

Schools support digital challenge

MOONTA Area School students have been learning about space as part of the Commissioner for Children and Young People's Digital Challenge.

The Space to Dream program encourages students to design a toy or gadget which can be utilised by someone their age if they were to move to Mars.

Schools can submit their best entries to put themselves in the running to win a range of digital learning prizes, including a 3D printer for the top design across the state.

Teacher Kerry Crosby said the challenge had been a great learning opportunity for students and had integrated well into the school's existing learning programs.

"We've done a lot of learning about Mars by comparing and contrasting it with features of Earth — the students did their own research and watched videos — and based off our learning we created a Mars landscape in our classroom," Kerry said.

"When they made their designs they had to consider anything which might pose a problem heading to Mars, and then create a prototype in the Makers Empire program (3D modelling software) so they could be 3D printed."

Students Jadyn Butler and Aaliyah Weetra designed a floating bean bag and a wall climbing device to help children travelling to Mars stay comfortable and occupied.

"My beanbag has hooks to chain it to the spaceship on the way to Mars, two jets which allow you to hover around when you get there, lights and a strap so you don't float off," Jadyn said.

"My wall climbing bracelet is designed for a 9 year old, and has pop its on the bottom which you can play with when you get bored, a camera on top, two buttons which make the arms come out and a voice recorder so you can hear your family's voice," Aaliyah said.

The next stage of the challenge involves students collecting and implementing feedback from other students to improve their prototypes before the final designs are printed.

Moonta Community Library is currently hosting an exhibition of top-rated 2D and 3D entries from last year's Space to Dream challenge, including a design from Warooka Primary School.

Members of the public are invited to visit the library to view the winning concepts before they return to Adelaide at the end of September.



SPACE... Moonta Area School students Jadyn Butler, Aaliyah Weetra, Clover Choules and Lexi Gray have been participating in the Commissioner's Digital Challenge this term.