It is wonderful to see parents asking different question about the iPad introduction. A number of the questions have been already answered. I would like to reiterate some of the questions being discussed by parents this week.

1. Why the pressure to sell?
   
   *It is not compulsory to buy. Notebook will be available from the mobile lab on a limited basis. It is true that as a 21st Century school committed to best practice teaching and learning, we embrace the pressure to empower all student learning in this way and ask for your support.*

2. This request for an extra $100 deposit per child does not show any apparent care for the extent of the expenses faced by families just before Christmas.

   *The decision to begin the release of the iPad program in March was brought forward when parents we spoke to wanted to include the iPad in some way as a Christmas present for their family. The rental scheme has been devised to support families who are not able to purchase outright. As with any concern regarding school financial matters, please make arrangements directly with Kerry Wood on 9878 9339. It has always been our intention to do a second release for the community in 2012 if required.*

3. Why weren’t the results of the survey carried out by the school, released to the community?

   *The survey results were discussed in the Principal Report in the Newsletter in Term 3. The purpose of the online survey was to ask for parent opinion to provide data for the school on this community’s readiness for the transition of educational computer devices from notebooks to tablets (iPad, Android). It is clear to educators around the world that mobile tablet devices are an innovation ready for system wide implementation within the next eighteen month time frame.*

4. Other schools that are using the iPads have gradually rolled out the iPad program. Eg. Camberwell (4/5/6) or Mitcham (Preps). Why can’t Whitehorse do this? What’s the rush?

   *Our main reason is equity - each child with equal access to use the most effective powerful mobile learning device presently available - from Prep to Year 6.*

5. Can there be a complete list of Apps supplied to parents so parents can do a cost assessment for themselves, before committing to the school’s program?

   *Many of the Apps we use will be free or will cost from 99 cents upwards. Our list will reflect our curriculum delivery and is estimated at around $50.*

6. Parents are very concerned about the little kids using the iPads because they cost so much and the children are not so/as reliable with things. Will the school reconsider the Preps, 1&2 NOT using them?

   *Given that Preps have been given iPads in many schools, it is clear to us that this has been trialled successfully and this decision was not made lightly.*
7. Are we going to have a Community Meeting regarding this program?
   Two meetings were held on the topic of 21st Century learning this year, iPads are only a small part of that process. While it is an individual choice for parents, school council has already approved the program for the school.

8. Why only one week’s notice to get the money in, a lot of people have to budget for that extra $100 per child.
   We do apologise for the two week turn around however the option was moved forward at the request of families who wished to make a Christmas purchase. Many parents were then able to buy their own device outright rather than provide the $100 deposit. Please contact Kerry Wood regarding your individual financial situation as always.

9. How much are the iPads to buy after the two year are up?
   Neither the leasing company nor the school can predict this. This is standard leasing practice.

10. What about the security of children walking to and from school, aren’t they at risk of getting mugged?
   We strongly advise children to have their iPad in their school bag and not carry it in plain sight. We plan to hold training sessions next year to provide students and families with the skills to stay safe while travelling to and from school.

11. Isn’t the school making a bigger division between the “haves and the have nots”, eg. The kids with the parents who can afford to buy the iPads and those parents who can’t?
   We have designed the rental program to enable all families to access latest technology through enabling them to pay it off over the two years. Additionally the program places technology in the hands of the whole family not just the child, making it far more equitable and affordable.

12. Is it just lazy teaching? Won’t the teachers be sitting around doing nothing?
   It is certain that the opposite is true because the teachers have to be actively involved in the use of the iPad. The staff have to constantly update their own learning, think thoroughly about the individual child’s needs and plan accordingly. This is certainly a far cry from the days in education when everyone did exactly the same regardless of the child’s ability.

13. I feel scared of all these devices that our kids have, when I do not have a good understanding of computers myself?
   One of the aims of the program is to enable the whole family able to use the device. We will provide parent training during the year and provide after school support so that parents will feel confident in its use for their purposes.

Thank you to those parents who have asked the questions that were on many people’s minds.

Paul Merriweather Dec 2011