

Wiley Park: Aiman Juairaih, Ropo Progga, Mawahib Rodoshee, Mariam Hussein take on Mars mission

Year 9 students at Wiley Park Girls High School pooled their skills to try and solve some interplanetary engineering problems. Read how the young girls put it all together.

Paul Brescia [Follow](#)

[@pwbrescia](#) less than 2 min read February 18, 2022 - 5:11PM Canterbury-Bankstown Express

Students from Wiley Park Girls High School have been planning beyond their high-school years to try and solve how humans can set up a functioning colony on Mars.

Aiman Juairaih, Mawahib Rodoshee, Mariam Hussein and Ropo Progga teamed up with students from GEMS Modern Academy in Dubai, as part of The Connecting Minds Project.

Run by One Giant Leap Australia, the project works to inspire girls in high-school to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, better known as STEM.



STEM student superstars: (l-r) Aiman Juairaih, Mawahib Rodoshee, Mariam Hussein, Ropo Progga

Their work included proposals on habitat structure, transport, energy production, food and oxygen production, waste management, radiation protection and even a system of government. The girls worked on the project outside of school hours to match up with the seven-hour time difference in Dubai.

The Wiley Park Year 9 students decided that a tungsten double-layered composite yarn and a Polyethylene terephthalate fibre fabric containing barium sulfate would be effective in reducing radiation exposure.

Their results were shown in the Australia pavilion at the Dubai Expo.

The program was co-ordinated by Murray Henstock, head teacher, Science, at Wiley Park Girls High School, with approval coming through in late-October just as kids were returning to in-class lessons. Mr Henstock said he was proud of how the students rose to the challenge in a short time frame.

“As a teacher, being able to provide real world connections for our students is exciting and we are all looking forward to taking part once again when the next opportunity presents itself.”

Jackie Carpenter, founder, One Giant Leap Australia, thanked Mr Henstock for working overtime to co-ordinate the program, calling him a legend and a great guy.

Ms Carpenter added: “Everyone was excited with the outcomes. The kids loved working with kids from across the world, they built relationships for life”.

The Connecting Minds Project was funded with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Council on Australia-Arab Relations, and the Australian Space Agency.

More Coverage

[New El Jannah drive-through store planned for city’s south](#)