STAND OUT

SEPLA-CON 19
Monday 22nd July – Rosehill Racecourse
Tuesday 23rd July – Rydges Parramatta

SEPLA
NSW

High-tech, High-expectations: Making coding accessible to all

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Biography:
Nathan has been teaching as a special education teacher at Fernhill School since 2018. Before moving to Fernhill school, Nathan was a special education teacher from 2015-2017 at William Rose School, his first appointment after graduating from university.

Alyssa has been teaching at Fernhill School since its opening in January of 2017, with prior teaching experience at Beverley Park School in Campbelltown. Before teaching, Alyssa was a Research Scientist at the CSIRO and her enthusiasm for Science permeates into her teaching practice.

Leanne is currently an Assistant Principal at Fernhill School. She has taught across many settings including Mainstream classes, Support Classes and in an SSP setting at both Primary and High School level. She has a passion for enabling all students to access the Curriculum.

This presentation will show the impact of having high expectations for all learners by enabling our students to access Blue-Bot technology to code. Fernhill School is an SSP which caters for students with multiple special needs where this program has been trialled in 2019. In this presentation, delegates will be introduced to how the project was established, the writing of the program and the impact on both students and teachers. Staff were enthusiastic to introduce coding to our students after being inspired by the Ponds School presentation at a previous SEPLA conference, as well as hands on experience shared by Penrith Public School. Student services were then engaged to work alongside staff at our school to produce a program that allowed students to access Blue-Bot technology in line with the current Science and Technology curriculum K-12. The student services team spent time at Fernhill School getting to know our students and how they learn, to make the program authentic. The program has been implemented in both our primary and senior cohort with great success.

The highlight of our presentation will be the sharing of student stories across a range of ages and abilities, demonstrating the high levels of engagement and achievement our students have experienced. This will include an audio-visual presentation of the students themselves, using the Blue-Bots to solve a range of challenges and develop their understanding of what it means to code. They have exhibited resilience which has surpassed our highest expectations and have developed their problem solving skills through trial and error. Staff have shared stories of student engagement throughout the school with great enthusiasm and excitement at the level of student achievement.

Delegates will be provided with a copy of the program and will be given practical experience and time to work with the technology, implementing some of the learning experiences our students and teachers have engaged in.