



STEM Mentoring

Courage Excellence Respect



On Wednesday 24th October our STEM group consisting of 7 students travelled to Naracoorte Primary School to mentor a group of 10 students that are participating for the first time in the First Lego League competition. The Naracoorte Primary School have just finished building their STEM building and it was great for our students to have the opportunity to work in this new space. Our students also delivered a Lego table to the school that Luke and Mr Whitaker had built throughout last term.

The first part of the morning was spent working in two groups these being “research” and “programming”. Our students had lengthy discussion with the Naracoorte students about what was expected of them from a research and programming perspective. The theme for this year’s First Lego League is “Space”. The research component of the competition is as vital as the programming of the robots. Throughout the morning our research team of students were asked lots of questions about how to research and present this on the day of competition and our team of programmer’s were also able to give some basic robot programming advice to the group that were doing programming.

In the second session is where our STEM group were put to their biggest challenge. They had to work with 70 year 6 students. Over this time our 7 students were given 12-15 students that they were to mentor and teach how to program a robot. Each group was set a challenge for this session and that was “they needed to program the robot to complete the most difficult challenge”. The challenge was judged based on two different criteria’s these were;

- The robot did what they said in the brief
- The robot successfully completed the challenge

Prior to each group presenting their robot one person from each group had to explain what their robot was going to do. It was great watching all the students working together in discussion and practically to come up with an idea. Our students throughout this activity were put under pressure and challenged themselves trying to keep their groups engaged for the whole 90 mins. To our students credit all groups worked exceptionally well and they all came up with a completed program for their robots, all be it some not so successful, but this is what STEM and learning is all about. At the end of this session there could only be one winning group and this went to Jack Kain’s group.

The afternoon session was by far the most enjoyed session by both lots of students. This time was spent with our students giving explicit teaching to the Naracoorte students around the specific challenges that the robot had to perform on the day of competition. Our students at this time also helped make some changes to the robots adding in longer arms and fixing motors that were not quite right. The students worked together to put the space mat and fixtures on the new table which meant that the students could have a go at completing a challenge.

Our students gave advice and encouragement to the Naracoorte students while they kept persisting at getting the programming of the robots right.

This day was an amazing opportunity for our students to share their skills and knowledge about robots to a group of students that are very new to it. After our students were given an outline of how the day was to be run they then led the teaching and learning for the whole day. Having kids teaching kids adds a whole new dimension and level to the students learning outcome. Kids relate to other kids so well and they just get each other’s language and interpret directions and instructions in the same way.

We are very proud of our students and the way they conducted themselves. Some feedback from the students and staff at Naracoorte Primary School: “we would still be going around in circles without you teaching us”, “the students showed excellent leadership and were wonderful ambassadors for AEAS and also for STEM.



Merrick Miller and Luke Bald on the front page of last week’s Naracoorte Herald Newspaper

“The students showed excellent leadership and were wonderful ambassadors for AEAS and also for STEM” -

Andrea Lawrie, Deputy Principal Naracoorte Primary School