



Manor Lakes College

Mission:

Manor Lakes College will create a vibrant and harmonious community of responsible learners who have a confident belief in their ability to learn, grow and succeed.

1:1 iPads 4 Learning @ MLC **Parent Update - May 2012** **Years 6 and 7**

May 2012

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This is simply a courtesy letter to inform you of recent happenings and updates in regards to our 1:1 iPad Program in years 6 and 7.

Once again, we'd like to thank you as parents/guardians for your continued and overwhelming support that we as a college have received. Programs like the 1:1 iPad program can only be successful if we have the high support of yourselves in relation to the high quality ICT programs we here at the college run.

It has been great from an ICT Leading Teacher's point of view to see the students using their devices as tools to assist their learning. The students have been learning and developing new concepts with the assistance of their iPad device and as their teachers will attest, it has certainly been great to witness.

Like any new programs and initiatives that we as a college undertake, there are always 'teething' issues that we encounter. It has been pleasing that with your support we are overcoming these to ensure that the students involved in the program are using their devices correctly during class via demonstrating behaviors that are expected.

We as a college do ask that you as parents / guardians monitor your student's iPad regularly for inappropriate content. This can come in the form of inappropriate applications, music, movies and images. It is important that you are aware of what your students are doing on their device, especially whilst not at the college.

We have encountered students that have been using applications in class that we as a college deem inappropriate, such as games that contain adult content and violence. If students are witnessed playing these games in class at any stage throughout the day, students will be spoken to and have that particular application deleted. Parents will then be notified of the student's behaviour.

Very recently we have had several damaged iPad's come to visit the tech's at their office, all damages being smashed and cracked iPad screens. Generally, a broken iPad screen will warrant a replacement of that device however we have worked with our Mac Supplier / Repairers to where we can now have screen replaced for a nominal fee. Parents need to ensure that students are looking after their technology to ensure these types of breakages do not occur.

The downloading of new applications and the updating old ones can be quite a taxing experience, especially if application updates are large in their file sizes. Due to this, and more and more schools moving towards iPads and 1:1 Mac devices, DEECD (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development), have placed blockages on downloads from the iTunes store. This obviously affects our college greatly, meaning that download times for applications here at Manor Lakes are ridiculously slow,

and may need to occur at home. If teaching staff are wanting students to have a particular application they may be asked to download this at home. In saying this, the size of the application will certainly be taken in to consideration. We will also not be asking students to download paid applications.

In relation to the installments that are required to be paid for the iPad device for those who purchased through Manor Lakes, the second installment date has come and gone. Can you please ensure you get this installment paid a.s.a.p. so as to not have any outstanding payments lingering down the track.

Lastly, our college's reputation of running effective a 1:1 iPad Program has been gaining steady momentum which is a great thing. It is the students involved in the 1:1 program that are making it the successful venture that it is and the work that they are producing has been of a very high quality. We are having visits weekly from schools and colleges from across the state to see just how our teachers are using iPad's to assist student learning and how students have been creating outstanding work to demonstrate and reflect what they have learnt.

Remember also, that our 1:1 iPad Blog is up and running and a lot of what we do gets posted for all to see so that we can share our journey with others and learn from the feedback that we receive. The link to this is: <http://ipads4learning.global2.vic.edu.au/>

If you have any questions about anything that has been mentioned above, or something that has not, please contact your child's teacher or myself directly via the details below.

Thank You,

Corrie Barclay
eLearning Coordinator / ICT Leading Teacher

eMail: corriearclay@manorlakesp12.vic.edu.au
Manor Lakes P-12 Specialist College
2 - 50 Minindee Road, Wyndham Vale 3024
Ph: 03 9741 4202