BYOD UPDATE

Classroom Update, and an Invitation

Term two is drawing to a close so an update on the Bring Your Own Device across grade 4 is in order. In terms of usage around 40%-60% of students across the three classes are regularly bringing a device from home to school. The students who are bringing devices have quickly developed a number of important device management skills: managing multiple passwords and account logins; ensuring proxy filtering is enabled at school; ensuring apps and web resources used are appropriate to the content being studied in class. Students have also become comfortable making decisions about the appropriate tool for the job (for example using a paper and pen for drafting ideas quickly, and then using a word processor or presentation tool when working on a copy that will be shared with classmates or teachers).

A number of collaborative projects have been taking shape also with BYODs as a central technology. These projects have been built around Google Drive and have allowed students to delve more deeply into the inquiry units and develop a rich understanding of De Bono’s Thinking Hats - the student owned devices and the cloud-based Google Drive environment are allowing us to create collaborative learning opportunities that would never have possible.

See page 2 if you would like your child to be part of the Grade 4 BYOD program at St Peter Apostle.
The grade 4 teachers are continuing to work with the Catholic Education Office (via the ICON Research Project) to develop our curriculum to take full advantage of the possibilities offered by bringing student owned devices into the classroom. Last week the grade 4 team attended the second in a series of full day workshops with a select group of research schools all focussed on re-imaging learning and teaching in a 21st century context.

This week Mrs. Harvey (4A), along with Mr. Bull (ICT Leader), Mrs. Wilson (Director of Learning), Mrs. Blackley (Deputy Principal) and representatives from grades 3, 5 and 6 are attending the eduTECH Conference in Brisbane. This conference features internationally renowned presenters in the field of using ICT to improve student learning outcomes: Sir Ken Robinson and Prof. Sugata Mitra should provide some excellent insights to bring back to the school and embed in our BYOD program.

The BYOD program continues to go from strength to strength and is being supported heavily by the school interms of professional development for the teachers involved. We would like to spread the benefits of student owned devices to a greater number of students to maximise the learning outcomes for all students in grade 4 and ultimately grades 5 and 6 also.

If you were unable to attend the initial Grade 4 BYOD Project Parent Forum in term one, and would like your child to benefit from participation in the program, then we have some good news. As we have now spent several weeks ironing out the rough spots in the program, and answering many of the initial concerns with the project we have determined that an hour long forum is no longer needed. So, in order to become involved and have your child bringing a device and participating fully in the project, all it will take is a quick phone call or chat to your classroom teacher or Mr. Bull (ICT Leader). We will be able to answer your questions and convey any important information in a few minutes, we will then send home the permission form with your son/daughter.

“Student participation increases. Students like using their personal devices, so they become engaged in whatever it is that they’re doing with them — including classwork, which becomes even more interactive when everyone has access to technology. Unlike a school-provided device, the personal device (and the desire to continue using it) goes home with the student. In this way, BYOD enables and fosters 24x7 learning.”

CDW-G White Paper on BYOD in Schools