Dear Parents

Here are the latest developments for the “St Columba’s 1 to 1 iPad Program”.

Since our last letter the school has been collecting orders that we will pass onto Next Byte. We understand that some parents have contacted Matthew Ritter directly and he has happily answered any queries you may have had. Others have contacted Gaylene Sutton our IT Coordinator.

Our year 1 teachers have now been issued with their iPads and have been fortunate to have had a personal session from the Apple Education advisor, Joe Perkins. Our teachers discovered just how beneficial these devices are in a classroom environment when used to its potential. All are enthusiastic about the future and we’re sure this will be the start of a “Great Journey” for our young learners. Our teachers will continue to have professional development throughout the year, ensuring they are well equipped to deliver lessons from across the curriculum using a range of iPad resources.

Recently in the headlines, Apple announced that an Apple ID could be created by schools for students under the age of 13. Following a meeting with Apple personnel, we have been informed that at this time it is only available in the United States. While Apple expects Australia will eventually participate in this program, in the meantime we must to abide by the terms and conditions Apple has in Australia. What this means to parents and students of St Columba’s is that all Apple IDs must be created by an adult. Therefore, we are asking parents to create a new Apple ID for the St Columba’s 1 to 1 iPad Program. When the student reaches the appropriate age recommended by Apple this account can be transferred to the student.

NOTE: It is strongly recommended by Apple not to use an existing Apple ID.

Apple IDs can be created on either a computer prior to receiving the iPad, or on the iPad during the setup process. Each Apple ID requires an email address that is not linked to an existing Apple ID. After creating your new Apple ID it must be authenticated from the email address provided. Parents are asked to use a personal email address and not one that belongs to the student. You may use an existing email address or you may need to create a new address for this purpose. Any type of email will be appropriate, Hotmail, Gmail etc.

As a result of the change we are now asking parents to setup their iPad prior to attending the “Boot Camp”. Please remember to not include credit card details.

Please enter the child’s name in the “Settings, General Settings, Name eg: (Joseph Smith)”
By having all of this completed prior to the “Boot Camp” we will have saved everyone a lot of time and hopefully get you home earlier.

In due time detailed instructions on how to setup the iPad will be available from the School Website listed under “Curriculum > Information Technology> Ipads”. Gaylene Sutton our IT Coordinator will be available from 8:00am to 8:30am Monday the 28th April, Tues 29th, Wed 30th and Thur 1st May, to assist anyone who may require guidance.

**Attendance to the “Boot Camp” is still required** by all families as this is when everyone will install the PWIL Wireless Certificate. As mentioned in the last letter, this can only occur at school and requires a number of procedures. Teachers and School Officers at St Columba’s will also be demonstrating iPads on the night in various ways they can be used within the classroom and school environment.

We thank you, for your support and willingness to participate in our 1 to 1 program. We apologise for any changes that may have occurred along the way, some of which have been beyond our control. We are still confident that it’s all in the best interest to your child’s learning. Bringing 21st Century Learning into your child’s classroom is exciting for everyone, most of all “The Learner”.

We ARE on the journey and together we can make a difference to the quality of teaching and learning at St Columba’s.

 Regards

Martin Wilkie Andrew Esposito
Principal On Behalf of ICT Committee