

Mount Isa School of the Air

Term 1, 2025 Newsletter



MISOTA Principal

Dear MISOTA community,

It is hard to believe that I am writing another end of term newsletter item! It seems that in a blink of an eye, another teaching year has come and gone and soon we will be sweltering through another muggy Christmas, waiting for the rain to greet us just in time for Term 1!

Last term was super busy with Minischools and as always, it was great to get out and about and see the students and families in their local geographic areas. Thanks to those who were able to participate in any feedback sessions held during these weeks. This feedback then helps to shape the following year, so it is always great to hear the community voice when making decisions.

This term was equally busy with Swimming Carnival, Rock Pop, Group days for swimming, Activity Days in Week 2 and Western Alliance Multischool. As always, whether it is while in town or when we are out and about, it is always great to see you.

As we get ready for the new year, I ask that you let the school know if you will not be returning to MISOTA in 2025. We have already started planning classes and teacher allocations and it makes things easier if we know rough enrolment numbers moving forward.

The 2025 calendar draft has been released. There are still some group and activity day dates that need to be confirmed, but thought it was more important to get this out to you sooner rather than later. Feel free to pencil in bits and pieces as they come to light. We were also waiting on some dates of events in the community, hence why the minischool dates are not yet locked in.

This year, we farewell a number of staff from our MISOTA teaching community. It has been lovely to get to know so many of them over the years they have been here and we wish them all the best for their next adventure, wherever that may be. We are lucky to welcome new faces next year as well. Some teachers specifically requested to come to MISOTA, which has been lovely to hear. It is always great to work with people who hold the same cultural ideas as those we promote at MISOTA.

We also farewell some long-standing families at the end of the term as well. It has been so great to get to know you and have you as part of our MISOTA family and we wish you all the best as well. Please keep in touch. As we head into our final hoorah in Week 10 with the on-air Christmas Concert (my favourite day of the year) awards and graduation for our Year 6 and 10 students and Sports for Bush kids' week, let's celebrate being together.

In the meantime, as this term starts to wind down, I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday. Hopefully, as the weather starts to heat up, you are not out mustering in the sun, but rather getting a bit of down time as well.

***Look forward to seeing you in next week.
Happy holidays, Vanessa***


Deputy Principal

To our MISOTA Community,

What a wonderful year of teaching and learning it has been! 2024 certainly brought much to do in our Schoolrooms and in on air lessons, and with the air of promise, 2025 is shaping up to be one of our biggest years yet! Next year we welcome V9 curriculum in both Mathematics through our newly-developed Independent Learning Materials for years P-6, our direct teaching of English through on air lessons, continuance of Literacy Groups and Literacy Across the Curriculum lessons as well as the emergence of a new way of working in our 7-10 space in the Western Alliance. In amongst all of that, we will also engage with a new teaching and learning platform in Microsoft Teams through which a reinvigoration of pedagogical approaches in the digital sphere becomes our focus.

Overarching all of this will be our theme for professional development across our community to 'Back to our Roots' which takes it's direction from an acknowledgement of where we have been from a strengths-based approach whilst also preparing our shared students for the future. Back to our Roots comes from our commitment to nurture the cultural origins of our school as a student-centred institution, where our school staff work with student's family towards success for each individual, through adversity to higher things.

As you can see below, our Professional Development offerings for Home Tutors and Govvies begins in Term 1 offering both online access and face-to-face facilities. Many of the offerings have been reviewed and adjusted according to feedback and may look slightly different than in previous years.



Term	Professional Development	Platform
1	Week 2-6: Start-up Sessions Mondays 3:30-4:30pm <i>Sow the seeds</i> Week 1-5: Year level Home Tutor Sessions	Online via MS Teams
	Week 7: Networking Workshop Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th March <i>Branching out</i>	Face-to-face @ MISOTA in the Outstation
2	Week 4: Long Lunch - Wednesday 14th May Workshops - Thursday 15th May <i>Back to our roots</i>	Face-to-face @ Mount Isa Race Club
	Week 1-10: Year level Home Tutor Sessions	Online via MS Teams
3	Week 1-10: Year level Home Tutor Sessions	Online via MS Teams
4	Week 1-10: Year level Home Tutor Sessions	Online via MS Teams

The above information will be sent through to all families at the beginning of the year in greater detail.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community members who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our students are supported to achieve their best.

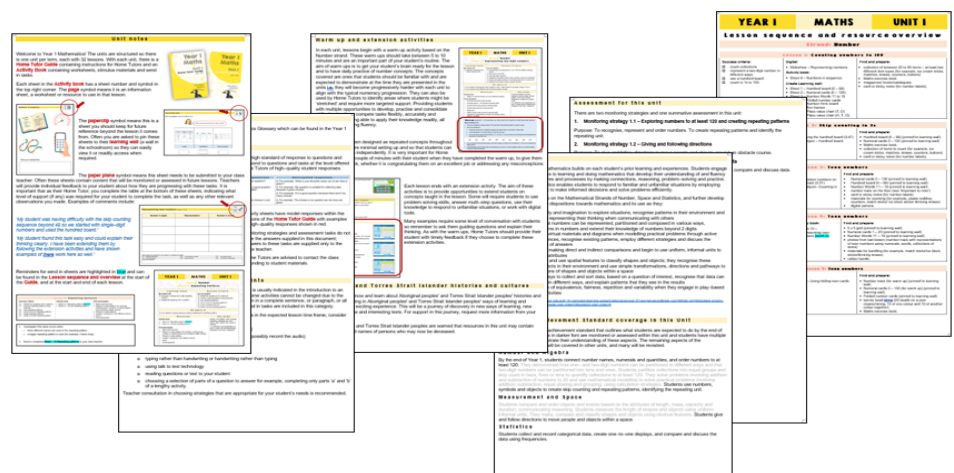
With eagerness, and anticipation, I hope that you look forward with us to 2025 with a real want to engage with our 'Back to our Roots' theme.

Many happy returns for a wonderfully safe and joyous holiday spent with loved ones filled with an abundance of love, life and laughter. See you all in 2025!

Yours in Education,
Nikki Barlow

V9 Head of Curriculum

V9 Mathematics is ready to roll out for 2025! When you receive your Term 1 resources, please take a bit of time to look through the new Maths Independent Learning Materials and read the first few of pages of the Home Tutor Guide. Within these pages, you will find a summary of the unit, the lesson sequence, resources required and descriptions of what to find in the units.



At the start of the Term 1, 2025, we will step Home Tutors through the new layout. Please bring along any questions you may have about the new ILMs.

Some of the key changes in the V9 Australian Curriculum for Mathematics are:

- a stronger focus on students mastering the essential mathematical facts, skills, concepts and processes, and being introduced to these at the right time
- strengthened the focus on students developing the mathematical processes of mathematical modelling, computational thinking, statistical investigation, probability experiments and simulations.
- raised standards by introducing content earlier (for example lifting standards in Year 1 in relation to addition and subtraction, with additional content setting expectations about recall and proficiency with multiplication facts, beginning in Year 2) expanding depth and/or breadth of content and including new content.
- re-sequenced content to strengthen the developmental progression of key mathematical concepts, skills, procedures and processes based on evidence, a stronger focus on students
- mastering the essential mathematical facts, skills, concepts and processes, and being introduced to these at the right time
- making clear what mathematical computations need to be done without a calculator, reinforcing the importance of achieving proficiency in foundational skills
- a revision of the sequencing of content in Mathematics; in particular, telling time, introduction of fractions, recall of multiplication facts ('times tables') and solving equations
- lifting standards for Mathematics in Year 1 in relation to addition and subtraction, with additional content setting expectations about recall and proficiency with multiplication facts, beginning in Year 2

<https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources/stories/curriculum-changes#accordion-41087ee733-item-594b90cc58>

As you are teaching your students the Maths using the V9 ILMs in 2025, you may notice your student not doing something that an older child you've taught did when they were in that grade. For example, you may wonder: 'Why haven't I taught my Year 1 child about digital clocks this year?' This is because some V9 changes include changing when certain skills are being taught (as described in the key changes above). Students now won't need to be explicitly taught digital clock concepts until Year 3. The same is true for the reverse scenario – expectations around number knowledge have increased, particularly in the early year levels. As an example, by the end of Prep, Year 1 and Year 2, students will be expected to make connections between numbers up to 120, up to 999 and up to 9 999 (respectively).

As well as creating the ILMs to align with these changes, we have made some changes to our Maths boxes to support students as they engage with V9 concepts. These will now be sent as Prep, Year 1-3 and Year 4-6 Maths boxes. This was quite a big undertaking so thank you to families for sending these back early so Cheryl and Lhen could make the required changes in time to send Term 1 resources.

I'm excited and thankful that the project has been given another year to work on completing these Maths ILMs. Writers have worked hard to provide quality lessons for our students, and I'm grateful to work with this team of people moving into next year. Wishing everyone a wonderful long break and looking forward to what 2025 brings!



Di Knudson (Head of Curriculum)
dknud3@eq.edu.au

MISOTA Staffing Updates

As always, we say "hello" and wave "goodbye" to staff at the end of each year. This year, we seem to have been saying goodbye to so many staff. At the end of this week, we say farewell to:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| • Mel Blinco | • Lauren Stokes |
| • Karrie Devlin | • Natalie Griffith |
| • Amy Briggs | • Sarah Zaghini |
| • Alex Stewart | • Fiona Hjortshoj |
| • Myah Browning | • Cara Taggart (will be absorbed into her base region) |

We wish them all the best and hope that they have fond memories of their time with us at MISOTA.

At the time of writing, this is our incoming staff and current staffing updates are as below.

A warm welcome to our new 2025 MISOTA team members.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Kate Thomas | • Hayley Yates |
| • Sage Bell | • Dani Andersen |
| • Josie Ferguson | • Chris McIntosh |
| • Elsie Rampling | |



Hi MISOTA families!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news! As part of a new chapter in our teaching journeys, we will be transitioning from Classroom Teachers to becoming your new Field Team in 2025!

We are looking forward to strengthening our relationships and making new connections with our wonderful school community. Thank you for supporting us as we embark on this adventure together. We are grateful for this opportunity and excited to continue creating unforgettable experiences with our families.

See you in 2025! 😊 Rachel Gregory and Sarah Marks



Hello MISOTA families! My name is Kate Thomas I am looking forward to meeting everyone for an exciting year. I had taught in Cairns for four years before moving to Mount Isa where I am currently teaching. I have three children, two who are in high school and one in primary school. I live with a lot of pets that include dogs, a cat, chickens, ducks, a goose and goats. In my spare time I like to walk, run and dance.



Hi everyone, my name is Miss (Elsie) Rampling, and I am so excited to be joining the MISOTA team as your Grade 1 teacher for 2025! I'm entering my 4th year of teaching, and while I originally hail from the stunning Coolangatta on the Gold Coast, I'm looking forward to a new adventure in the outback. I love anything water-related – surfing, fishing, diving – you name it! I can't wait to check out the local lake and hopefully catch a barra.

I've had a varied teaching journey so far, with classrooms ranging from just two students on Hayman Island to as large as twenty-nine students in Collinsville. I love a new and exciting adventure, and I'm eager to take on this next chapter with all of you! I'm really looking forward to meeting my new students and their families, and I can't wait for a fantastic year ahead.

See you soon! Miss Rampling

Miss Hayley! Copper hair with hazel eyes and freckles

Grew up in a small rural town on a farm.

My Family: Dad, Mum and 2 sisters. I'm the eldest and an aunty

Dogs - Phoenix and Dolly

Favourite Subject: Science (After Technology)

Favourite foods: Gelato and Pizza! Lucky its Gluten Free

Favourite holiday destination: Camping at Stradbroke Island

Favourite sounds: Rain on a tin roof and ocean waves.

Favourite colours: Green (teal and sage) and Red.

Likes to go walking with her dogs, watching movies, exploring, gardening, Pokémon and reading!

Loves reading: Favourite authors (at the moment) are Tess Gerritsen, May Gibbs and anything BLUEY.





Hi, I'm Chris, though those that remember me would know me as Mr Mac, either is fine. I am returning to MISOTA and the WA after 5 years as a corporate stooge, jk, I have been working with the regional student engagement team helping young people less fortunate or who school is more of challenge than most. It's been great, but I am super keen to get back to see the amazing families here, including the one I now get to work with again.

I'm a single dad, with 4 amazing children. I have been living and working in Mount Isa for 15 years, and will be here for a while longer, though I miss my waves, salt and ocean sounds (grew up in Coffs Harbour with the bananas). To end with, I am going to apologise up front, I have a great eye for faces, but a terrible memory for names, so please bear with me, and say hi when you see me (maybe even offer your name lol), it doesn't mean you're not important, because you all are, and it's my goal and task to see you reach the heights of your potential.

(PS Its MOEvement, don't judge lol, it's for a good cause. Ask those men around you RUOK, they may appear strong and unbreakable, but they need you too.)

Hello! I am Sage Bell and I am super excited to join the Mount Isa School of the Air Team in 2025!

I am looking forward to getting to know you and seeing how the children respond to the different challenges that are set. I have been a teacher since 2008 and have taught every grade and every subject. This year marks 15 years in the Isa with my partner Al and my daughter Silvara. I'm excited to see what the future brings.

FAVOURITES:

Colour: Blue Season:
Spring Hobby: Camping
Subject: STEM
Food: Sushi
Drink: Coffee
Candy: Mint Aero
Place: The Beach



Community Wellbeing & Enrolments Officer

Open Communication is at the heart of what we do. Email, phone and daily commune notices are all means of communication available to us as a school community. It is our collective responsibility to communicate well with each other. Please communicate to your teachers the joys, frustrations and the laughable moments so that together we can provide the best education for your children. If you have anything you wish to talk to myself about, I am always available Linda Ryan: 47448303 or lryan48@eq.edu.au

Our frontline of communication is Daily Notices, and we encourage families read these notices each morning. Families are encouraged to refer to the "Who to contact list" which details the relevant coordinator for a range of activities and programs within the school and we recommend that you look to this form to ensure that you get to speak with the most appropriate staff member in relation to your specific enquiry.

If you need assistance, do not wait for us to contact you, please call or email your class teacher or myself at your convenience. Teachers have provided families with their Education Queensland email address and their school

phone number and this can be used for all necessary correspondence. Parents, Home Tutors and Govies should ensure that email contact with the teacher is of a professional manner and no inappropriate content is forwarded to the teacher. At times, teachers will provide you with school mobile number for use during special events or travel and we ask that families use these numbers respectfully.

This school is proud of the open and honest communication it has established between students, teachers, govies and home tutors and we look forward to and welcome hearing from all of our families throughout the year.

Student Absences from On-Air Classes

If your student/s are going to be absent from on-air classes for anytime, please email your class teacher and Linda Ryan lryan48@eq.edu.au. If notification is *not* received you will receive a letter stating that your child was an unexplained absence for the day.

It is now a government requirement that all unexplained absences are reported to parents on the day of the absence. Any questions please contact Linda Ryan.

Family Contact Details & Technical Information

It is important that the school has correct family details on our database. From time to time the school will seek updated contact details from you. If your Govie's name, your email, phone number or address do change, it is important that you let the school know, through our Community Wellbeing and Enrolment Officer Linda Ryan: lryan48@eq.edu.au

The majority of our families now have a regular and reliable internet service. Your email address is a very important part of your enrolment information. Please identify which email you prefer to receive general school information and that required for class teacher contact (schoolroom email).

If you do not receive your school daily communicate via email this is evidence that we do not have a record of your correct email address on our school system. For more information or for further assistance with technical details contact our Technical Officer Luke Hughes: lhugh124@eq.edu.au

MISOTA Invoices, Payment Options & Dunning Information

MISOTA families may receive invoices throughout the year reflecting Home School by Choice (enrolment classification), Year 4/5 and Year 6 Camps, WA Mutlischool, Instrumental Music and /or Activity Days catering costs – if these are applicable to your students.

Invoices will be distributed to families, both by email and post as per the addresses we have on our system. MISOTA ask that families pay their invoices promptly in full on receipt. There are two main payment options listed on your invoices or statements; Bpay or Bpoint. Direct Deposit option is also available, please contact the office for our MISOTA bank details.

If you require Headsets or a Point to View Camera (Camera - recommended for Prep -Year 3 students, as the camera can be moved around to suit the students / teachers needs in class online learning (confirm with classroom teacher if required). These items are to be ordered and purchased from the Schoolroom Requirements Form through the school's office.

eKindy families of 2024 – Thank you!

Thank you for all of the hard work, effort and dedication that you put into your child's Kindy program this year. Thank you for letting us turn your kitchen, your school room, your veranda into an art gallery, or a café or a concert hall.

Thank you for letting 3, 4 and 5 year old children use your hammers, cutlery and glass cups and even giving them control over a bottle of food colouring!

But mostly thank you, for driving hundreds of kilometres, taking thousands of photos and creating millions of smiles and happy memories for your Kindy child this year.

It's been a wonderful year and I consider myself extremely lucky to work alongside such a dedicated group of Govies, parents and staff from MISOTA.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas break, and see you down the track one day in the not-too-distant future.

Regards, Dave Saunders eKindy Queensland

Field Team "Out & About"

The Term Four Swimming Group Days were a splashing success. 🏊‍♂️ With the exciting 'Polar Plunge' theme, students not only improved their swimming skills and water safety but also explored the fascinating world of the North and South Poles, learning about their unique environments, lifestyles, and wildlife. The journey started in Julia Creek where we spent as much time as we could in the pool. We were also treated to a physical theatre show by Arc Circus Company called 'A Bee Story'. Then we headed just down the road to Cloncurry where we spent time slipping and sliding in the waterpark. Heading north to Normanton, students had the privilege of extra swimming lessons with Swimming Queensland. Venturing south to Bedourie, two full days were spent together practising swimming techniques, visiting Bedourie State School and spending time with friends. To wrap up, we ended our Group Days in Mount Isa by exploring swimming in different depths and playing fun pool games.

As always, these events would not be possible without the parents, home tutors and govies for travelling and keeping everyone well-fed and energised! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making these Group Days unforgettable!

Term 1 Field Events 2025

Event	Date	Location
Julia Creek Activity Day	Wednesday 12th February, 2025	*Julia Creek Civic Centre
Cloncurry Activity Day	Thursday 13th February, 2025	*Cloncurry Community Precinct
Mount Isa Activity Day	Wednesday 19th March, 2025	MISOTA Outstation
Burke & Wills Activity Day	Tuesday 25th March, 2025	*Burke & Wills Roadhouse
*Please note, dates may change due to weather conditions		*Locations to be confirmed

Miss Lauren & Miss Geddes
2024 Field Team



Western Alliance (WA) Secondary

Hello Secondary MISOTA families! Closing off another exciting and productive school year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our MISOTA Secondary families for making this year a truly memorable one. Your resilience, dedication, and collaborative spirit have been truly inspiring. Together, we've created a positive learning environment where our students can grow, achieve, and succeed.

To finish off 2024, Term 4 was filled with memory-making events including Activity days, Multischool (both on air and face to face) and Sports for Bush Kids.

Remember to return this year's resources before the end of the school year.

IMPORTANT DATES – TERM 1 2025

- Wednesday 29th of January: Go2 teachers will contact students individually
- Thursday 30th of January: On-air classes commence
- Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th March: Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN online
- Week 9 and Week 10: Parent-teacher interviews

We wish all of our families a restful, safe, and enjoyable holiday break. Take this time to relax, recharge, and celebrate the achievements of the year. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new year, ready to achieve even more together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone in the MISOTA Secondary Department

Mount Isa School of the Air – Excellence in education in the outback

PO Box 1683 | 137-143 Abel Smith Pde | Mount Isa QLD 4825 | Phone: 07 4744 8333

Library

Welcome to the MISOTA Library! The library is open and available to the whole school community. Mrs Gowland, your T.A. Librarian, is here to assist you from 8.30am to 2.30pm, Monday to Thursday, and can be contacted directly on (07) 4744 8352 or sgowl0@eq.edu.au.

BORROWING LIBRARY BOOKS:

Mrs Gowland is responsible for library book selection and chooses the books for students! A Library Response Sheet is attached to all library books loaned out. When students fill in the Library Response Sheet, this helps identify what students are willing to read, for example, personal favourites, topics, series, hobbies, etc. Help Mrs Gowland to help you with your selection!

There is another wonderful way to choose library books by way of students accessing MISOTA's library OLIVER website found on the QLearn platform. This allows students to login and browse resources, be kept up-to-date with any library events, view any new items, see what's on loan/overdues and allows students to choose and reserve library books, puzzles, games, etc. (these are then posted to families in the blue mailbag).


Follow these instructions to access the MISOTA Library website using the on-line OLIVER V5 system to browse and reserve library books and resources.

Open a web browser for the shortcut:
<https://mtisasde.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/home/news>


This sitelink will take you straight to the MISOTA Library website home page. Once open, create a short cut for a quick reference!

...or following these instructions...

Step 1

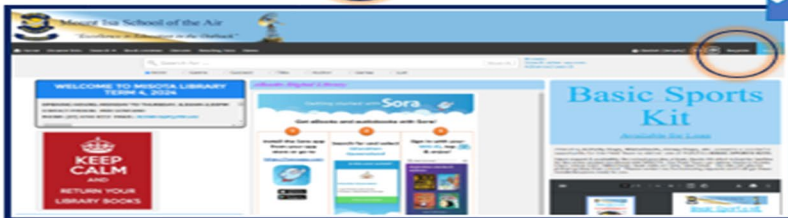


Step 2



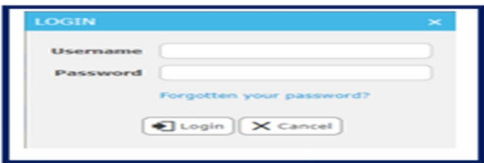
Choose the RESOURCING icon box. Within the Library information page, you will see the OLIVER "Site link" or scroll down to find Oliver V5 as this link will take you to the website.

Step 3



To fully utilise OLIVER, you must login using the pale blue login at the top righthand corner.

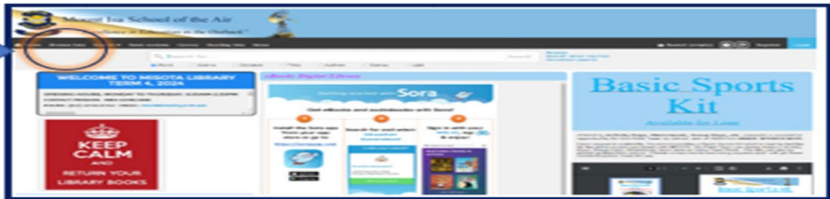
Step 4



Username: (this is your school profile MIS ID login)
Password: **library**

Every student has access to the MISOTA library!

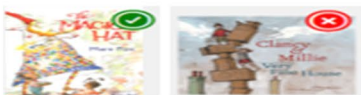
Step 5



Once you have logged into OLIVER, you can:

- browse, select and reserve library books, games, puzzles, teaching references, text hire
- see current/past loans/overdue books
- see new listed books that have arrived in the library
- see library recommendations & news

When browsing the selection of books on offer, the green tick indicates that the book is available and the red cross means the book has been loaned out (but is still available to reserve). For example:



Choose your selection, add to the basket, check out, and you're | done (I will receive a message from OLIVER to say that you have a reservation request) and then leave the rest to me!

LIBRARY BAGS:

It is important to return our library books in a bag to protect the books. They are individually labelled with student's name and mailed out according to bags returned. School library bags are available to purchase from the office for \$6.00...or feel free to provide your own!

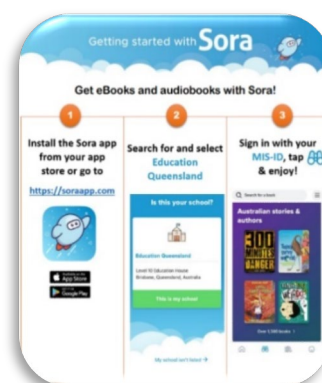
Overdue library books: please take note of the date when library loans are borrowed and are due back.

Returning items by the due return date ensures that they are available for others to borrow - especially important with books from a popular series! Any books that are lost or damaged will incur a cost for replacement.

SORA – QLD EDUCATION eBOOKS DIGITAL LIBRARY:

All MISOTA students have been registered to Queensland Education eBooks Digital Library for 2025, and have access to borrow digital books. To login, open this link <https://soraapp.com/library/eduqueenslandau> and, when prompted, enter your MIS ID.

The eBooks Digital Library contains over 80,000 eBooks and audiobooks, including fiction and non-fiction reading, magazine materials, etc., which you can borrow and read at home, at school, on your PC or laptop. You can also access the collection by downloading the free Sora app on your mobile device.



SPORTS KITS:

Upon request & availability, the school provides a Basic Sports Kit which is kept by families for the entire student enrolment with MISOTA. Our Field Team can deliver these kits to Activity Days, Group Days, town visits or Home Tutor Week. The kits can also be picked up here from school. Please contact the library for borrowing requests and these wonderful packs will be ready for you. Example:

**MOUNT ISA SCHOOL OF THE AIR
BASIC SPORTS KIT**

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 Basketball | 2 Plastic hand racquets |
| 1 Soccer Ball | 2 Skipping Ropes |
| 1 Football | 8 Coloured Domes |
| 1 Volleyball or Netball | 4 Bean Bags |
| 2 Tennis Balls | 1 Kicking Tee |
| 1 Pimple Ball | 1 Hand Pump / 1 Ball Needle |
| 2 Soft Web Balls | 1 Ball Batting Tee |
| 1 Cricket Set: (Bat, Cricket Ball, 3 Wickets & Stand) | |



BOOK FAIRS & SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB:

A huge thank you to families and students for your support in 2024 for Book Fairs and Book Club! It was an incredible effort! As a result of your purchases, the library has been able expand its collection through the Scholastic Book Club reward system...and this in turn benefits our students - giving them a variety of new books to borrow!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2025:

- National Simultaneous Storytime– 21 May (Term 2)
- Premier's Reading Challenge – May to September (Terms 2 & 3)
- Book Fair at Minischools – (Term 3)
- CBCA Book Week – 16-23 August (Term 3)



P&C Association- Committee Members

This newsletter marks the end of 2024 and looks forward to 2025 and our New Year. I'd like to take this opportunity to farewell our departing Home Tutors and teachers from MISOTA and wish them all the very best. Whether you have been with MISOTA for a short time or long, I'm sure you and your family will take a piece of MISOTA with you.

To new families and teachers for 2025, welcome. You will find out soon enough that you are becoming a part of a very special school, that is not just a school of kids, but a school of families. The P&C is a strong reflection of this, where families work together with the school to really make a difference in our community.

Joining the P&C is easy – we meet every second Monday of the month. All are welcome and you can be as involved in as much or as little as you like.

If you are a new family and you are not sure where to start, I encourage you to take advantage of our Area Representatives. Our Area Reps are experienced home tutors in your area who will work with our Community Wellbeing and Enrolment Officer Linda Ryan to be a local personal contact with anyone needing some familiarisation with MISOTA. They might just be able to give a welcoming phone call or touch base leading up to school activity day event or help remind of a form that needs returning.

2025 Area Representatives:

AREA	REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT NUMBER
Normanton	Kayla Pedersen	0428979541
Gregory	Tanya Gould	0436033472
Cloncurry	Krystle Davies	0428433006
Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville	Sarah Malloy	0409039967
Mount Isa and NT	Margaret Brock	0437060886
Julia Creek and Richmond	Catherine Woodhouse Cassandra Bjurstrom	0419823403 0429231987

The MISOTA P&C look forward to working with our school and community in 2025. We wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas, a relaxing break, and a wet and green New Year.

Tara Locke

President, MISOTA P&C Assoc Inc.

ICPA Mount Isa BOTA



ICPA Mt Isa BOTA - Isolated Children's Parents' Association QLD, Mt Isa Branch of the Air

ICPA Qld is a voluntary and apolitical not-for-profit organisation with 45 branches in Queensland and over 1200 member families. Our members encompass a broad range of families - those who are regional, rural and remote, those with children pre-schooling, attending state schools, boarding schools or Schools of Distance Education, as well as those with students in the tertiary phase of their education. Our members are families who are passionate about ensuring their children will not miss

out on educational opportunities due to their geographical isolation. Our Mt Isa Branch of the Air (BOTA) has over 58 members currently from remote properties (stations) in most areas surrounding Mt Isa including Camooweal, Normanton, Burketown, Cloncurry, Mt Isa, Boulia, Julia Creek and across the state border into the Northern Territory. The Branch welcomes anyone with an interest in equity to access of education for geographically isolated children to be part of our branch, whether they live in town or further out. We have been lucky to have many members over the years make the commitment to attend both State and Federal Conferences. We feel it's so important for our members to contribute to the decision making of ICPA and participate in the discussions and debate at these conferences.

We donate an ICPA Citizenship Award to a deserving student of MISOTA at graduation every year. Another initiative of our branch is coordinating the Sports For Bush Kids (SFBK) program conducted at the end of every school year in Mt Isa. Children and families come together for four action packed days of teams sports and swimming lessons. A huge thanks to the Coordinator, Fundraising Officer and the rest of the SFBK Committee for your efforts at hosting such a great event for our geographically isolated children.

Participation in our annual SFBK program is reliant upon school families being members of a branch of the ICPA. We encourage all families to join one of the 101 branches across Australia and partake in meetings and branch activities where possible. <https://icpa.com.au/au/membership>

We are here to help and would love you to contact us with any concerns you might have.

Mount Isa School of the Air – Excellence in education in the outback

PO Box 1683 | 137-143 Abel Smith Pde | Mount Isa QLD 4825 | Phone: 07 4744 8333

2025 Important MISOTA Information



Online Consent is Coming to QParents!

Have you activated your QParents Account? QParents is a portal that links you to our school.

Through QParents you can:

- ✓ Enter student absences (including future and past dates!)
- ✓ View invoices and pay on the spot!
- ✓ Access, view and reprint report cards!
- ✓ Inform the school of change of details (Like important phone numbers and addresses!)

And soon...

- ✓ Complete excursion permission and other consent forms from your phone or computer!

Check your email for your invitation to join QParents.

NOTE: If you do not have QLeaen access and are not currently using the program, you will need an invitation from Luke Hughes (IT).

If you are currently working from this platform, you do not need an invitation.

You will need to have 100 Points of ID handy, and your child's EQ ID (EQ ID can be found on any invoice that the school has sent you)

MIOSTA's Move to Microsoft Teams in 2025

Mount Isa School of the Air's move to Microsoft Teams in 2025 will greatly enhance its remote learning capabilities by providing a unified platform for communication, collaboration, and resource management. Teams will enable real-time video lessons, interactive features like breakout rooms and polls, and collaborative tools for both students and teachers. Teams will be used alongside OneNote and Qlearn.

KEY POINTS:

- **PLATFORM TRANSITIONS:** Mount Isa School of the Air is transitioning to Microsoft Teams in 2025.
- **FEATURES:** The platform will support real-time video lessons, breakout rooms, polls, collaboration tools, and private channels for personalized learning.
- **EARLY ADAPTORS:** A team of early adopter teachers is in place to lead this transition.
- **COLLABERATION:** The school is working with other Schools of Distance Education (SDEs) to implement.
- **INFORMATION SESSIONS:** These sessions will be held at the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025.
- **STAKEHOLDERS:** The key stakeholders involved are the community, teachers, and students.

If you need any further assistance with this content, feel free to contact our Technical Officer Luke Hughes lhugh124@eq.edu.au

Schoolroom Requirements

USB HEADSETS: As we have moved to more online lessons to direct teach the curriculum and respond to continuing updates to the National Curriculum, the importance of a device per student and a VOIP / USB headset per student in addition to a landline for one student is essential (as our school grows this is how we avoid timetable clashes). These are to be ordered and purchased from the Schoolroom Requirements Form through the school's office.



POINT TO VIEW CAMERA: Recommended for Prep to Year Two students as the camera can be moved around to suit the students / teachers needs in class online learning Point to View Cameras (confirmation from classroom teacher if required). These are to be ordered and purchased from the Schoolroom Requirements Form through the school's office.



PLEASE NOTE: *If any of our MISOTA families have a Point to View Camera that is no longer required and you would be willing to Donate these items, we would welcome and greatly appreciate your donations.*

BSODE eKindy Registration Information

Register your child now

eKindy

Playing to learn

eKindy is a flexible **at home** kindergarten program designed for children unable to attend a local service due to **distance, travel or medical reasons**.
eKindy is available to eligible families at **no cost**.
eKindy provides online support by a qualified early childhood teacher, based at a Queensland School of Distance Education.
eKindy helps build the foundation skills, understandings and positive approaches to learning needed for future success.

Close the miles ... grow the smiles!

Call us on (07) 3727 2860 or visit
<https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/enrolments/ekindy>
to register now!