

Information and Communications Technologies

At Mount Waverley Primary School we have a designated computer lab with 30 new Dell desktop computers. Students in Years Prep to 5 have weekly skills sessions with one of our two ICT teachers. In addition to this, we have a set of 16 laptops in the library to allow the students access to internet research and to enable them to create ICT products during library sessions. Each classroom has at least 8 computers for the children to access. These include netbooks, laptops, desktop computers and iPads.

This year we are trialing 1 to 1 computing in our Year 6 classes. Each student has a personal laptop, supplied by the school. They receive specialist instruction once a week and the laptops are used to support and extend the class programs. Later in the year, these students will complete a Claymation project which will require them to collaboratively create a short animated film by writing a script, creating sets and plasticene characters, recording the soundtrack, creating music and using software to edit and produce their final product.

The students engage in a variety of activities and use the facilities which include data projectors, scanners, printers, webcams and digital cameras. All computers are networked and have high-speed connections to the Internet.

ICT is integrated across the range of the primary school curriculum where skills are developed within the curriculum and not taught in isolation. We strongly believe that students benefit by using software that they control and not computer programs to which they merely respond. Children work with Publisher, Word, PowerPoint, Comic Life, Photostory, Excel, KidPix, concept mapping software and Windows Media Player. These applications are used to support the development of learning outcomes across the curriculum and to engage the students in collaborative, co-operative and problem solving activities. Multimedia is particularly beneficial in the development of high order thinking skills and in allowing for different learning styles.

Each class has a blog, or weblog, in which teachers and students reflect on experiences. In some cases these are managed by the students, in collaboration with their class teacher or a specialist teacher. This provides an opportunity for parents to see and participate in some aspects of the class programs.

Students from Years 3 to 6 have a personal wiki. A wiki is a website that allows the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages. They provide an online venue giving students an excellent medium to achieve some great literacy outcomes and advance their ICT skills. Students in Years 1 and 2 have a personal wiki page within the class wiki.