Dear Parents/Carers,

Earlier this year your child was identified through a series of tests that they are eligible to join our Ashmore Accelerated Learning Program. This program allows your child to partake in a range of extra-curriculum activities and competitions.

A range of groups were on offer and your child has chosen to participate in the Opti-MINDs competition/group in Term 3.

The Opti-MINDS Challenge is an opportunity for all those with a passion for learning & problem solving to showcase their skills & talents in an exciting, vibrant & public way.

THE CHALLENGE...

• Teams are required to work together on a Long Term Challenge for up to six weeks without assistance from anyone outside the team. Participants are encouraged to explore possibilities & experiment with ideas as they endeavour to produce their best possible solution.

• They develop creative & original ways to communicate this solution to others, working within predefined parameters such as limited materials, complex Challenge criteria & the deadlines of The Challenge Day.

• Students present the product of their ideas – their Challenge solution – to a panel of judges & an audience on Challenge Day. They have 10 minutes in which to present & must do so in a 3 x 3 metre (Approx.) performance area.

• The teams must also participate in an unseen Spontaneous Challenge on Opti-MINDS Day. This Challenge requires rapid interchange of ideas, the ability to think effectively, creatively, & well-developed group cooperation skills.

• Judges for both the Long Term & the Spontaneous Challenges are professionals chosen from all areas of education, the arts & industry. They are thoroughly trained to enable them to assess the creative performance & technical aspects of the presentation.

Once the challenge is received students will need to attend the opti-MINDS group at least 3 times a week. This commitment may increase closer to the competition date if groups are not quite prepared. Times will be negotiated between group members. Please discuss this commitment with your child, before signing the slip below.

The opti-MINDS competition will be held on Sunday 24th August 2014 at Griffith University; Parklands Drive SOUTHPORT, Qld 4222. Your child must be available on this day to attend the competition in order participate in this group. Further information regarding the venue and times will be released closer to the competition date.

Regards,

Tegan Nixon
G&T Coordinator

Margaret James
Principal

I have read all of the information above about the opti-MINDS competition. I understand my commitments to this group and I agree to attend the scheduled times for this project group and the competition. I understand that failure to attend this project group will result in my exclusion.

Student Name ___________________________ Parent Name __________________________________________

Signed ___________________________ Signed ___________________________