

## **Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**

### **Official Opening of STEAM Specialist Programs & Art Studio – 12 Solomon Road, Jandakot**

**Saturday, 27 March, 2021**

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I am delighted to be here today with my wife Patricia and Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood and thank you for your kind invitation to share in this special occasion.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar nation the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who are with us.

I acknowledge:

Owners of the Leap Start Early Learning Centre, Mal. Curtis, Jody and

Birgit Butler, Director, Leap Start Early Learning Centre;

Member of staff;

Parents, grandparents, Carers and friends of the Centre;

Babies, Toddlers and Children.

From giggles, to smiles to laughter, from sadness to episodes of crying; to hugs with friends (new and old) and sharing in the excitement of a home away from home early learning centres provide that place of safety and security together with the basic principles of allowing children to reach out, ask questions, explore and grow.

You will have heard the term full steam ahead – essentially meaning setting a goal and getting on with it with gusto.

More recently the terms or acronyms ‘STEM’ and ‘STEAM’ have emerged as a part of our vocabulary – in once sense it means setting goals and going full steam ahead still but in a more measured and defined manner.

Deputy Mayor Kirkwood and I were recently at a local primary school at the invitation of their Year 3 teachers and students.

The topic of conversation centred around starting with a new planet and how you may go about creating a community – what would be needed and how would you structure it.

What an exciting challenge.

We left the students with a thought of not confining yourself to that planet – to think about space exploration, rocket launching facilities that you may wish to consider and even a space station.

At the other end of the scale I was at a Defence WA forum yesterday with questions being asked about how do we prepare our future communities for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The subject of STEM and STEAM were raised and kept the participants busy for an hour as we explored what skill sets were needed for the future of the Western Trade Coast, its infrastructure needs, naval capacity and the industry and SME required to meet the security capacity of Australia.

Exciting opportunities for all – but it has to start somewhere and our future leaders are amongst us now – the babies, toddlers and children.

Our commitment to their growth and learning will be crucial if we are to protect our lifestyle, future jobs and health and well-being.

I have great pleasure in formally declaring open the STEAM Specialist Programs and the Art Studio.

Thank you.