Dear Parents/Carers,

In 2016 parents of students in Years 1 – 6 and Prep (semester two) will have the opportunity to nominate their child for the ePAL program in which students will have their own privately owned and managed iPad or Microsoft Surface to support their learning.

**Program Description:**
The aim of the ePAL (electronic Portable Anytime Learning) program is to create and support teaching and learning in a digital learning environment. It strongly encourages the community school value of **Innovation**. This program supports our Mango Hill State School eLearning vision to educate and engage students utilising the rapidly developing and changing world of technology. The whole school actively uses and promotes ICT opportunities that are purposeful, engaging and intrinsically linked to curriculum, quality teaching practice and maximising student learning outcomes.

eLearning at MHSS provides the place, time and opportunity for students to access, evaluate and transform information beyond the immediate task.

Students will use their device for a range of purposes throughout all stages of learning such as planning and researching; applying and deepening knowledge; reflecting, evaluating and sharing. It is not expected that these devices will be in constant use nor replace the important need for students to learn to read and write using more traditional forms. Similar to all teaching and learning tools in our school, the devices will be used to enrich the learning experience.


We believe our ePAL program meets the criteria.

**Why iPads and Microsoft Surface**
These two devices have been selected for the ePAL program as the Department of Education and Training (DET) supports both platforms and they are options for the BYOD at our feeder high school. DETE’s wireless infrastructure in schools has been configured to accommodate the devices. Neither device presents a security risk to our network infrastructure.

Both the iPads and Surface are suitable because:
- Wireless access to DET’s filtered Managed Internet Service is possible.
- A wide range of versatile apps are available to support all areas of the curriculum.
- Students are able to create a diverse range of high quality digital content with limited training in the use of the applications.

iPads are also suitable for our younger students because:
- One swipe and the iPad is on and ready to be used.
- The device is lightweight and portable.

Microsoft Surface devices have been introduced for the year 4-6 students as:
- A hybrid between a laptop and tablet with a detachable keyboard, stylus and USB capability.
- The Microsoft Office Suite functionality.

**The Devices:**

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<tr>
<th>Minimum Requirement</th>
<th>Recommended Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1-3</td>
<td>iPad 3rd Generation, 16GB with WiFi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4-6</td>
<td>iPad 3rd Generation, 16GB with WiFi OR Microsoft Surface RT- Surface 2 32GB</td>
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**NOTE:** In 2016, we are recommending the iPad 3rd Generation or higher as we cannot be certain that the iPad 2 will be supported with future iOS updates. At this stage the iPad 2 is working in our school environment.
NOTE: 3G or 4G is not permitted at school. While at school students will access the DET Wi-Fi network that ensures they are using the secured internet environment provided by Education Queensland. They authenticate through the school server which administers special permissions and restrictions. All downloads and emails are monitored through the school filters and these can be reviewed by the school Principal or the Managed Internet Service Administrators (Heather Williamson and school technician).

The device can be purchased at any retailer. **We strongly recommend that the iPad has a robust protective case suitable for student use and the Surface has a detachable keyboard and stylus.**

Responsibilities - Student, Parents and School

i. Parents and Students
Parents and students will agree to and sign the terms and conditions of the 2016 ePAL Student Participation Agreement. Parents will be asked to discuss the participation agreement with their child, so that their child is aware of the acceptable use guidelines of their personal device whilst at Mango Hill State School.

Parents agree to purchase and manage the nominated apps (as listed on the Mango Hill Website) required to support the students learning. The basic start-up suite of apps, suggested by the school, provides cross-curricular functionality and gives students the opportunity to engage in a vast range of digital learning.

Parents manage the iTunes or Windows store accounts - by law students under the age of 13 are unable to have these accounts. They will need to back-up the device on a weekly basis either to a home computer or to ‘The Cloud’.

**Apps** - all apps are purchased through the Apple App Store or the Windows Store using personal IDs. With a combination of paid and free apps, the school suggested suite will cost approximately $60. Throughout the year teachers may request parents to download more specialised apps, but these will not exceed $20. Prior to these requests the apps will be approved by the MHSS eLearning Committee that will ensure the apps are in line with the school vision.

Once the app is downloaded to an account it can be shared across multiple devices. Therefore, parents / carers who have more than one child in the program will purchase the suite and share across the devices. The app developers may periodically upgrade these apps and therefore parents need to ensure updates are completed at home.

ii. The School
- The School will provide a lockable storeroom for the devices during school breaks.
- Classroom teachers will regularly revisit the safe and acceptable use of the devices with all students.
- Classroom teachers will discuss the participation agreement with the students, so that all are aware of the acceptable use guidelines of their personal device whilst at Mango Hill State School.
- Classroom teachers will support students with the configuration of the device to access the approved Department of Education and Training (DET) secure Internet filtered environment as well as the use of applications throughout all stages of learning.
- The eLearning Committee will ensure that that the list of recommended apps provide cross curricular functionality and give students the opportunity to engage in a vast range of digital learning in line with the MHSS vision.
- The school will maintain professional development for teachers working in the program.
- Throughout the year the school will host information sessions for parents and students that will focus on the management of the devices and using applications to create digital content.

The Process
- Parents sign the agreement and return to the school office- sent to the class teacher.
- App list will be emailed to these students who nominate.
- Parents purchase and setup device.

Thanks

Heather Williamson
Deputy Principal

Mango Hill State School