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 a mini 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 our club programs.

THE DISCOVERER’S CLUB PROGRAM
FOCUS: STEPPING IN TO AN AUTHOR’S SHOES!

Investigating, analysing and discovering the elements that contribute to a picture books success are the focus of this Discoverer’s Club program. Throughout this club program, students will participate in a series of mini workshops based on the six traits of writing, which will extend their personal and creative writing abilities.

Young Masterminds will be given the opportunity to write and illustrate their own picture book, which will be ‘published’ for them to keep. The Discoverer’s Club will appeal to talented students in Years 2 and 3 who enjoy reading, writing and thinking creatively. Below is a brief description of the Literacy experiences that will be the focus of each club meeting.
MEETING ONE: What Makes a Good Picture Book …… Good?
Do you have a favourite book character? When I recall some of the picture books I enjoyed reading as a child and continue to enjoy sharing with students, many characters spring to mind including some of my favourites; Grandma Poss, Christopher Robin, Henry and Moon Face. Some of these characters feel like friends to me as over the years I have experienced and shared many adventures with them. During this meeting the Discoverers will consider what encourages readers to choose one picture book over another, explore why young readers connect to some characters over others and research if popular picture books have common features. Discoverers are invited to bring along their favourite picture book to read and share with the group. The elements of the more popular picture books will be identified, compared, contrasted and critically analysed to discover the similarities and differences that exist between them. Discoverers will conduct an in depth analysis of a book character of their choice and present their character to the group.

MEETING TWO: Getting Started!
Every picture book that has been published started as an idea; the process an author undertakes to develop their initial idea into a picture book will be the focus of meeting two. Discoverers are invited to begin gathering and recording ideas for their own picture book. The elements needed to construct a narrative will be explored. Each student will meet with the club facilitator for a mentoring session that will focus on developing their writing portfolio, generating ideas for their picture book, setting individual goals and establishing protocols for receiving feedback.

MEETING THREE: The Writing Process
After a mini workshop focusing on organisation, the use of voice and word choice in writing, the Discoverer’s will continue to write and develop the initial draft of their picture book. To support this process each Young Mastermind will meet with the club facilitator for a mentoring session that will focus on the progress they have made with their picture book, monitoring their individual goals and responding to feedback.

MEETING FOUR: Every Picture Tells a Story!
In a picture book, the illustrations are as important as the text because both elements work together to tell the story. After a mini workshop on sentence fluency and the use of conventions the Discoverers will explore the range of techniques used by illustrators to ‘write with pictures’ including collage, sketching and photography. Design principles such as layout, colour, space, texture, vignettes, panels and double page spreads will also be considered. Discoverers will be invited to begin gathering and recording ideas for illustrating their own picture book. Students will meet with the club facilitator for a mentoring session that will focus on the progress they have made with their picture book, monitoring and adjusting their individual goals and responding to feedback.

MEETING FIVE: The Writing and Illustrating Process
The Discoverer’s will continue to develop, illustrate, edit and finalise the draft of their picture book in preparation for publishing. To support this process each Young Mastermind will meet with the club facilitator for a mentoring session that will focus on the progress they have made with their picture book, monitoring and adjusting their individual goals and responding to feedback.

*Published books will be delivered to the Discoverer’s at school, approximately one week after Meeting Five.*