

SCIENCE WEEK — BICTON SCHOOLS

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.52 pm]: One of the first words a child learns is “why”. Natural curiosity is something that we are all born with. During the recent National Science Week curiosity and science education was in focus and students in the Bicton electorate asked lots of “whys” and had a lot fun finding out the answers. Many of the jobs of the future will be in science, so building a love of science, technology, engineering and maths subjects in schools is really important. I would like to highlight the amazing work of two Bicton schools promoting a love of STEM and share some of the activities of their Science Week. Melville Senior High School is home to the current Western Australian Teacher of the Year. Guy Stapleton, the singing science teacher, has brought enthusiasm, fun and adventure into the lab. The school has backed it up again this year with science teacher Kristy McKay becoming a finalist for WA Beginner Teacher of the year. I wish Kristy all the best for the finals. During Science Week the students were busy constructing spaghetti towers and table tennis ball shooters, planning a frog-friendly pond and growing and investigating bacteria and fungi. Other students built a Farmbot to learn about sustainable farming practices. There are many other exciting STEM activities happening at Melville Senior High School. It is a school of great innovation doing a top job in preparing their students for a rapidly changing world. Santa Maria College’s year 12 students hosted 55 pre-primary students from Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, running workshops to engage them in hands-on experiments and seeing science in action. Science teacher Ailsa Harris is excited about STEM and inspires her students with activities like forensic science workshops where students become real-life whodunnits. Congratulations to the schools of Bicton for making science fun.