The use of technology in our everyday lives has become as normal as normal can be. Here at Normanhurst West PS the staff is ensuring that technology is effectively being used as a learning tool to engage students in their learning and promote greater educational outcomes.

Recently I visited several classes across the school to see first-hand the wonderful learning opportunities happening. What really impressed me was the variety of uses across the grades but also more importantly across many of the Key Learning Areas, such as English, Mathematics, Science and visual arts.

Miss Duncan using iPads in reading groups.

The children were thoroughly engaged in their learning and were happy to share their experiences. One child in Miss Duncan’s Year 2 class commented that “Learning on the iPads makes it fun.” The activities were targeted to their reading level and were focusing on their comprehension through a variety of activities.

5BM are currently studying a novel of their choice and have a range of the activities they can select from to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a novel they have read. As a I walked around the room all children were very excited about the work they had completed and their next task. All children in the class will have the opportunity to complete a component of their novel study using technology. The children I saw were creating an acrostic poem to describe their novel, a letter to the author and a letter to the publisher.

5BM children writing, editing and publishing letters and poems as part of the Novel Study activities.

6M as always utilising the laptops within the Year 6 classrooms to investigate 3D objects and their properties. The focus of the lesson was to use Google Sketchup to create a range of 3D objects, identify their properties and then to discover the relationship between the number of faces, edges and vertices. The extension activity allowed the students to progress their learning to applying Euler’s formula and test it against the 3D objects they created.

6M using Google Sketch-up on the laptops.

Mrs Georgiou’s year 1 class were engrossed in an addition lesson using MAB blocks on the iPads to assist with their learning. MAB blocks allow children to master our number system and to assist with their knowledge and skills when
adding, subtracting, dividing or multiplying through hands-on activities.

1G learning addition with iPads.

Stage 2 children are currently researching information about recycling and looking at ways to improve recycling within the school. One of the tasks has them prepare a presentation about recycling and its benefits and prepare a proposal for Mr McLaren about improving recycling within the school.

3K researching information about recycling on the iPads.

4S children researching recycling.

3/4P preparing their presentations on recycling.

KM were highly engaged in a subtraction lesson using the IWB and iPads. The children were very eager to share their learning with me. The mathematical language they were using was excellent and they could clearly explain what they needed to do to be successful.

KM working on their subtraction skills using number lines on the iPads.
KM learning through interaction with the IWB.

Year 6 has been creating their own video game in class over the last little while. The culminating activity is creating and then playing their video game. The process has seen them review other people’s games and highlight the differences between good and bad video games to inform their choices later on, learn about programming and write reviews and back stories along the way as they complete missions, which improves their knowledge of game design.

6P designing and creating their video games.

The app Book Creator was in great use in 2S with Mrs Steggles. The children had the option to take photos or create their own drawings. They then had to add text which linked the text to the picture in a sequential order. All the children were highly engaged in the lesson.

2S using Book Creator on the iPads.

Scout in 2S showing me her text.

Well done to all the staff for incorporating technology into their teaching and learning programs to benefit the children. It is evident that lots of time, effort and thought has gone towards purposeful learning opportunities.

Mr Pinchbeck
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