



Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.



St Joseph's students Hoanj Kape, 12, and Jorja Badman, 11, with Gold Fields St Ives exploration geologist Erin Stormont and exploration generative geologist David Nixon at last year's program. Picture: Tori O'Connor

Science must capture kids' interest

Jason Mennell

Sparking early childhood interest in critical thinking subjects is key to reversing a trend of waning interest in STEM subjects at high school, a resources and energy leader believes.

Australian Resources and Energy Group will be in Kalgoorlie-Boulder tomorrow offering insight into how science, technology, engineering and maths could be used in practical applications in the workplace.

Developed for children aged

nine to 12 years, the Bright Future STEM program will offer students from two primary schools and students enrolled in the Primary Extension and Challenge program the opportunity to learn from industry role models while participating in hands-on activities.

AMMA director of operations Tara Diamond yesterday said the program was designed to engage with as many upper-aged primary school children as possible across Australia.

"There is a lot of research, par-

ticularly about young females, turning off STEM subjects as they get to high school," she said.

"The research and evidence base is very strong that industry needs to connect with upper-primary school students, to make those connections now so when they are in high school, they understand that these subjects are subjects that will really help them in terms of employment in the future."

Taking place at the WA School of Mines, the program will run from 9 to 11am.