NEWSLETTER

December 2023

STEAM-ED

'Growing curious, innovative minds.'

STEAM-ED Charitable Trust is proud to be engaging youngsters in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths.

STEAM-ED's mission is to provide open, equitable, high quality and affordable education services that allow students to explore and question, using STEAM related fields as a catalyst to inspire them in both the present and the future.

STEAM-ED works hand in hand with the community to deliver education services to all walks of life to allow a STEAM focused future for everyone.

Our Programmes:

1. Homeschool Classes
2. Afterschool Classes
3. In-school Classes
4. Holiday Programmes
5. Competitive Robotics Club

VEX Go Interschool Robotics Competition

During the year we have delivered free robotics lessons to approximately 450 Yr4-6 students in seven schools in lower socio-economic suburbs.

As a celebration of their learning, we invited 6 students from each school to come to STEAM-ED and participate in a fun competition made up of five challenges.

The students from Merivale School, Te Puke Primary, Gate Pa School, Greerton Village School and Te Kura O Matapihi were so excited when they arrived and saw the brand new VEX Go competition fields (thanks Spark Foundation) and the pre-constructed robots they would use during the day. Although the focus was on fun and participation, we celebrated successes which included Te Kura O Matapihi finishing the day with all three of their teams in the top five rankings! All of the students were very proud of their achievements and took home a purple souvenir T-shirt, a certificate and a tonne of inspiration for the future!

The feedback from teachers who attended and the schools who participated was 100% positive, and children were fully engaged for the fun-filled duration.

We look forward to running this event every six months with the schools we are working with at the time and a different group of children. Thank you to the representatives from Acorn Foundation and TECT who took time out of their busy days to some and experience some of the action!

And of course, thanks to our wonderful educators for making this dream some to fruition!

STEAM-ED

Toi Kai Rawa's
Hihiko STEAM Innovation Days

STEAM-ED was invited to run an activity at these pilot events run in Whakatane and Tauranga Moana.

The aim of these events was to provide a platform for schools, youth STEAM providers and industry professionals to come together and support access to STEAM development opportunities.

It was great to be a part of the collaboration between all these groups and we thank Toi Kai Rawa for organising it and providing a wonderful atmosphere and very tasty kai!

We look forward to being a part of any future similar events.

New Website on its way!

We are in the process of having a new, much more attractive website created, and look forward to this being launched in the very near future. It will be much more informative and easier for us to maintain and edit.

January Holiday Programme

Our educators have put together another fun & engaging holiday programme which will run for 3 weeks this summer! Starting on 15th January.

First week - Robotics
- our infamous two-day combat robotics
- Electronics Day
- a couple of days suitable for children as young as 5yrs.

The second week is STEAM week:
- Kitchen STEAM,
- Forces
- ocean study
- two-day very tiny house project complete with electricity and plumbing!

Week three is a mixture of robotics and STEAM topics involving construction and chain reactions.

We have OSCAR accreditation for our holiday programmes which means that eligible parents can obtain the Work and Income OSCAR subsidy, dramatically cutting the cost of each day's fees.

Term One Topic - STEAM of Music and Sound

We already have bookings flooding in for the next topic of study for our after school and home school classes, 'STEAM of Music and Sound'. Starting on 12th February 2024 and running for 8 weeks, the children will explore the physics of music by looking at the interactions between sound waves and our ears. They will play with technological tools to compose and produce music and study the evolution of sound engineering across different time periods and cultures. They will also uncover rhythmic patterns, scales and harmonies, and finish the term off with a showcase of their creations!

We are looking forward to introducing children with no musical experience or knowledge, to the wonders of music and how great it can make us feel. Those children already enjoying musical creation can share their skill and enhance the quality of the group's performance.

We are excited to have received Creative Communities funding for this topic which will allow us to hire equipment we wouldn't normally have on hand, making it even more awesome for the students!

VEX IQ Robotics Nationals - 9/10 December 2023

This year we have six teams (13 kids) travelling down to VEX IQ Nationals in Palmerston North. This event is for students aged 7-15yrs in two separate age divisions. Our teams have been working on their robots since May, refining their designs, builds & coding at three local scrimmages & during our Friday night club sessions.

Thank you for your support as we inspire youngsters to think beyond!

STEM Fest 2023 ➡️

The STEAM-ED team took robots and other activities to this year's STEM Fest. It was a huge, exhausting but rewarding day with a continuous stream of children and parents wanting to experience what we had to offer. The VEX robots never missed a beat over the 6 hours, only needing replacement batteries from time to time. We took up the offer from some of our robotics club members to help on the day, as well as the National Manager of Kiwibots. Congratulations to STEM Wana Trust for organising another great day, with the aim of inspiring and future proofing kiwi kids.

Our Supporters in 2023 (to date)

Without our wonderful funders and sponsors, we would have achieved much less this year. Thank you so much to the following organisations, businesses, and individuals for their generosity:

- TECT
- Tauranga City Council
- DIA COGS - NZ Lottery
- Bay Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Pub Charity
- Dragon Community Trust
- Acorn Foundation
- Ministry of Social Development (OSCAR)
- Robotics Plus
- University of Waikato
- Facteon
- Page Macrae Engineering
- SPARK Foundation
- Creative Communities Fund
- BECA
- Sequal
- Phil Radford
- Tauranga Rotary
- LawVu
- Zespri
- Mercury Energy
- Tauranga City Sunrise Lions Club
- Stantec
- Four Winds Foundation

As the 2023 draws to a close, we have much to celebrate at STEAM-ED!

- The majority of our classes and holiday programme days are at 80-100% occupancy, and we have been hired to run activities out at schools, as well as invited to participate in a number of community events such as STEM Fest, Tauranga Careers Expo and Hihiko's run by Toi Kai Rawa.
- We have an amazing, passionate team of educators who love what they are doing, which is reflected in the positive feedback from students, parents and teachers.
- We are anticipating an even busier year in 2024 with interest from schools for the new services we will be offering either at our site or their school.
- We predict our team will grow to meet demand for our STEAM based services.
- Funders and sponsors recognise the work we are doing in the community and are generous in their ongoing support.
- Our Board is always supportive of staff and excited to guide STEAM-ED to through our next phase of growth. Thank you to Anna Page who has joined us as Treasurer, replacing the wonderful Tricia Hudson who had held the role for 3 years

What's next for 2024?

- STEAM-ED will be creating our own curriculum! We are very excited to come up with our own unique 'roadmap' to apply to future activities.
- We are creating STEAM based lessons for delivery in schools. This is in response to a number of schools enquiring about our services and requesting our educators visit them to deliver topics other than robotics. We will still be able to deliver custom topics upon request but will have pre-prepared choices for those not specific in their needs.