

29 February 2024

Dear Parents

INQUIRING MINDS 2024

Inquiring Minds is an innovative learning experience for high potential and gifted students in Years 5 and 6 who attend public schools in the New England area. It is one provision that schools and students can use in order to meet some of the needs of identified gifted students.

Nominations for positions close on Monday 11 March 2024. If you are interested in your child applying for a position, please read through the brochure carefully and return the slip below and student nomination task form to Mr Garland by Monday 20 March 2023, to allow enough time to process the applications.

Please note there is a cost for the **camp at Thalgarrah EEC on Tuesday 9 to Wednesday 10 April 2024**. Teachers from Walcha Central School will not be in attendance. The camp is run by expert mentors. The transport to and from the camp is the responsibility of the parent.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Garland at school on 6777 2777.

Yours sincerely

Phil Garland
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Amanda Cooper
PRINCIPAL

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INQUIRING MINDS 2024 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO MR GARLAND BY MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

My child Year is interested in the Inquiring Minds program and would like to take part in the

(insert course name)

Rank courses from highest to lowest priority

	Animal Antics		Invertebrates in AR
	Creative Ecology		Gaming Design

I understand there is a cost of \$120 (to be paid at the front office) as well as an overnight camp.

PARENT'S NAME

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE / /



EXPLORE, QUESTION AND WONDER
AND, BY DOING SO, LEARN

Student Nomination Task

Student Name – School

What qualities would I bring to the Inquiring Minds program?

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What do I want to achieve through being involved in Inquiring Minds?

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What do I do when faced with a difficult task?

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What do I need to think about when completing independent, longer-term tasks?

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EXPLORE, QUESTION AND WONDER
AND, BY DOING SO, LEARN



INQUIRING MINDS 2024
NEW ENGLAND



Inquiring Minds Camps 2024
Thalgarrah EEC



Education
Public Schools



What is Inquiring Minds?

Inquiring Minds is a series of courses for high potential students in Years 5-6 who are attending public schools in the New England area. Students work with expert mentors in a specialist field of interest while at camp. It is one provision that schools and students can use in order to meet some of the needs of identified high potential and gifted students.

In 2024 we are pleased to offer the Michelle Bannister-Tyrrell scholarship for one student to attend camp. Michelle was a strong supporter of high potential and gifted students and families in our region and worked closely with our programs through her work with the University of New England. Students can be nominated for the scholarship via the Nomination Form and the selected applicant will be notified prior to attending camp.

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QUESTION
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What does IM offer?

Inquiring Minds is a purposeful and engaging experience for identified high potential students.

Aims

- to identify the high potential students in the New England area
- to provide the opportunity for students to turn their potential into performance
- to create a provision whereby these students can interact with like-minded peers and work on engaging activities at their intellectual level
- to allow students the opportunity to be both enriched and extended in their learning

Purposes

- provide sequential skill development/provision in an area of strength
- provide deliberate practice of skills
- allow students to work at a high level of expertise with like-minded peers
- provide guidance and support
- provide a real audience to showcase their work

Mentors will...

- attend a 2 day camp at Thalgarrah
- set sequential activities that allow student to develop a range of subject specific skills
- provide feedback to their mentored group and also individual students
- promote discussions specific to subject area
- determine a final product/project that students can work towards after camp



Course offerings for 2024

The following courses are being offered by Inquiring Minds for 2024. Each course provides a description and any special requirements. Please select only those courses in which you are prepared to enrol in priority order with 1 being your highest preference.



Animal Antics

Join Dr Steph for stories of being a researcher in animal behaviour from around the world.

Dr Steph will share some of her research techniques for studying animals such as trapping and tracking. Students will be introduced to some new techniques of animal research using technology such as camera traps and digital call backs.

As part of the workshop, students will perform a scientific investigation into understanding the threats to turtle nests by predator animals such as foxes. The results will be shared with scientists who are part of the "1 Million Turtles" project.

Record all the interesting insights in your own Field Notes journal.

Invertebrates in AR

Do you have a love for bugs and technology?

In this workshop we will explore the structural and behavioural adaptations of invertebrates. These are the features that help invertebrates to survive. You will work as a scientist to collect invertebrates around Thalgarrah, observing their features and making inferences about their special adaptations.

We will use a range of iPad technologies to draw an invertebrate using a digital pencil, create an invertebrate in augmented reality (AR), animate an invertebrate and narrate an informative video about its adaptations.





Creative Ecology

This dynamic course is designed to ignite your imagination while exploring the wonders of the natural world.

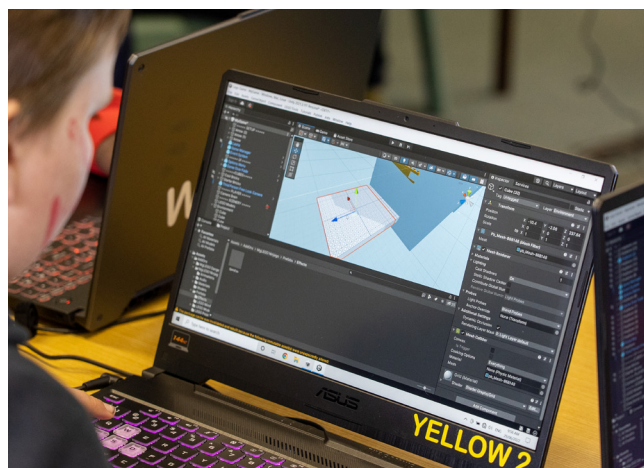
Over the span of two days, participants will embark on an exhilarating journey, using their creativity to unravel ecological mysteries. Delve into the depths of aquatic ecology as we investigate the fascinating lives of water creatures. Engage in hands-on activities, measuring the physical characteristics of dams and rivers, and gaining valuable insights into their ecosystems. Moreover, through the art of scientific drawing, we'll bring our discoveries to life, and we will transform data into captivating visual representations. Join us outdoors, immerse yourself in nature, and unlock your creative potential!

Gaming Design

Computational thinking and programming.

In this course, you will learn some of the fundamentals of video game design. We will change some rules of existing games and find out if we can make them more fun. You will get to solve logic-based problems while learning about computational thinking and the basics of programming.

You will get to learn the basics of a game engine, animation and audio for games. You will also learn how to do some coding. At the end of the camp, you will have created your own little game to show your friends. If you enjoy thinking creatively and developing your computer technology skills, then this course is for you.



Camp 1 dates: Week 11 Term 1
Tuesday 9th – Wednesday 10th April

Camp 2 Dates: Week 7 Term 3
Thursday 5th - Friday 6th September 2024

Inquiring Minds Camp 2024 will be held at
Thalgarrah Environmental Education Centre
1702 Rockvale Road, Armidale.

Nominations close for Camp 1 on **Monday 11th March 2024**. Schools will be notified the following week of student selections

email: maria.raftery@det.nsw.edu.au