Tuesday, 8 October 2013

Dear 2014 Year 5/6 Parents

I am very excited to announce that we will be introducing a 1:1 iPad program in the Senior School in 2014. As you will be aware we have been running a trial 1:1 program in Year 3/4 classes as well as in Year 5/6 classes this term. At the same time we have been doing extensive research into programs in other schools and looking at international research into the educational benefits of 1:1 iPad programs.

As a result of this work we feel very confident that a 1:1 iPad program will have a significant impact on our students’ learning and puts our school onto an equal footing with most local primary schools, as well as other innovative schools.

You will have read Ally Duncan’s article in last week’s newsletter about the trial. We have all been delighted by the students’ ongoing enthusiasm and greatly increased engagement with their learning. Belinda Fowler commented about student enthusiasm and that it was "just phenomenal the amount of work they are doing" as a result of the heightened engagement. Our parent survey brought the following response from a parent, which is typical of parent and student reactions “I loved the fact that she could have complete access without having to fight for/share with another child – she felt she could complete her work better on her own and it was her own work. She is enthusiastic and keen to learn new things on & about technology, and thought she was able to accomplish more by having it to herself”.

Parents will be expected to either provide an iPad 2 or later or an iPad Mini. These can be provided from home, purchased individually (great Christmas present!) or we are working on a deal with some suppliers to provide iPads on a payment plan. This information will be provided early in term 4. The voluntary contribution rate in 2014 will be reduced for Senior School students to offset costs and to recognise the reduced need for some of the booklist items.

You will be getting a lot of information about the program in term 4, including an information session in week 2 or 3 (date to be decided). We will talk to you about costs, security, cybersafety, app management and more! Please don’t hesitate to ask questions during this process. We will endeavour to answer your questions accurately, honestly and openly, to ensure a smooth introduction of this exciting innovation for our school.

Yours sincerely

Steve Albon
Principal