

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the Rosary 1:1 BYOD iPad program teachers, students and parents were asked to reflect on the strengths, successes and challenges of the iPad program so far. The responses are detailed below.

Strengths / Successes of the iPad Program (Teacher perspective)

- Ease of use
- The iPads have allowed for more inquiry based and self-directed learning opportunities
- Student engagement levels are high
- More quality work from students
- Increase in the creativity of student work
- Marking and feedback to students is more efficient
- Capacity for students to use iPads to record thought processes, sequences (especially for Maths investigations)
- Students have shown more independence with problem solving
- iPads encourage / enable students to work collaboratively
- Capacity for research much improved due to availability and access
- Students are developing their capacity to choose the most suitable way to represent their learning
- Learning is moving more easily outside of the physical and time boundaries of the classroom
- Higher quality and depth of student work has been noted
- Greater sharing of learning is facilitated through the iPads.

Challenges of the iPad Program (Teacher perspective)

- Students who break the rules of the iPad agreement
- Technical issues
- Students taking responsibility to bring a charged iPad to school each day
- Increasing the involvement of parents in their child's learning

What have been some of the successes for learning with your iPads? (Student perspective)

- Great for learning and researching
- It is easy to access information / easy to research / using the internet / information at your fingertips
- We can email
- We can submit work easily / submit work instead of having to remember to bring things in
- Teachers are able to send us work
- Being able to communicate with the teacher if something goes wrong
- It makes complicated things very clear and easy
- We can do our work quickly and efficiently using apps like *Explain Everything* and *Notability*
- You can be more creative in your work
- A lot of easy presentation tools
- Easier organisation / easier to find my work
- Fun ways of doing homework
- Making imovies
- It has spell check / spelling has become way easier
- Auto correct was a big help with my work
- I can find synonyms, definitions, and comment on words in two taps
- It is very interactive
- We get to explore learning in different ways / you have so many different options
- Helps my reading
- I do not write very neatly / I am a slow writer and the iPad makes it easier / don't have to worry about people not being able to read what I write
- Being able to share and publish work
- iPads help students engage more
- I have produced better work
- Learning new tools that we can use to learn even when not at school
- I can finish work I didn't finish in class / being able to work on things at home and school
- Helpful tool for homework / we have all these resources at our fingertips / I can revise things at home
- I can show my parents some of the things we have been learning in class
- I find that I can expand my learning in class
- The iPads are easy to operate... with a press of a button you can do something amazing like never before
- Different apps and choices

- Documents saving automatically
- We can tell teachers when we are sick
- You don't have to take books and pencil cases home – just your iPad
- You don't have to go on the computer and write work in your book / easier to use than going to a computer
- Help the environment by not using as much paper
- We can have fun with apps in class
- Some apps are exhilarating to use

What have been some of the challenges for you with using iPads? (Student perspective)

- Internet not working at school occasionally / wifi is slow
- Some technical issues
- Apps taking too long to load
- Downloading some apps onto an older iPad
- Glitches in some apps / when they don't work
- When I forget to save things and then it's gone
- Problems with my email
- Printing
- Work being deleted / not being able to find work
- Learning how to use apps
- iPads are distracting for some students / some people off task
- You can't do some Mathematics activities on an iPad
- Doing homework
- Some people using iPads inappropriately / people not following the contract
- Being stressed at the beginning / getting used to the iPads at the start of the year
- People not bringing their iPad to school
- People not charging their iPad

Strengths /successes of the BYOD 1:1 Program to date (Parent perspective)

- Productivity has increased.
- Able to translate interesting ideas into presentable formats.
- Diversity in project work class has been doing.
- Variety of delivery methods for teaching and learning.
- Students of different capability able to explore and expand work options.
- Able to complete homework in a timely fashion. It is in the one place and can be done anytime i.e. more efficient. Increased motivation and enthusiasm for homework activities.
- Able to share and work on school tasks at home.
- Research is much easier. There is greater access to information and the children want to investigate.
- Improved reading skills.
- Ability to easily draft and edit work.
- Spelling – can see a word is wrong and then see how it is meant to be spelt, instead of waiting a day or so for the teacher to check the work.
- One item to take to school.
- Brings learning into the 21st Century. There is greater curiosity, creativity, engagement, motivation and collaboration.
- There has been a strong commitment by the children and a sense of empowerment and responsibility.
- Lots of apps make it more interesting rather than one textbook.
- Improving the student's computer skills and preparing them for high school.
- Children are more iPad literate / able to complete new tasks on iPad.
- Feedback from teachers and peers easy.
- Highly supportive of the iPad program and believe it has enriched my child's learning and increased interest and enjoyment.
- Informative parent session
- Learning new apps, tool, tips/tricks – benefit for all of the family.

Challenges of the BYOD 1:1 Program to date (Parent perspective)

- Difficulty checking what homework is being done.
- Difficult to keep track of work the child is undertaking/producing and the teacher's marking/feedback.
- When device is deactivated due to incorrect password all work can be lost and a very lengthy procedure to reload work and applications.
- Technical issues – but have been solved in a timely manner.
- Older style iPad not meeting all needs.
- Keeping handwriting skills developing concurrently.
- Concerned about child being able to spell words / iPad has easy correction tools.
- Remembering to take to school and ensuring that the iPad is charged.
- There is difficulty in monitoring game time, facetime, email, imessaging and social communication protocols at home.
- Varying usage between classes and teachers.
- Technology not being used to its full capacity – no communication to parents via iPads.
- School internet is not stable all the time.
- Increased screen time – concern that many hours are spent on the device.
- Printing
- Worksheets need to be repositioned to show landscape so students can complete

Further comments / suggestions from parents

Comments

- The parent information night was very informative particularly the teacher presentations on how they are managing their work distribution and assessment.
- I think that the iPad program has been a great thing and wish that it came in earlier because I think it would help others who may be struggling with school work eg more excited about reading and keeps the child engaged. Assists with spelling.
- This program is preparing our children for the real world, so well done and please keep developing it.
- I believe my concerns are easy to overcome by me being more involved with school work at home.
- I have found the experience of BYOD to be extremely difficult. I dislike the early access to emails with peers, the constant messaging that goes on all night. I would prefer the students not have BYOD in primary school. They already have a very extensive knowledge of technology and I think the focus should be on more foundational learning skills in primary school.
- I think the program has given the children another tool to achieve outcomes. They have fun on the iPads and never complain when there is a task on the iPad.
- We were told to keep the Apple ID password at home but I understand others have id and update things at school – is this correct?
- Mathematics – I like it but don't like that you cannot see the working out of the problem.
- Thank you teachers for giving our child an opportunity to experience the BYOD program.
- I am very proud the school took a somewhat unpopular stand to introduce this program as the benefits have become quite evident.

Suggestions

- Parents given a brief rundown by email or note about the work the child will be doing that semester.
- Set school protocols for behaviour.
- More consistent usage between grades and teachers.
- Mark and provide feedback on work submitted.
- Set homework out clearly each week using iPads.
- Use an online survey tool next time! 😊
- I would like to see them start using the iPad as they would in the workplace:
 - Meeting notes
 - Recollection of an event
 - Reviewing a documents and learning how to provide feedback within the tool
 - Using the calendar – as a diary of events but also to time manage homework / assignments with sport and family commitments
- I would like to see the use of the iPad expanded to include assessment / feedback throughout the term for children and parents
- I would like to see automated permission notes through kids iPads – maybe an app?
- More handwriting tasks for balance – aware it could be happening at school but more is better.
- More opportunity for parent / child engagement in iPad work.
- Restrict the use of the iPad for homework to no more that one hour a day. After this parents have the right to take the device away.
- It would be great if parents could receive children's homework for the week independently through an app or email.
- If possible I'd prefer updates to apps etc to be done at school because we're often not told until the last minute that something needs to be updated/installed.