



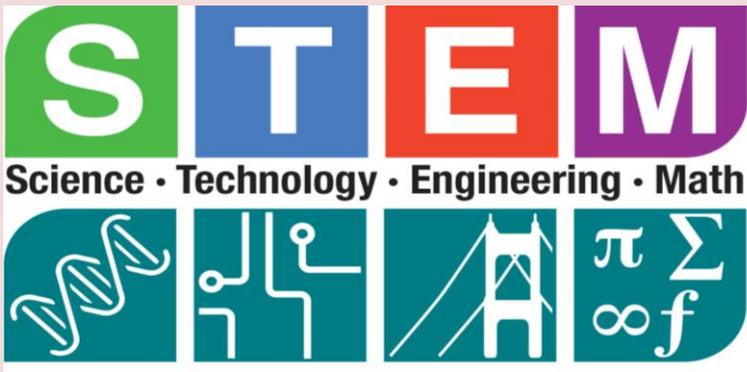
ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING ENRICHMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 2016



INVITATION TO PARENTS

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

has been identified by the Australian Government as an area for future growth and innovation. We at Holy Family School continue our ongoing commitment to enrich our students learning in these areas.

Next term, a group of teachers will be attending an in-service to learn more about STEM activities in the classroom. They will then return to share this knowledge and new strategies with their colleagues later this term.

Parents, so far the first four editions of our **SPARK** Newsletter have informed you of our new initiatives into the world of enrichment here at Holy Family School.

We extend an invitation to parents who might have a passion, interest or expertise in any of these **STEM** fields to send an expression of interest via email to Admin. We hope this invitation will result in new ideas and possible initiatives for next year and beyond.

Author Visits and Lego Workshops

Aleesah Darlison, a children's author from Buderim visited our Library this term and encouraged children to develop writing techniques for Narratives.

The children who showed outstanding writing skills and techniques during the three days were offered extra workshops with Aleesah during her three days at Holy Family.

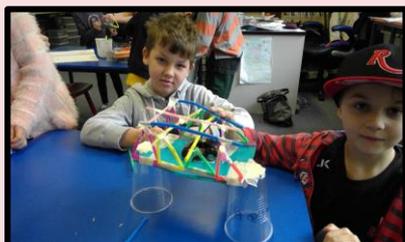
During Term Four I have arranged for another author, Samantha Wheeler, to work with children in Year Five and Year Six. The teachers have found that the children have been very excited about the writing workshops and have implemented the skills into their classroom activities.

I have been offering Lego workshops in the library at lunchtime on Wednesdays and Thursdays with the younger children. Year One boys have excelled in completing given tasks while exploring management skills as well as construction skills. I will hopefully be able to offer these activities to the children again next term and hopefully be able to initiate Robotics into the construction activities as well.

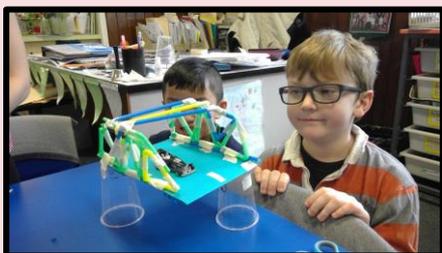


STEM in Year 2

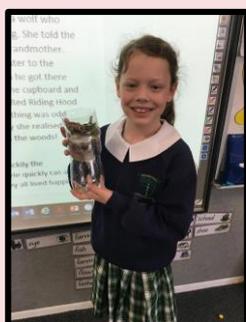
Year 2 students love to build and invent and they certainly love a challenge. Being involved in a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related activities this year has enhanced their analytical skills, encouraging them to problem solve in real-time. The best learning has occurred as students plan, create and adjust their ideas. It is through the failure, the reflection and the adjustments made, that real learning occurs.



Last term, after studying the history of our local Walter Taylor Bridge, the students were given an engineering challenge to think about why different structures are built the way they are. Their goal was to build the strongest beam bridge with a truss pattern of their own design, while meeting the design criteria and constraints. They experimented with different geometric shapes and determined how shapes affected the strength of materials. The triangle was identified as an effective geometric shape in bridge design.



In Science, we have learnt that water is a precious resource. Access to clean water is vital to our health and way of life. The students were challenged to choose from a range of materials to place in a homemade water filter to turn dirty water into clean water. The students planned and made predictions before commencing their experiment. They communicated their findings to the rest of the class before making further adjustments to the materials they chose and the order in which they placed them. Success...clean water. We love STEM activities!



Enrichment through the Arts

At Holy Family Primary School, we believe drama is an effective way for children to learn about themselves and how to maximise their potential. Our hope is that as students acquire the technical skills needed to experience, construct and enjoy the Performing Arts they will become self-aware, confident and proud of 'who' they are. In Year 6, Arts enrichment activities are offered within the classroom and through external events such as QDU debating, theatre workshops and public speaking competitions. Every student has individual strengths and we recognise the importance of identifying and fostering these strengths in all of our students.



This month, six of our students in Years 5 and 6 participated in the Primary Poetry Competition at St William's School, Grovely. This competition gave students from schools across Brisbane, an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in speech and drama by reciting a piece of Australian poetry. Our girls performed exceptionally well in their category, which had close to 50 competitors. Two students from Holy Family, Bridget Lilienstein and Sophia Girard, were also selected in the top 13 to perform at an adult concert recital at The Verse-for-Vinnies Concert at 1.30 pm on Sunday, September 25th, at the Mary Mackillop Centre, Grovely. This concert experience is designed to further the confidence of these young performers and enrich their learning through the Arts.

Holiday Workshops

GATEWAYS Festival of Workshops

September 19th & 20th
Somerville House
Graham Street

In chemistry, physics, biology, earth science, astronomy, problem solving, language and literature, drama, entrepreneurship, engineering and technology, ICT and robotics.

<http://www.gateways.edu.au/programs/festivals/september-festivals>