2013 Year 4 1:1 iPad information session

Please find enclosed a list of questions that have come from School Councillors, parents and teachers regarding this initiative. We hope that it is informative and provides relevant information to potential issues or concerns. We would appreciate any other questions before the information session so we can give you the information you are asking about. Email: chilwell.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Chilwell Primary School 1:1 iPad initiative 2013- FAQ’s

1. **What are the educational benefits of the iPad?**

Learning, teaching and engagement are just 3 educational benefits. Having a device that is accessible at your fingertips to research with, clarify information, create, communicate, demonstrate learning and explore problems are just a few more. A device that is intuitive and easy to use, assists students in their ability to be efficient and productive is certainly an asset.

With over 700,000 apps and more being developed, many free, we are able to use apps to assist our Inquiry Based Learning approach that teachers use.

As teachers we encourage students to share their learning and strategies on how they solved a problem. The iPad, with Air Server or Apple TV, allows students to project their work on the interactive whiteboards and showcase their learning. Teachers, using the camera app, will also be able to use an iPad to put examples of written work up on the big screen for editing purposes and gain feedback from the class.

More and more research will be available overtime but one to watch out for will be Woolsthorpe Primary School who are launching iPreps in 2013 – a research project with Deakin University (www.woolsthorpeps.global2.vic.edu.au/ipads-ipods).

2. **Why do we need a 1:1 program in Year 4? Or at Primary school at all?**

We have moved into the Knowledge Era where information is crucial. Knowing how to solve problems, communicate using more than just a telephone, creating new information and interacting responsibly on line, is this world. We talk about 21st Century skills and this is another way that we can assist the development of these skills.

1:1 programs in Primary Schools have been around for a while now and not all school are implementing them. DEECD ran a Netbook trial across many Regions in 2009-10 and a number of schools continued to have 1:1 netbooks. Since then, rapid gains in technology have occurred with more devices on offer at competitive prices.

3. **$400+ is a lot to spend on a device for a Primary School student. What would we expect to see in return for this investment?**

School Council in its support of the initiative wanted to ensure that whatever device nominated, was affordable. We investigated Laptops, netbooks and the iPad. We investigated lease arrangements and finance companies. As a Year 4 student will use this device over the following 3 years, it equates to approx. $130-$140 per year (plus apps, etc). As a staff we would expect to see students using the device when needed. In literacy, in numeracy, in Italian, possibly even Music. Art and Sport are possibilities too. As a form of communication to you as a parent from your child – they could email you examples of their work, a video file of their oral presentation or a photo of their art work. There are a range of possibilities yet to be explored – and we are working through them.
4. **What will Staff Professional Development (PD) look like?**

Translating and transferring knowledge is the pivotal aspect in any Professional Development. Professional Development comes in such a variety of forms. Whatever learning or development experience you are in, transferring that back to your school, grade, class or a particular student is important. We each do that differently.

- The formal off site PD run by external agencies at a cost
- Staff have had access to iPads for 12 months, been able to use them in class, borrow overnight, weekends and holidays
- PD from staff who have found an app or range of apps and share their ideas and experiences at a formal meeting or an informal meeting
- Sharing of information over lunch or a coffee at recess
- PD occurs when we speak with colleagues from other schools to hear about what they do and then translate that back to Chilwell
- PD comes from students too, who show their ability to apply their knowledge
- PD happens through personal research and exploration
- PD occurs when parents communicate with teachers and say ‘I found a great app… have a look at this and see if it may help in the classroom…”
- Chilwell is hosting an ‘iPad for Leaders’ PD run by Apple
- Staff will also have PD on the PC side of things too
- New Wave Systems have offered their services
- Our fantastic integration aides, Sarah & Sharon who have initiated an iPad Coffee Club across the Region – has been replicated out on the Bellarine

5. **Is the School moving its curriculum to having it delivered via computer?**

NO. Teachers teach. Technology is a tool that teachers use. We will and do use some online materials to assist us in differentiating the students learning eg. Mathletics.

6. **Can the children take the devices home at night?**

Yes, but they do not have to. We are happy to store them in a safe location. With the BYOD model, it is your device. Of course you can take it home. You can also leave it at school if you wish. While at school, school policies and acceptable use agreements are in place.

7. **Will the students be able to access Social media sites – not just Facebook, but those less known, (but rapidly on the increase), including Qhoo me, Instagram, Snapchat etc. etc. And Internet Access?**

DEECD restrict access to certain sites such as Facebook (must be 13 years or over). We also have filters on at school that prevent students accessing certain sites.

Typically, teachers research the topic in planning week and our ICT techs check the links and link to our Intranet so students do not have to access the net unless there is a need. Internet access will be the same as it is now.
8. How do we keep students safe online?

We are aware of the "dangers" involved in the technological world we live in. The school has been proactive in this area through:

- Chilwell Primary School’s Cybersafety Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreement – signed by students and parents
- Implementing a Bully Incident Notice program in the school whereby students can report any bullying through cyber or elsewhere via the intranet.
- Being accredited as an e-Smart school. This involved all staff in on line training and work in the community. Cathy Burns heads our work in this area as well as Student Engagement.
- Providing cyber safety sessions for children, staff and parents by Susan McLean.
- Using the DEECD’s filters on our network.
- Publishing current information in the school newsletter to inform parents.
- Professional Development for staff
- Alannah & Madeleine Foundation are using Chilwell PS as an exemplary school in their corporate publications due to the programs we run.

9. Has extensive consideration been given to the impact on the children’s handwriting, spelling, grammar, imagination, concentration, fine motor skills?

Yes. High levels of student engagement is strongly linked to the use of ICT but our school holds itself in high regard for developing the whole child. We see the use of technology as a 21st Century tool, a pencil case if you like, that we access when required. Some days we may use it more than others and some days, perhaps not at all. A little like our mobile phones, cars and our own computing devices. Instead of needing a calculator, a dictionary, thesaurus, web browser, etc, students can access the device when needed.

10. Has the committee/school set up clear timetabling with regard to use of these tablets/notebooks/iPads?

No. Technology is an integrated part of the curriculum. Our inquiry based learning approach allows student’s choice with direction and instruction from the teacher. ICT is an element that is used when required. It will be used in Literacy and Numeracy and hopefully other aspects of the curriculum to enhance the learning our digital natives are experiencing.

11. Will they be used for literacy? numeracy? writing? .... and to what extent?

Yes & No… With the rate of development in educational apps, we would be doing our students a disservice if we were not looking for opportunities to enhance what we already do. We are always looking for ways to continually improve. This does not necessarily mean that we only use technology in these areas. Teachers look for the best resources to get the best outcome – technology is one of these resources. We are not throwing the baby out with the bath water, rather topping the bath water up with warmer water.
12. How will posture in class be controlled?

Students are reminded to sit correctly when writing and when at the computers in class or in the lab. Students will still be reminded to sit correctly while using the iPad. As classes take frequent breaks, there is time where children can stretch, move around etc. If a keyboard is more ergonomically beneficial, they are most welcome to be used.

13. Exactly how will the devices be used, and to what extent? What in the current curriculum will be replaced?

As teachers, we are constantly learning. Like other professionals whose practice has changed due to research, evidence and technology, so will ours. 5 years ago, we didn’t have IWBs, iPhones and iPads did not exist. The fundamentals of teaching will not change but the vehicle we deliver it in will – when the teacher sees the opportunity.

14. Will my child still write - handwrite?

ABSOLUTELY. Like our mobile phones, we will use the iPad when we needed.

15. What if we leave the school?

If you own the device, it is yours! Take it with you. If you are in an agreement with the school, a buyout option may be available. Discuss with Gavan & Scott

16. What happens when/if it is damaged? What about insurances against breakages, theft, loss, damage etc?

With a BYO device option, families are responsible for checking their insurance policy to ensure that the device is covered.

Since November 2011, Chilwell PS has had 19 iPads in the school from Prep – 6 with intensive use in the Library. While only having 19, 350 students have had access to them, used them in classrooms, outside, in the library, etc. We have had no damage. We set high expectations about respecting equipment, handling of equipment and reminding students to treat them respectfully. Prevention strategies are encouraged.

We would recommend a cover for your iPad. Available from any retail outlet, eBay, website. New Wave Systems also sell protective covers. The school strongly encourages families to seek advice from your contents insurer to insure the device while at school.

If the device is found to be faulty – return it to place of purchase for follow up.

17. iPads don’t have keyboards and typing on the screen is a concern.

A keyboard can be attached – Bluetooth or clip on. The keyboard also acts as a protective cover for the screen. You are more than welcome to purchase a keyboard.
18. Some iPads have 3G/4G network cards. Will children be able to access the internet via those cards?

As it is your decision to purchase whatever model of iPad, you can choose to have a 3G/4G card. We discourage the use of these cards at school as we have a secure DEECD network, hence there is no need. If a student was to bring one to school and use it, it would be a breach of Acceptable Use Agreement. To prevent this occurring, we encourage parents to be vigilant and monitor the use of such cards.

19. Does the school have Tech support?

Yes. Michael is employed by DEECD for 7.6 hours per week. Dale Rippon is also employed for an additional 5 hours by DEECD and a further 6-8 hours/week by the school. If your iPad is purchased from New Wave Systems, their technical expertise is on hand too.

20. What about the school’s wireless infrastructure?

Current wireless is OK but needs upgrading to cater for increased wireless devices. A number of data points per classroom for cabling Wireless Access Points (WAPs) is available. Server capacity increased in Term 3 2012 as planned and budgeted for. The future is in wireless technology, and a controller to manage wireless devices so internet access is available anywhere within school, is in our 2013 planning. We have had 2 independent site surveys and DEECD is also reviewing these for us.

21. How will the students gain access to the internet?

Our technical support staff will install a security certificate that enables wireless access to the school’s internet. This is a DEECD network and will have time restrictions (ie 8:30am – 4pm) for access Monday – Friday.

22. Who manages the iTunes account?

We see the iPad as a great resource to build relationships between Teacher-Student-Parent. The device is owned by the family and therefore the iTunes account is owned and monitored by the family. The school will recommend certain apps for education and also has the ability to purchase bulk apps at a discounted rate eg: Pages costs $10.49 each or through the Volume Purchasing Program (VPP) we are able to get them at a discounted rate – up to 50% off depending on the volume.

We want parents to be involved and aware of their child’s use of technology and assist their learning.
23. How will the school handle inappropriate apps coming to school?

As outlined above, the relationship between school and home is critical. As you will be the iTunes account manager you will be aware of all the apps that are on the iPad. We are currently investigating new technology that may allow a school based profile to be installed so the students can have a school profile and a home profile. Our technical support staff are researching this. Educating the students about appropriate apps and being guided by staff and parents should hold us in good stead to avoid this.

24. How much will parents be expected to pay in apps?

Staff agreed that it would be no more than $50 in 2013. Given the ability to use the VPP we will be able to purchase at a heavily discounted rate. Remember there are so many free apps that we are exploring and using. We endeavour to keep the costs as low as possible.

Mathletics is a free app but the school has already purchased the membership so students will be able to utilise this online resource more effectively. The Reading Eggs app is still in the development phase.

25. Is this an evidence based practice we are embarking on?

Our school’s webpage has links to a range of educational research that School Councillors and the ICT committee have poured through to ensure we have made the best decision – at this point in time. Please take a look at the school webpage for links. Deakin University Warrnambool and Woolsthorpe PS are embarking on further research with the 2013 Preps, called iPreps - www.woolsthorpeps.global2.vic.edu.au/ipads-ipods

26. Where to now?

We have let all know of the proposal in schematic form ie. we support a 1:1 program from Years 4 (2013) moving forward to Years 5 & 6. The device that was recommended and endorsed by School Council was the iPad. Again, without family support we will not and cannot go any further. The proposal was communicated to parents via a written handout which was explained to the year 3 children because we felt they would read the document anyway so it was best to at least schematically discuss.

27. How much?

This depends totally on your preferences. An iPad2 16GB wifi can be purchased from $370 ex GST. Some may prefer a larger capacity device. If you have any financial concerns around this, please speak with Gavan & Scott
28. Where can I get one from?

Just about anywhere! New Wave Systems on Ormond Rd will provide extra support if you purchase from them. They will also provide training at school for parents who purchase through them. Speak to Matt.

29. Are the iPads tax deductible?

Seek advice from your accountant.

30. Won’t students be playing games on the iPad and being distracted from their task?

During the past 12 months we have set the expectations of students to use the designated apps for their learning. The teacher still monitors the students using iPads and is often working with students to guide them through the use of the iPad.

31. Who decides what is appropriate content?

For us as educators, we decide on appropriate resources that enhance our teaching and students learning. Whether it be a book, CD, DVD, puzzles, Art ‘n’ Craft supplies, sports equipment or Technology. The same applies for selecting apps. With the rate of app development, we cannot possibly review all of them. Some have limitations and some are fantastic. We have spent 12 months developing our knowledge, using and resourcing apps to assist our learning.

In terms of apps, inappropriate content would certainly be considered as violent games, inappropriate language or offensive material, etc. As parents who manage the iTunes account, we seek your support in guiding your children through selecting appropriate apps for use outside of school and the potential use inside of school.

32. Internet at home?

iPads are wifi compatible meaning that if you have a Wi-Fi network at home or you tether it from a mobile phone you will be able to have internet access. You will not be able to access the school internet from home.

33. When will the Year 4 2013, 1:1 iPad program start?

Ultimately we would like to begin day 1 term 1 2013. However, if things are not in place there is no hurry. If it is term 2, great! If there are issues or concerns that need more preparation, we will do that. It is also dependant on whether the community believes that this is the direction we should head.
34. Game

This word has a few connotations attached to it. Is it an educational ‘game’ or is it a ‘game’ with no educational component? Staff research apps that will enhance their teaching and student learning. Many apps have a ‘game’ component, like Mathletics. Teachers will determine the educational benefits of the app to ensure it is educationally appropriate.

35. What if community says no?

If the community decides that we do not progress with this initiative, then we look at replicating what we already have (ie approx. 6-8 desktops) in year 4 classes. We have had 5 schools contact us to discuss what we are doing and how we envisage doing it. They have been impressed with our plans and are looking at us as an example of how to possibly implement similar initiatives in their schools.

36. What will technology look like across the school in 2013 if we proceed with iPads

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37. Does the school want to replace PC with Mac products?

No. We believe we are providing students with a range of ICT products. We have used PC’s predominantly in the past and with the addition of iPads into the market, we have seen the educational benefits of them and will continue to use both PC and Mac products. It is the best of both worlds.

38. What about the Microsoft’s Surface or the iPad Mini or Window 8 tablets?

The rate of technology evolution and improvements is astounding. With the 4th generation iPad out and numerous tablet devices available, it is difficult to trial, research then implement an educated decision. When the discussion began about improving our technology across the school, the above mentioned devices were not in the market place. We did trial 5 Window based tablets in the 5/6 classrooms, had 30 iPads for 30 days in the P-2 area and purchased 19 iPad2’s last November. The preferred option from staff was iPad. School Council agreed that whatever decision we made at that point in time would be the right decision – for that point in time. Like all our programs we review them frequently and try to make the best educational decision.
39. iPads don't allow flash based content. Is this an issue?

It depends on the program you are trying to access. As we have PC's at school too, students will be able to access flash based content.

40. What about the device being carried in school bags and students throwing or dropping their bags?

The staff work hard on teaching respect and being respectful to people and belongings. A few strategies may include:

- Students being reminded NOT to throw their bags
- Students could carry the device and hand it to a parent on pick up
- Students could leave it at school and collect it at the end of the week
- Parents may collect it from the classroom

41. Does their need to be more power points installed?

No. If students are taking them home, they will be charged over night and ready for use the next day. iPads have a very good battery life. For those who choose to leave them at school, we have power boards to charge the device from. We will just need the adaptor.
Chilwell Primary School 1:1 iPad initiative 2013 Official Vote

Family Name: ________________________ Student Name: __________

Please circle your preference below

1. We support the 1:1 program

2. We DO NOT support the 1:1 program

We appreciate your time and contribution to the discussion. If you do not support the program, we would appreciate your feedback as to why. Please outline your reasons below:

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Please return to Kim, Jeff or the office by Friday 16th Nov