Technology in the Junior School: iPad Program

ST. MARY’S COLLEGE – JUNIOR SCHOOL
Rationale and Vision:

In 2016, St. Mary’s College will be introducing a 1:1 iPad program for Year 2 – 6 students. This is an exciting development for the Junior School as we adapt to new teaching and learning methods and prepare students for life in the 21st Century. In addition to this, Prep and Year 1 students will have access to iPads at a ratio of 2:1.

Currently each Junior School class has access to a few computers per classroom, and laptops at a ratio of 4:1. Students have also been able to access a Computer Resource Room weekly. (Access to the Computer Resource Room will be an ongoing part of our ICT program in the Junior School).

The selection of iPads:

After a thorough review and consultation with educational specialists (RTG Education), the iPad was chosen due to its suitability across a range of ages; providing many different opportunities for enhancing education. The iPad’s portability, ease of use, cost, weight, battery life and its strong reputation in schools that have adopted these devices over recent years were additional determinants of our direction. An iPad is a highly personalised device and it allows for effective differentiation of programs and approaches across a wide range of learning styles. The use of the same type of device across a class of Junior School students is also beneficial in terms of management and teachers supporting each other’s learning.
2016 Changes

What will be different across the Grades?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Teachers will have a class set between the two classes to access as needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Teachers will have a class set between the two classes to access as needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Each student will be assigned a dedicated iPad for use at school. Parents will pay an ICT Levy of $150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Parents are being asked to provide their child with an iPad (see specifications) for educational use at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Parents are being asked to provide their child with an iPad (see specifications) for educational use at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Parents are being asked to provide their child with an iPad (see specifications) for educational use at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Each student will be assigned an iPad and, with appropriate agreements in place, will be allowed to take it home for homework and charging. Parents will pay an ICT Levy of $150</td>
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</tbody>
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Commencement of iPads in Classrooms:

Students will not need to bring their iPad and cover to school until at least the third or fourth full week of school next year (End of February/ beginning of March). Information will be sent home when students have been fully prepared and the required systems are in place at the College.

Apple ID:

Students in Years 3 – 6 will be assigned a school email address from 2016. An Apple ID using their own email address will need to be set up on the device. This allows for the smooth connection to the school Wi-Fi and provides filtering through the school’s email network. Also this will enable the student to connect to their Microsoft 365 account which allows free access to Microsoft software as well as a large amount of data storage.

Instructions on how to set this up will be provided next year.

Damage:

We will be putting in place protocols to ensure the safety of the devices at school. Some of them are mentioned on the FAQ pages of the Information Technology pages on the school’s website. Ultimately the responsibility for the devices lies with the students.

Specifications:

Anything with at least 32GB of memory and the A7 processing chip or greater. More details can be found on the school’s website.

www.smc.tas.edu.au/information-technology
The Curriculum:

The Australian Curriculum has had an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability underpinning all learning since its inception and teachers have been consciously including digital components in their teaching for many years. ACARA has released the latest version of the Australian Curriculum which now includes the Digital Technologies Learning Area for Prep – Year 10. With this in mind it is imperative that students in the Junior School have good access to technology.

Teachers will still be able to timetable lessons occasionally in the College’s Computer Lab to enhance their teaching and learning programs.

Supporting appropriate home use:

We will be discussing and using User Agreements prior to students bringing devices to school, which will include policies, such as:

- Parents are in charge of the iPad
- No iPads in the bedroom
- Device use limited to a set amount of time
- Setting a curfew on technology use in the evenings

Many good resources about managing technology usage, cyber bullying and safety online can be found here: https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information

Using Technology in the Classroom

It is recognised that utilising technology in education provides opportunities for students to explore and discover new ways of thinking and creating.

Technology will be used when it is thought to be the best tool for the situation. There will be some lessons/blocks of the day or whole days when technology is not needed, or not thought to have any benefit for the learning that is going on. Alternatively there will be some days, where using technology may happen in every lesson. There will not be a fixed amount of time for using technology, it is a tool that students shall have with them in the classroom to use when it is appropriate. Part of the responsibility with having access to technology is learning how to use it appropriately and responsibly. Students will continue to have Cyber Safety and awareness education as a part of the overall program.

Apps:

The College will have a Management System in place for applications (Apps). This will allow us to set up smooth systems of delivery for required Apps. It should also allow Apps to be purchased through educational volume purchasing which will halve the price of any App required.

Instructions and directions for accessing the apps required by classroom teachers will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Whilst students may have permission from parents to download Apps other than those used at school, those Apps will not be allowed to be used during school time. If a student runs out of space on their device due to a personal App, they will be required to make space by deleting non-educational Apps to allow the device to be used for educational purposes.
Support for Teachers:

Staff have participated in several Professional Learning opportunities throughout 2015. The focus has been the use of iPads to enhance teaching and learning. This will continue to form a part of our ongoing Professional Learning sessions. In addition to this, Junior School teachers will be supported in their teaching programs by a dedicated Curriculum and ICT Teacher. The role of this teacher will include regular opportunities for planning and teaching alongside teachers in the classroom, utilising technologies available to their class.

Questions:

If you have any questions that have not been answered in this booklet, please have a look at the information on the school’s website.

www.smc.tas.edu.au/information-technology

If need be there is a form on the FAQ page to submit any other questions that you may have. The FAQ pages are updated as necessary.

There will be further information provided at Year level Parent Sessions early in Term 1.