

Thursday 9 March 2017

Kids go full S-T-E-A-M ahead at West Ryde Library

Science | Technology | Engineering | Arts | Mathematics

One of the first things you notice when visiting West Ryde Library is a curious group of big, green cubes containing a range of curious collectibles. And kids love them.

The Curiosity Cabinet is the centre piece of STEAM, an interactive learning program for children that uses visual and hands-on activities to engage them in a fun way with technology and discovery. Other STEAM fixtures include large touchscreens, a giant chess set, novelty mirrors and science kits.

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, and links directly into the NSW school education program and is suitable for children from 3 to 12 years of age.

STEAM innovative elements include:

- Curiosity Cabinet with drawers and light boxes containing a changing installation of natural history and technology themed objects
- Integrated iPads with ten educational apps including Beebots and Mathletics
- Steampunk wall mural incorporating large touchscreens
- Interactive science and maths themed software
- Lending collection of STEAM kits for 6 – 12 year olds
- Coding workshops, eg ScratchJr
- Museum style digital microscopes with wall mounted large screen displays for group use
- Ongoing activities – Little Bang Discovery Club and Curious Kids Club held monthly

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said, “Public libraries play a very important role in shaping young minds to be inquisitive and creative and STEAM cleverly uses the power of play to lead them to technology and learning opportunities.

“STEAM helps prepare children for study by opening up a world of secrets and wonders through a combination of interactive installations, special lending kits, workshops and events.”

If you want to nurture your child’s inquiring minds, creativity and collaborative skills, then take them to West Ryde Library (2 Graf Avenue) and help them discover through STEAM.

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am – 8.00pm

Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Sunday 12 noon – 4.00pm

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library

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