Young Masterminds club programs provide school children of like minds and abilities with the opportunity to meet other like-abled students and to participate in stimulating learning experiences. Each club meeting includes a workshop that has been purposefully planned for the high achieving student by teachers who are qualified and experienced in gifted education. Our club workshops offer students an immersion into topics that are both highly engaging and relevant to the 21st Century learner. They are designed to challenge and inspire inquiring minds in ways that will encourage students to stretch their intellectual boundaries, extend their thinking and enrich their understandings.

Below you will find a general overview of the learning experiences included in this club program.

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THE INVESTIGATOR’S CLUB PROGRAM

FOCUS: SOLVING MYSTIFYING SCENARIOS

Young Masterminds will need to use their mathematical and scientific thinking skills to solve a range of mystifying scenarios during the Investigator’s Club Program. Each club meeting presents students with fictional problems to solve. Aside from some strategically placed clues, the Young Masterminds will need to rely on their critical and creative thinking skills to reconstruct and solve each problem. Students will use a range of mathematical problem solving strategies and conduct a variety of scientific experiments throughout this club program.

The Investigator’s Club will appeal to talented students in Years 2 and 3 who enjoy mathematics, science, thinking creatively and solving multi-step problems. Below are the titles of each scenario, and some clues that will assist them.
MEETING ONE: Who Stole the Birthday Cake?
It is time to sing Happy Birthday to Ryan; however his birthday cake seems to have gone missing! Tell-tale signs include a trail of crumbs, some fingerprints and a few candles scattered across the kitchen. The Young Masterminds will need to examine a variety of clues and engage mathematical problem solving strategies. Students will also perform a simple scientific experiment to help solve this mystery.

MEETING TWO: Cracking the Code
Sally’s grandmother is missing and Sally believes that she may have been kidnapped. When Sally went to visit her grandmother, she found her grandmother’s front door wide open and a variety of items scattered throughout her house, including a mysterious looking note and a map. Both the note and the map have been written using a cryptic code. Can the Young Masterminds help Sally to crack the code and find her grandmother? To successfully solve this mystery, the Young Masterminds will work with a range of mathematical concepts and a range of problem solving strategies to decipher the code and find Sally’s grandmother.

MEETING THREE: Perfect Polymerization
Young Masterminds will perform a scientific experiment that involves the chemical process polymerization. Once students have completed this experiment and created a product, they will subject it to a variety of tests to evaluate which variables affect the product’s performance. Students will use their critical thinking skills to develop scientific generalisations and hypotheses. Mathematical problem solving strategies will also be used by the Young Masterminds during this club meeting.

MEETING FOUR: Game Day
What do magic squares, the IQ Brain Train Game, the Ligretto Dice Game, the Othello Strategy Game, Block by Block and the Junior Rush Hour Traffic Jam Puzzle have in common? They are highly engaging activities that provide opportunities for participants to use and develop their strategic, creative, and critical thinking skills. The Young Masterminds will team up during this club meeting to attempt to solve a variety of puzzles and accomplish various cognitive challenges. Game Day will give all Young Masterminds an enjoyable and extensive brain workout!

MEETING FIVE: The Young Masterminds Mathematical Challenge
Young Masterminds are given the opportunity to participate in a highly engaging mathematical challenge during this club meeting. The format of this challenge is similar to that used in regional and national mathematics competitions designed for primary school students. The Young Masterminds will work both individually and in teams to attempt to solve complex, multi-layered, and creative mathematical problems. Whilst there is a competitive element within this club workshop, the emphasis is on fun, collaboration, and learning. Participation in this challenge will provide Young Masterminds with the opportunity to develop their mathematical problem-solving skills, as well as academic perseverance; both which are abilities crucial to success at school.

For more information email us at clubs@youngmasterminds.com.au