

# Engaging girls in STEM at secondary school

Webinar 5 November 2020

The GiST's first webinar included a great discussion with Leanne Robertson (The GiST Program Director), Adele Hudson (Head of Faculty - Science at Aitken College) and Abigail, a senior student at the school, about how to use The GiST within a school as a professional learning tool, the benefits of running STEM groups for girls and how to overcome roadblocks within STEM pursuits.

Adele provided an outline of the programs currently running at the school, along with those she hopes to get up and running in the future.

## EngGirls

- Dream-IT; a STEM group for girls where they programmed robots to do spelling words with the prep students.
- Ecofriends; made stuffed toys from soft plastics. Next year they will be making ecofriendly cleaning products and self-watering herb pots to sell at the school market.
- STEM workshop; students design a STEM workshop for primary students. A group of 5 students work design a workshop based on the Engineering principles of Design, Build and Test. Past STEM projects include; mini wind turbines, Earthquake proof housing, Marshmallow Towers.
- COVID 19 face mask design challenge. A group of girls designed a medical mask for a competition supported by DATTAVictoria. They took out the team award and won the school a 3D printer.

## STEM ambassadors

- Ran lunch time activities for STEM week and worked in teams to design and run activities for primary students and their families from the school community.

## Wetland Warriors

- A group that monitors the water quality in the local creek.

Programs that hoping to run in the future:

## Awesome Audino's

- Students will use Audino's to make sensors for science research projects and to meet the needs of people in the community.

## EngGirls

- Python pop-ups; Girls will design python programming challenges for students in primary school.

## EnviroTeam

- A group that will oversee the revegetation projects in the school.