



O'Connor Primary School's education support students Bentley Holdaway, Carlos Palta, Harley Moses and Peter Yarran check out Hannans North Tourist Mine as part of their day camp. Picture: Kelsey Reid

Exploration camp adds to students' confidence

■ Phoebe Pin

Nearly 30 students from O'Connor Education Support Centre spent yesterday exploring Kalgoorlie-Boulder as part of an action-packed whole-school overnight camp.

The children started their day panning for gold at Hannans North Tourist Mine before practising meal-time manners and skills at Hoover's Cafe for lunch.

Students then travelled to the local camp school for afternoon

activities, a tasty dinner and a movie night, while also demonstrating their ability to complete basic chores on their own.

The group will today watch Toy Story 4 at Orana Cinemas and attend a picnic lunch before returning to school at the end of the day.

OESC principal Cassie Bender said the camp aimed to build students' self-confidence and allow the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community to engage with the school.

"The camp promotes our cen-

tre in the community and allows the people of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to build up their skills with positive interactions with people with disabilities," she said. "It also brings our whole centre together and supports formations of new friendships, helps students develop their life skills in 'real' life, and it gives families an opportunity for some much-needed respite."

Ms Bender said while some students were anxious about being away from home overnight, staff worked hard to make the ex-

perience a positive one for all.

"Our students regularly go on excursions into the community, so it isn't a tough transition for them to go for a night," she said.

"Some of them do find it difficult, but the amazing team of staff we have support and encourage the students and they feel very comfortable and safe on camp."

The sponsorship of mining company Saracen meant children could participate in activities free of charge.