



Curriculum Chatter

No. 3 2005

Croydon Hills ICT Program and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)

Information and Communications Technology (ICT), as a domain of the VELS Interdisciplinary strand, focuses on providing students with the tools to transform their learning and to enrich their learning environment

This domain has three dimensions.

- ICT for visualising thinking
- ICT for creating
- ICT for communicating

For many years CHPS has taken the attitude that creative use of computers and audio-visual equipment can lead to enhanced learning experiences when integrated with day-to-day teaching in the classroom. To this end students are encouraged to use computers creatively and adopt the technology as a natural and legitimate form of communication and expression.

In 1995 after reviewing previous computer use in the school, the ICT Committee viewed the Macintosh as the best choice.

At CHPS we find Macs provide us with the following advantages in the classroom over Intel/Windows based PC's:

CHPS has not had a single virus on its Mac systems since the first Mac was introduced to the school in 1994. The limited threat of virus attack means we don't need to spend vast amounts of time and money on virus protection programs and updates.

A common misconception is that "Macs don't do Microsoft". Every Mac at CHPS has the latest version of Microsoft Office. Staff and students are taught to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Children can easily move work between home PC's and our Macs.

CHPS use Macs known as iMacs and eMacs. These are a single unit computer and take up very little space on a table. Space in a primary classroom is always at a premium. Macs also only require a single power lead, not the confusion of separate leads for CPU's and monitors.

In spite of their initial higher purchase price Macs have a proven lower total cost of ownership. This is when we take into account the usable life of the machine (we still have 9 year old machines that are usable in a classroom situation), bundled software, full multimedia support, lower technical support requirements and zero virus protection costs. Macs straight out of the box are bundled with excellent creative software and because of their simplicity require less technical support.

It has been demonstrated that novice users will be up to 20% more productive in a shorter time frame when learning on the Macintosh Operating System

Every Mac comes bundled with a suit of powerful creative software. The current iLife bundle contains software for storing, editing and printing digital photos, powerful movie editing software, music software and DVD creation software. These applications work together seamlessly allowing a user to produce exceptionally high quality movies, DVD's, music or fully interactive multimedia presentations. (continued next page)