Monday 25th August, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Digitally Enhanced Learning

We are pleased to be writing to you to seek feedback on an ongoing initiative at Mount Hutt College. We currently have a digitally enhanced class at Year 8. We are proposing to include several more digitally enhanced classes for 2015 at a range of year levels and would value your feedback to determine its viability.

Currently, students at Mount Hutt College can access computers during class by going to our computer rooms, using small pods of 4-10 computers around the school, or bringing sets of 10 netbook computers or IPads into the classroom. These resources are limited in number and take time to bring to class or take the class to.

In 2014, Mount Hutt College has been trialling a full class of students who are immediately able to access digital resources and applications whenever they need it during class time. This has meant that each student has a device that can access the school wireless connection. Already at this stage of the year, it has shown to be successful.

Students will need to bring their <u>own</u> device. The school will provide some guidelines about the type of device that will be suitable for learning. We will specify the basic functions the device will need to be able to do (eg. Wifi, internet capable) but will not specify the brands or types of device (eg. Netbook, laptop, tablet). Due to their small screen and keyboard size, we do not consider that a smartphone would be adequate.

The concept of a digitally enhanced classroom is not new and the popularity of this type of learning is growing across Canterbury, New Zealand and the world. The way these classrooms work differs from school to school, however the aim is always the same – to enable students to be engaged and independent learners who utilise digital technologies as an integral part of their normal programme.

Some of the benefits of incorporating digital technology within the learning programme are to provide greater opportunities for:
- New, authentic learning opportunities
- Immediate access to information
- Creative and innovative thinking
- Students to overcome barriers to learning
- Collaboration between students within the classroom and beyond

Mount Hutt College

We will provide:

- Secure storage of devices in lockable lockers
- Internet filtering through N4L
- Fast and reliable wireless through-out the school

Our proposal would see students using pen and paper as standard learning tools, however they would also be able to access a wide range of digital technologies to enhance their learning.

If you are interested in finding out more, please register your initial interest by filling out the attached form and returning it to the office by Friday 5th September.

Yours sincerely,

John Schreurs
Principal
Mount Hutt College