# Academic Explorers Program

Parent Information Night 2019




# What is the Academic Explorers Program?

- The AEP is an afterschool program designed to extend and challenge the more inquisitive of our students. This program provides us with the opportunity to offer hands-on, intellectually rigours activities that are not necessarily offered in the day to day classroom, due to various reasons.
- Four facilities offer workshops within the program;
  - Science – Dr Peter Darben
  - Humanities – Mr Strak Kosanovic
  - Technology – Mr David Thomson
  - Maths – Mr Terry Moran

# The purpose of the AEP?

In providing our students, who enjoy being challenged, opportunities to engage in structured, academically challenging workshops we hope to see students with enhanced general capabilities such as;

- Improved ability to think critically
- Enhanced creative thinking skills
- Better communication skills
- Effective and proficient collaborators
- Enriched personal and social skills
- Increased proficiency in the use of ICTs

# Expectations of AEP Students

All students are welcome to join the program however it is important to keep in mind that;

- Our program is challenging and is mostly delivered outside of school hours, please be mindful of social and emotional health when signing up to these sessions
- Exemplary behaviour is expected in these sessions and in regular classrooms. The program is a privilege not a right, as a result we will not take students who do not reflect this mindset with their attitude and behaviour towards school

We encourage;

- A **minimum of 2 sessions per year** (anytime in the four terms) and a
- A **maximum of 4 sessions per year** (anytime in the four terms)

| Year 7 | Maths | Science | Humanities | Technology |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Term 1 | **Practical Mathematics**<br>During the workshop students will have opportunity to work with other students to solve a succession of practical activities. The activities are designed to stretch students thinking, encourage the ability to work effectively with others and develop problem solving strategies<br>***Thursday** 3pm to 4pm*<br>*(Weeks 6 to 10)*<br>**7, 14, 21, 28 March 4 April** | **The Nature of Science**<br>*Science is more than a collection of facts, science is a way of thinking and doing. In this activity, students think and do science like scientists by designing, building and using an instrument to inquire into an aspect of human physiology.*<br>***Wednesday** 3pm to 4pm*<br>*(Weeks 6 to 10)*<br>**6, 13, 20, 27 March 3 April** | | |
| Term 2 | **QUT Workshop**<br>Workshop – Littlebits NASA<br>CUBE Experience - Code-A-Robot<br>**1/2 Day Excursion**<br>**Thursday 13 June**<br>**(Week 8)** | | **Archaeology (Toowong Cemetery Dig)**<br>**Join in understanding the theory behind archaeology before working with archaeologists from UQ on a full day dig at Toowong cemetery.**<br>***Thursday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(Weeks 2 to 6)***<br>**2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May** | |
| Term 3 | | | **Philosophy**<br>Push the boundaries of your beliefs and thoughts as you enter our Socratic Circle. Calling on the traditions of Socrates himself we will challenge you with questions such as; “What reality are we living in? “What does it mean to exist?”<br>***Wednesday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(weeks 6 to 10)***<br>**21, 28, Aug. 4, 11, 18 Sept.** | **Fifty-Six Creations**<br>Students will create their own Virtual Reality System solving an accessibility problem within the school environment or create a training guide.<br>***Thursday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(Weeks 1 to 5)***<br>**18, 25 July, 1, 8, 15, August** |
| Term 4 | | **Numinbah Valley EEC**<br>Study the Gold Coast waterways and the chemistry behind the quality of water on this overnight camp.<br>**Overnight Camp**<br>**Mon. and Tues. 2 - 3rd December**<br>**(Week 9)** | | **Robotics and Coding**<br>Be a part of the forefront of technology and robotics. Learn how to use Arduino microcontrollers and unlock the endless possibilities for robotic coding.<br>**Thursday 3pm to 4pm**<br>**(Weeks 5 and 6) 7, 14 Nov**<br>***½ Day Incursion***<br>**Friday 22 November *(Week 7)*** |

| Year 8 | Maths | Science | Humanities | Technology |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Term 1 | | **Forensic Archaeology**<br>*Enter the world of death, science and solving mysteries as you undertake an investigation into CSI techniques and a real "cold case".*<br>***Full Day Incursion***<br>***(Week 9)***<br>**Friday 29 March** | | |
| Term 2 | | **Pseudo-science**<br>*Every day we are bombarded with claims from the media, politicians and advertisers, but how much of what they say can be trusted? In this activity, students use the power of scientific inquiry to design and carry out an experiment which tests a claim made by an everyday product.*<br>***Thursday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(Weeks 2 to 6)***<br>**2, 10, 17, 24, 31 May** | **Philosophy Socratic Circles**<br>Join us as we continue down the rabbit hole of philosophical inquiry. Find out how Philosophers approach some of the world's most challenging questions.<br>***Wednesday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(Weeks 6 to 10)***<br>**30 May 6, 13, 20, 27 June** | |
| Term 3 | | **Yr. 8 Residency Experience**<br>***2 Day Camp***<br>***(Week 7)***<br>**Mon/Tues 18,19 November** | | **iSTEM**<br>Working in collaborative groups you will identify an issue, brainstorm innovative solutions and create a product or idea that will make a difference. By presenting this to the judging panel, the top scoring group will present at our Festival of Ideas.<br>***Thursday 3pm to 4pm***<br>***(Week 9 to 10)***<br>**12 and 19 September** |
| Term 4 | | **iSTEM**<br>Working in collaborative groups you will identify an issue, brainstorm innovative solutions and create a product or idea that will make a difference. By presenting this to the judging panel, the top scoring group will present at our Festival of Ideas.<br>*Thursday 3pm to 4pm (Week 1)* **10 October**<br>*2 x ½ day incursion (Weeks 2 and 3)* **Thursday 17 Oct (first ½ day) Thursday 24 Oct (2nd half day)**<br>*Thursday 3pm to 4pm (Week 4)* **31 October** | | |

# When and where are the sessions held?

Where

- All on campus - Ideas Lab – Resource Centre

  (other than Practical Maths – Y Block)
- Off campus – various locations

When

- Wednesday or Thursday afternoons – 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- Half Day Incursions and excursions – Thursday or Friday (during school hours)
- Camp/Residency – Monday and Tuesday

# Mission Discovery


**What** - Spend 5 days at GRIFFITH University working with a NASA astronaut, renowned scientists and NASA leaders, in Australia's most exciting STEM program!

**When -** Easter Holidays

**Cost -** $699

# Selection Process – Survey Monkey

Navigate to the following survey, using the links below, (please check that you go to the correct grade) and complete your answers by Tuesday 19 February. Some of the workshops have limited numbers, we will work on a first in best dressed basis. It is important that you choose back-up sessions for this reason.

- Year 7

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKFB6QX

- Year 8 Survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKWXNVZ

Once this process is complete,

- Class lists for these sessions will be **posted outside B Block staffroom**
- Broadcast parent emails will be sent for each session

# Festival of Ideas

- Culminating event where the children have the opportunity to showcase, to their parents, what they have been involved in during these sessions.
  - Monday 9 December 5:30pm to 6:30pm