

Enner Glynn School

(Whakatu Schools' eLearning Cluster)

Supporting our eLearning Strategy with Mobile Devices (iPads).

The 'Whole-School' concept:

When planning our whole-school focus across 2011, we decided to introduce iPads as a learning tool into our school. This concept supported the ICT-PD Cluster National Goals 1 and 3 (*Schools will use e-learning to give effect to the New Zealand Curriculum / Te Mātauranga o Aotearoa by [1] increasing the capability of students to become successful digital citizens, and by [3] for Teachers to integrate e-learning effectively into their practice through creating an innovative and exciting learning environment for all students*). We also wanted to support our [2011 eLearning aim](#) by trying to achieve our targets for increased access to eLearning tools for our students, in particular through supporting the introduction of mobile technologies into the classroom.

The Focus:

Our students now have greater access to technology for their own use in school. A recent survey of Year 4 students indicated that 22% of them believed that using the computers helped them with their learning, about 16% could identify how it helped their learning.



Why did we do this:

We wanted like to provide more opportunities for children to learn with technologies and during the process get them to build their understandings about how they learn. We got caught up in the 'iPad hype' early on. However we discussed the development of the product and withheld purchase until the devices with cameras came up. We have a number of desktop and laptops in our school and we had established a target in our [2011 eLearning aim](#) to support the baseline evidence in our annual plan to provide more access to our students with mobile technologies. Once the iPad 2 came on the market we ordered 6 of them and began our learning with this tool.

What did we do?

Professional Learning

Our initial focus was on the teachers and teacher professional learning and support with the iPads. To achieve this we allowed the staff to take the devices home to have a 'play time' and explore ways in which they could

use these tools in the classroom to support student learning. Teachers were introduced to some 'Apps' and encourages to look on the iTunes store for Apps that would support learning in their classrooms.

Teachers were also invited to take part in the Genuis Cafe (previous page) and spend more time looking at how students were using iPad and how this could influence their practice, particularly with the addition of the camera in the iPad 2. Our students also made their entire movie project during the



Kids Can Film Festival on the iPad 2. This was quite an undertaking (as the music score was done on GarageBand) and we had a few 'learning' matters to resolve to actually make it work, but it worked nonetheless. Our movie can be found on our [VLN Blog](#). Finally, we hold regular 'iPad Parties' during our professional learning meetings where the teachers get into groups and share Apps and successes and this is shared with the wider staff to gather ideas for use in the classroom.



Tool for Learning

There is a massive pedagogical question that needs to be explored when introducing any new technology into a learning environment. Everyone can wax lyrical about how it motivates and engages students, but we need to be more critical about how it can actually make a difference for the learners and improve learning and achievement outcomes for them. For us we needed to ensure that this was not an expensive workbook or camera and is actually used as a tool to support learning. We are exploring ways of measuring this accurately through a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods. We are satisfied that the students are accessing the technology consistently, so now we need to see how outcomes are improving.

What Happened?

We began to develop and [iPad integration](#) ideas to support teachers to integrate the technology into their classroom practice. This is a collaborative, reflective tool and was for reference to support teachers to

question their use of the iPads in classroom contexts. We also set up each iPad with a gmail account so students could video or photograph their learning and share with their parents. This proved to be a really valuable use of the iPads and allowed students who may not be fluent writers to reflect and share their learning through a video learning story or a pictorial learning story. This idea was instigated by teachers who used the integration plan to develop the idea. Teachers were encouraged to think about the use of the iPad and how it supported learning in the classrooms by using this tool during appraisal and walkthroughs.

Interestingly, our follow up survey told us that 91% of the Year 5s (last years Year 4s) believed that using the computers (including iPads) helped them with their learning, and approximately 56% could identify how it helped their learning with a sound explanation. This was a dramatic increase on the previous year's survey.

However, one of the biggest successes we have had is with some of our special needs students. We collected some evidence using 4 of our special needs students using the iPads and found that the touch gestures suited them, even the students with fine motor difficulties. We also found that students liked using the iPad because they didn't have to rely on their reading and literacy skills to operate the device, so they found some independent success. Our results also showed us that the special needs students made better progress when they had supporting instruction from an adult to reinforce the learning that they were doing.

What do we plan to do next?

We are now planning to introduce more iPads into the school and develop a more robust support plan which will fit our soon to be developed pedagogy plan (to be a 21st Century pedagogy plan!). We plan to have at least 2 iPads per classroom by 2013.

Links:

We also received coverage for our work in this area in the news media on the Stuff website.

-  <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/5763337/iPads-in-dictionaries-out>
-  <http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/5025837/Pupils-wise-up-to-online-predators>
-  <http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/features/weekend/5440524/Teachers-the-guides-on-the-side>

