BYO iPad Program

In 2013 our journey of introducing personal digital learning devices at Rangeview Primary School began with information sessions and presentations. In 2014 the staggered introduction of the BYOiPad Program to Foundation and Level 4 took place, then further throughout the school in 2015. Finally the program is running throughout the whole school in 2016.

Rangeview Primary School is embracing 21st Century Learning, we want the students to have access to digital technologies and use them to embrace the skills of collaboration, communication, character, citizenship, critical thinking and creativity.

Our school is a participant in the NPDL(New Pedagogies for Deep Learning) world wide project, which focusses on the 21st Century deep learning that needs to take place for our children to become global citizens in the future. Access to technology has changed how we communicate, think and process information. Digital technologies can maximise learning opportunities and support learning that is connected, collaborative and global. Your child will learn how to engage with the world around them and acquire digital skills to participate in life and work.

The Victorian Department of Education supports the introduction of BYOD programs in schools and at Rangeview we have found that the BYOiPad (Bring your own iPad) program can offer many opportunities for our students from Foundation to Level 6. The following demonstrate some of the benefits of a BYOiPad program.

Learn anytime, anywhere

Your child can learn anywhere – not only in the classroom – capturing what is happening around them and documenting and sharing what they learn.
Your child could be:
- outside taking photos for a science project
- on an excursion recording an interview with an expert
- at home video-conferencing with their teacher or other students
- researching information online.

Self-directed learning

Your child will have greater ownership over what and how they learn. They can research and document what they learn in a way that best suits their needs.

Connecting and collaborating

Digital technologies enable your child to connect in real-time. They can become part of a learning community; sharing and receiving knowledge, information and advice. This could be within their class, school or with learners around the world.

Learning communities can use collaborative spaces, like wikis and blogs, to:

- work on projects and create content in groups across remote locations
- participate in local and international presentations via videoconferencing
- write reviews and contribute to global book clubs.
- The Department provides Global 2, a space for students to blog together at school and at home.

Developing digital skills

Digital technologies are part of our everyday lives and the future holds exciting possibilities. Your child will learn important digital skills and behaviours so that they can become responsible online citizens and participate in the world of work.

Employers are looking for employees who can:
- use tools and online systems to collaborate, work in teams and evaluate work
- use multiple information sources and media to make decisions and problem-solve
- quickly learn new computer-based programs and applications
- understand and manage their digital identity – how they are seen online.

Accessing and reviewing in real-time

Digital technologies enable learning, feedback and assessment to happen in a more accessible and immediate way. Your child can capture moments of learning and you can view how and what they learn on a day-to-day basis.

Your child could be:

- taking photos or videos of an experiment and sharing with teachers
- entering data into a collaborative spreadsheet that others can see and use
- planning and documenting stages of a project online in a blog
- receiving feedback from a teacher in an email or through an app.

Connecting families to learning

Research has shown that when your child is using digital technologies as part of a school program, your awareness of and involvement in their learning and work can increase.

Using the iPad at Rangeview Primary School:

- the iPad is a tool to be used to help engage children in their learning
- the iPad will not replace good teaching
- handwriting, writing, reading, maths and book work will still be valued and used
- the iPad will be used some of the time not all of the time
- it will often be used as a collaborative tool

Some information is taken from the Victorian DET web site.

RPS -   Frequently Asked Questions

Why we have chosen iPads over other tablets?

We have been advised by our technicians that iPads are currently the best tablet device for 1:1 learning and connecting to our Rangeview wireless netwrok. Many of the local Secondary Schools are also introducing a 1:1 iPad program.

1. iPads are an evolved product
The iPad has been a leader in its class ever since it came out. Apple have refined it and bettered it with every new release, so it's tried, tested and proven as a viable tablet product.

2. Apple makes the software and the device
No other device boasts the same kind of symbiosis. The software and device are made for each other so there is little degree for problems. This in turn means that usability and consistency in experience is maintained. This is ideal in a training/education environment. This also means that teacher training and supporting products is very easy. Not much need for external support services.

3. The App Store
Apple have quite a vigorous regime with standards regarding what kind of Apps are available for iPad users. This kind of scrutiny is really useful where control and user management is required. There is almost no chance of user customisation or hacking of the system. This leads to less support issues and user downtime.

Also, there are over 475 000 apps available of which approx. 20 000 are designed specifically for educational purposes. This will continue to grow. This is a rich source for teachers when planning apps for curriculum integration.

Staff Professional Development

Over the years some Rangeview staff have received funding to research the best possible BYOD program, visiting other schools, reading studies and attending presentations. In 2015 Rangeview became part of the NPDL 21st Century Learning project and again has had access to resources. Since the introduction of the BYOiPad program Staff have been receiving professional development and mentoring around technology as a tool for learning and best practice in the classroom. This is an ongoing process.

School Computers and Infrastructure

Rangeview continues to enjoy access to desktop computers and laptops. The school has these organised under 2 leases whereby they are changed over every 4 years. This enables us to keep our school using up to date computers. Children at Rangeview will continue to have access to these technologies.

The school also has 65 school owned iPads that are used in sets in Foundation classrooms and have been given to teachers to use with their classes and to increase their own knowledge and development.

The school devotes a high proportion of its funds to the ICT budget, it is not sustainable for our school (or most Government Schools) to purchase an iPad for every child. Cost is a definite factor in implementing a BYOD program.

The DET supports the use of BYOD programs in all Government schools and is supporting schools with their "eduSTAR.net" wireless network.

Purchasing iPads

JB HiFI Educational Services (the company that gives technical support to Rangeview Primary School) is able to provide an online portal for parents to purchase their iPads through. They provide a streamlined way of purchasing the iPad. They offer competitive prices on:

- iPad and iPad mini
- Accessories - a very safe and durable cover
- Insurance and AppleCare
- An interest free payment system over approximately a 2 or 3 year time frame

Cybersafety / eSmart School

We are an eSmart school.
Clear Policies and user agreements are in place.
Cyber Safety lessons are given in all grades that focus on being smart, safe and responsible digital citizens.
Cybersafety is incorporated in the Start Up program at the start of the year and then revisited throughout the year by all grades. It includes

- Netiquette
- Cybersafety
- Being an Upstander
- Preventing cyber bullying

Community involvement is encouraged and parent nights are run to give parents the knowledge to help their child at home. An eSmart Committee comprises of teachers, parents and children.

Parent Information nights are run by:

- ACMA – Australian Federal government
- Think u Know – Australian Federal Police

Children and Families without an iPad

If children don't have their own iPad they may:

- have access to the school owned laptops, desktops and iPads
- will be able to carry out activities and tasks using alternative technologies or methods
  A school owned iPad will not be able to be taken home.

Further Reading

Department of Education Victoria iPads for Learning Trial 2011

www.ipadsforeducation.vic.edu.au

'The iPads for Learning Trial reinforces that quality of teaching, combined with purposeful and effective use of ICT contributes to improved learning.'