

Dear Parents & Guardians

**Re: Introduction of a 1 to 1 iPad program.**

Technology is a central component to living in the 21st century. Students using technology to quickly access information and applying it to their learning is essential to their development. As educators, it is vital to have immediate access to technology to develop literacy and numeracy skills while developing student understanding of the community and the world in which they live.

After careful consideration, Templestowe Park Primary School is pleased to announce an exciting new eLearning initiative with the introduction of a 1 to 1 iPad program, supported through a BYOD (bring your own device) platform. Initially this program will be phased in to Year 5 and 6 with plans to extend the program in the future. At the start of Term 3 2013, students in level 4 will be encouraged to bring an Apple iPad as standard school equipment which teachers will be using to extend traditional learning methods.

For the past three terms the teachers at TPPS have been exploring the benefits of using iPads to support learning in the classroom. This trial program has demonstrated significant improvements in student engagement and improved access to digital information, tools and resources. Additional feedback has also been collected from many schools who have already implemented a 1 to 1 BYOD program. The only negative feedback from teachers and students throughout this review process has been the limitation from sharing devices where storage of data has become an issue and devices are constantly requiring reconfiguration for different users.

School Council is therefore strongly supporting the introduction of a 1 to 1 iPad program which allows students to have a more personalised and mobile learning experience in accessing information and learning 'anywhere and anytime'. The individual use of iPads promotes creativity, collaboration and communication skills which are necessary for lifelong learning.

At Templestowe Park, we believe that provision of up to date technology for learning is essential. This strategy is consistent with our school's mission statement of giving students the opportunity to maximize their learning potential. We understand that iPads are the preferred technology in many secondary schools and by initiating an iPad program at level 4 we also believe our students will be given the necessary foundation skills for a successful transition in to secondary school.

Importantly, we do not however, see iPads replacing existing ICT resources; instead we see them expanding on traditional skills while opening a whole new world of learning. The iPad is a companion device and when students require specialist computing software, notebooks provided by the school will still be used.

Our new Year 5 & 6 building has also been designed specifically with learning needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in mind and is well suited to support this new initiative. WiFi throughout the school building will ensure students have immediate access to the Internet at all times and locks will be fitted to all classrooms where iPads will be used to ensure adequate security of iPads when the classrooms are not in use.

We would like to reassure the parent community that this decision has been made after careful consideration of the risks and concerns that many parents are likely to have. We have discussed at length issues of cost, particularly for those students in Grade 6, the issue of security, damage and inappropriate use.

We've also had strong support from the TPPS parent community, including feedback in the 2012 School Survey, for the introduction of such a program. We are confident that by learning from other schools with more advanced programs; that our policies and procedures will mitigate any significant risks.

Inquiries by level 4 teachers indicate that most students already have access to either iPads or iPad minis at home which could be made available for use at school. For parents needing to purchase a new iPad, the school council is investigating a preferred supplier agreement which will provide educational discounts as well as various leasing options for families to consider. To ensure that no child is disadvantaged from the introduction of such a program, limited access to a school owned iPad may also be arranged for some students under special arrangement with Jenny Turpin.

To assist with the successful implementation of the iPads an information night and a number of training programs for parents are planned at the commencement of Term 3. As an introduction, an Information Pack has been prepared for parents including iPad set up and configuration instructions along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). We would encourage parents to read through all of the enclosed information and if you have any questions we would be pleased to assist.

For information about the schools iPad program contact Nick Cox on 0417114955 or [nicholas.cox50@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.cox50@gmail.com)

For technical and educational information about your iPad requirements contact Brian Cleary on 9846 2700 or [cleary.brian.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cleary.brian.c@edumail.vic.gov.au)

We are excited about this program and look forward to using iPads to enrich your child's learning.

Kind regards

Nick Cox  
School Council President