Sign of the Times – CCC gets new High Tech Signage

You will have seen the new sign at the entrance to the school by now. This allows us not only to provide date, time and current temperature information, but any messages, reminders and announcements, via an online portal. We can quickly update parents and remind students about events.

This is only one part of our commitment to improving communication at CCC. Other strategies include regular posting on our Facebook page (please ‘like’ us) and the use of txt messaging or bulk emails. This use of digital communication is not only convenient, it also saved on printing which is good for the environment.

Myopia – Keep Myopia away, go Outdoors and Play!

CCC staff are very aware of the importance of finding balance between screen time and other learning activities. We are also constantly looking for ways to encourage students to get outside and enjoy God’s amazing creation. Our new Nature Space is a good example of this. Due to be officially opened soon, this amazing facility will provide students with a wide variety of opportunities to be physically active and develop social skills while breathing in good clear fresh air without a screen in sight.

The following information is from an article ‘The Myopia boom’

The Epidemic
Around the world, more and more children are visiting their optometrist with blurry distance vision caused by myopia (also known as short-sightedness). There has been a dramatic increase in the condition, with some countries having an increase of 90% being short-sighted. By some estimates, one-third of the
world’s population—2.5 billion people—could be affected by short-sightedness by the end of this decade.

The condition is more than an inconvenience. Glasses, contact lenses and surgery can help to correct it, but they do not address the underlying defect: a slight elongated eyeball, which means that the lens focuses light from far objects slightly in front of the retina, rather than directly on it. In severe cases, the deformations stretches and thins the inner parts of the eye, which increases the risk of retinal detachment, cataracts, glaucoma and even blindness. Because the eye grows throughout childhood, myopia generally develops in school-age children and adolescents.

More Time Outside
This threat has prompted a rise in research to try to understand the causes of the disorder. Scientists are beginning to discover that spending too long indoors is placing children at risk. Children need to spend more time outside.

For many years it was felt that genes was largely the reason for Myopia, however, studies have shown that book work is the culprit.

The use of Digital Devices
The modern rise in myopia mirrored a trend for children in many countries to spend more time engaged in reading, studying or—more recently—glued to computer and smartphone screens.

However, after examining how children spend their days, researches have now discovered that the time spent inside as opposed to spending time outside has a great impact on a child becoming short-sighed.

The Importance of Light
After studying more than 4,000 children from Sydney schools they found that children who spend less time outside were at greater risk of developing myopia. Close work might still have some effect, but what seemed to matter most was the eye’s exposure to bright light.

Based on there studies it is estimated that Children need to spend around three hours per day under light levels of at least 10,000 lux to be protected against myopia. This is the level experienced by someone under a shady tree, wearing sunglasses, on a bright summers day. A well lit classroom is usually no more then 500 lux.

Complete article can be downloaded from “Nature” - http://www.nature.com/news/the-myopia-boom-1.17120

The Myopia Boom Cont.

IT Security Tags
The IT Department has security tags available for attachment to individual student’s devices. A tag can be securely attached and both the tag number, device serial number and name of the student recorded should the device become lost or stolen. Student’s can go to the IT Department to register their device and have the tag attached.

Student Help Desk
The student help desk will be open each break. Students will be able to bring their device to get assistance during breaks. Please come to the IT office in A Block.
How we wish that was true! It can be so frustrating when your printer won’t print that document you need, or when your screen just freezes for no apparent reason, and these usually happen when you are in the biggest rush!

At CCC we are pushing many boundaries with technology integration and are striving to stay ahead of most other schools in the Gympie region, however it is not without its challenges. This year we have experienced a few difficulties and we are working hard to resolve them as soon as we can.

This term there was a significant internet outage affecting many businesses in South East Queensland. This outage was a huge inconvenience as we tried to carry on our business of educating children. As a result of this we are investigating an internet access back up that will ensure that we have an alternate internet access point should this kind of major disruption happen again.

Earlier this year we were experiencing some wifi blackspots in some areas of the college, particularly those points where many users are accessing internet at the same time. We have been addressing this by installing many more wireless access points each allowing for a higher number of users to connect at the same time. We have conducted comparisons with other schools in the Gympie region and we now have greater wireless access than almost every other school, along with an internet bandwidth almost double what most schools currently have access to.

Lastly, some of our wireless screen connections for staff were disconnecting or not connecting as consistently as required. Our IT department is working hard to investigate this issue and have already resolved some of these, however a few classrooms still experience this problem.

Year 8 Virtual Debate

On Wednesday 25th May our Year 7/8 Debating Team comprising of Zane Springhall (1st speaker), Kate Davis (2nd speaker), Tommie Pienaar (3rd speaker) and Ella Norman (4th speaker) engaged in a virtual debate with St John’s Lutheran Kingaroy.

Our team was allocated the affirmative side, debating the topic: That homework should be banned. We were able to participate in this national debating competition using our new 75 inch TV screen in conjunction with a Microsoft Surface device. Both teams logged into the Zoom software and were able to see and hear each other on screen during the debate.

An adjudicator at a separate location judged the debate. Our students spoke very well and only narrowly missed out on a victory. Another virtual debate is scheduled for Wednesday 10 August and results will be posted in our newsletter.
Secondary BYOD One2One Program

CCC is joining many others schools in becoming a full BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school in Secondary. This means that each student will be responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own laptop or similar device. CCC will ensure that devices are connected to our network, have high speed (and content filtered) access to the internet and access to the full Microsoft suite, Adobe suite and Dreamspark (a collection of programs used for Coding, Robotics and Video Game Design).

CCC highly recommends that students purchase the Microsoft Surface device. The Surface is a very high quality device capable of easily running the full Microsoft suite of applications and providing students with a long battery life that will last a full school day. Up until the end of June, CCC is able to take advantage of a significantly reduced price on both the 64GB and 128GB Surface devices, including a keyboard and pen. Please see costing and further information below.

Microsoft Surface Pricing (orders must be in to the Front Office by June 28th with a $100 deposit)
Surface 3 64GB with Type Cover and Pen: Usually $926, now $655 until June 28th only
Surface 3 128GB with Type Cover and Pen: Usually $971, now $685 until June 28th only

While the Surface is the recommended device, many other devices are suitable as long as they meet the minimum specifications.

Minimum Specifications:
Windows 7 or later (most new devices come with Windows 10), or OS Maverick or later
Dual Band Wireless with 5GHZ capability
Staff at Harvey Norman are very capable of helping you choose a device suitable for a BYOD School Program. iPads, Android tablets & Chromebooks are not encouraged.

Implementation Timeline
Many students are currently using devices in lessons and teachers are making excellent use of this additional delivery mode. The implementation timeline of the BYOD program is as follows:
2016: All Secondary students are encouraged to purchase a recommended device
2017: Year 11 and 12 students are required to have a device, as well as students in Year 9 or 10 studying Graphics or Digital Technology. All other Secondary students are encouraged to buy a device.
2018: All Secondary students are required to own a device and bring to school every day.

OneNote & New Screens
In our last update we were excited to share about a new 75 inch flat screen that was installed in L2. Since that update we have installed a second screen in L3 also. This is certainly the right direction for CCC to go as these large screens provide a crystal clear image for our students when our staff are showing digital content. Our staff have already embraced the use of OneNote for Education and the sharing of information on screen and online with students has ensured that students never miss a chance to learn. OneNote has enabled staff and students to collaborate online and gives our teachers an opportunity to provide feedback directly into the students’ work space.

Want to Know More?
Email your questions and comments to one2one@cccgympie.qld.edu.au