

Bridge to higher challenges

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Gifted and talented students Emma Ward, 10, Zahra Young, 11, and Luke Thomas, 10, have been learning the brainy card game of bridge. Picture: Emilee Neeson / Kalgoorlie Miner

Playing card games might seem like an unlikely classroom activity for primary school students, but that is exactly what some of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's best and brightest minds are doing each week this term.

Students from primary schools across the city who are enrolled in the Primary Extension and Challenge program for gifted and talented children, have been learning the card game bridge with Kalgoorlie Bridge Club member Pamela Moore.

One of four courses the children could choose from, including robotics, astronomy and the tournament of the minds, the bridge sessions test the children's logical thinking, memory capacity and social skills.

PEAC co-ordinator Sue Webber said while on the surface, bridge might seem like just a card game, it involved a lot of strategy and co-operation.

“The children who are identified as gifted and talented need to have their thinking extended and need to have those challenges, so we do a lot of higher-order thinking skills,” she said.

Ms Webber said the students in the PEAC program scored in the top 10 per cent of their year group in a qualifying exam in Year 4.

“In the normal class because you’ve got the varying abilities, in PEAC classes they are really coming together to work with like-minded children because we have children from all different primary schools,” she said. “It’s really for them to get this love of learning in anything that excites them or they find stimulating so later on in life they might decide to pursue further education.”