that they are available for others to borrow. This is particularly important with books from a series or popular reads.

Any overdue library books from last year need to be returned before any new books are sent. Books can be reserved on the Oliver system. The reservations will be checked and if you have no other books on loan we will do the best we can to meet your needs.

Please remember when returning library books, that they should be protected in a Library bag – this protects the books and makes it easier to mail. School Library bags are available to purchase from MISOTA for \$6.00.

P & C Committee

From the P&C President

“Camp Fundraising – Your Questions Answered”

We the P&C, would like to let families know that fundraising for the School's Year 6 and Western Alliance camps is an option to keep costs down for all families. Funds raised are much appreciated, however the time, planning and skills explored within these endeavours are truly the focus of this effort.

Historically, Year 6 students and their families have been encouraged to fundraise and contribute these funds to the P&C, as a 'Thank You' gesture. Some examples of fundraising in the past include, 100's boards, picking up cans for 10 cent refunds at community events. Recycled feed bag making, goat sausages, raffles and guess the number of lollies in the jar etc...

In order to get the ball rolling for the 2022 Year 6 and Western Alliance camps (which are held in Term 3 each year) we propose the following: it would be appreciated, but not mandatory, if Year 6 and Western Alliance students and families, who are looking to attend camps, start looking at ways to fundraise.

The first step in the process will be to:

Contact the Treasurer of the P&C – to let them know what your fundraising venture will entail.

Cindy Walsh misotapctreasurer@gmail.com

Once fundraising completed deposit funds into the following bank account

MISOTA PandC

BSB: 064815

Account: 00090965

Reference: YR6Fsurname or WACAMPsurname

The P&C will be generating in their accounting system, 3 accounts to clearly separate funds for, Year 6 camp, Western Alliance Camp and general P&C business. If the circumstances in any given year brings any additional or surplus monies raised, these will be retained in the funding bucket.

If you have any questions, please come along to a P&C meeting (2nd Monday of each month) or contact anyone on the committee.

ICPA BOTA

Isolated Children's Parents' Association

Nic Kennedy

Mount Isa Branch of The Air "Ardmore"

Education, wherever the location PMB 49 Mt Isa Qld 4825

Phone: 07 4748 4858

Email: candnkennedy@gmail.com



Dear MISOTA Families,

Are you a member of ICPA? ICPA is a volunteer organisation committed to ensuring equity of access to education for regional, rural, and remote students. MISOTA students are supported by ICPA and we encourage you to join a branch.

Many of you at this time of the year would be looking forward to Sports For Bush Kids week in Mt Isa, which our branch hosts. If you are not familiar with it, our branch organises and funds sports coaches to come to Mt Isa for a few days where MISOTA students can participate in and learn team sports (cricket, basketball, netball, gymnastics, soccer, rugby, tennis, swimming etc). It is a highlight of the year for most of you.

To become a member or renew your membership, please log onto www.icpa.com.au and select renew membership or join ICPA options. You may have also received a membership form via email which you can also complete as an alternative.

Either join your local branch or become a member of ICPA Mt Isa Branch Of The Air (BOTA). Membership with our branch is \$50 for the year which includes Federal affiliation and State affiliation.

Contact ICPA Mt Isa BOTA secretary Nic Kennedy (details on letterhead above) or president Wendy Hick on 4748 4852 with any questions you may have or for any further information.

Kind Regards,

Nic Kennedy

Secretary ICPA Mt Isa BOTA

2022

CLONCURRY PRIZE

'Spirit of the Outback'

Junior Poetry Competition

The Cloncurry Prize is a poetry competition open to all Queensland school aged individuals.

\$250 first prize
\$150 second prize
\$100 third prize

Entries close: 13 May 2022



To enter visit www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au/cloncurry-prize

For more information, please contact Cloncurry Shire Council on
07 4742 4100 or cloncurryprize@cloncurry.qld.gov.au

Cloncurry
Shire Council