Why is Armadale Primary School introducing a 1:1 Netbook program?
The School’s Strategic Plan has a goal of developing all students as global learners and citizens incorporating the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). One key improvement strategy is to further imbed the use of ICT and strengthen its role in improving meta-cognition in our students.

It is important to prepare students to thrive in the 21st century and develop in them the ability to conduct independent research, think critically, solve problems and use technology to communicate and collaborate. Student learning will be improved by increasing motivation in all students. This is vitally important especially for boys, some of whom begin to disengage from learning at Level 4.

Literacy skills, especially in Writing, will be enhanced by a combination of traditional handwriting and the keyboarding and editing opportunities and skills a netbook program would provide, as well as through online reading programs such as Reading Eggspres. Numeracy skills will be enhanced through the use of Mathletics, Rainforest Maths and online assessment. Integrated Studies will be improved with ready access to research and different ways to present information.

One of our concerns at Armadale Primary is that the students are not able to develop their ICT skills to the expected levels set by Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). This is due to the lack of ready access. A netbook program would address this deficiency in the program.

Contact with various secondary settings that Armadale Primary students go on to attend has informed the school that most have netbook/laptop programs of one kind or another. The introduction of a netbook program would provide a far greater opportunity of improving this area of the Armadale Primary curriculum. Students moving to secondary school would have a far greater set of skills and knowledge than we are currently able to provide.

What are the benefits of having a 1:1 Netbook program for teachers and students in Level 4?

- Enables Level 4 teachers to teach all the students the skills they need in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to meet the Victorian Essential Learning Standards requirements.
- No waiting time to log on, as students log on once only for the day.
- Students learn to use the computer as a tool
- Able to teach skills to all students at one time
- Online assessment completed quickly – very likely that NAPLAN tests will go online soon.
- Enables work to be set at a more individual level
- Able to teach touch typing on a daily basis
- Increases student interest and engagement
- Able to research for integrated studies topics
- Ongoing cybersafety training for students
- Used to publish completed work
- Communication with students and teachers when Ultranet fully operational.
- Prepare students for secondary school where curriculum has a substantial number of ICT outcomes

Training and Support for Teachers

- One session weekly for each Level 4 teacher and class with ICT specialist.
- Weekly team planning sessions with Curriculum Coordinator.
- Sharing of strategies/ideas between Level 4 team.
- Visits to other schools that already have 1:1 netbook programs.
- Opportunities provided for Level 4 teachers to spend time in each others’ classes to observe best practice.
- Training sessions with ICT specialist in related software and how to use to maximum benefit.
- Technical support by a 1:1 specialist
- Extension and upgrade of wireless capacity – extra waps/faster switches
- Weekly planning documentation to include information from ICT scope and sequence chart to ensure students develop necessary skills.
- Level 4 team to attend any advertised training that is relevant for program.
- Ongoing planning time for Level 4 team.

Support for Students and Parents

1. Cybersafety Awareness and support
   - Skoodle (formerly SuperClubsPlus)
   - Classroom programs – buddy
   - eLearning specialist
   - ThinkUKnow – Federal Police

2. Advice and problem solving
   - elearning coordinator (ICT specialist) Malcolm Dow
   - IT Technician (Kevin Wiley)
   - Loan netbooks

2. Technical issues, breakages and support
   - LWT Learning with Technologies – assistance during school time but also available during holiday periods
Ownership model
The netbook will be leased from the school and parents will be asked to pay the regular instalments. At the end of the lease the netbook will be owned by the parents, subject to a small residual payout. If you are leaving the School during the lease period, you have the option to either (1) return the netbook to the school or (2) pay out the remainder of the full lease costs.

Warranty/Insurance
If the netbook is damaged, lost or stolen, parents will be required to contact the school and complete a police report. You will need to fill out an appropriate school based form and pay a $50 excess. This will initially be covered by a payment of $50 deposit. The School will arrange for repair or replacement. Parents and students will be responsible for negligent damages.

Software licensing and copyright
Software installed by the School is subject to licensing conditions and must not be distributed or deleted without written permission from the School. Any media installed on the netbook must not infringe copyright laws and must not include crude or explicit language. This will contravene the Acceptable Use Agreement and may result in confiscation of the netbook or reimagining.

Internet usage
Use of the netbook by students is governed by the Armadale Primary Acceptable Use Policy that students and parents must agree to for the use of ICT both within and outside the School. Parents are also asked to familiarise themselves with the Acceptable Use Policy. Any inappropriate use of the internet is unacceptable and is subject to disciplinary action and exclusion from the school network and resources.

Technical Support
The School employs an ICT technician to support the Netbook Program. Students are to inform their teacher immediately of any problems. For matters that cannot be fixed on site there will be a 2 day repair time.

Power Supply
All netbooks need to be charged overnight and returned to school fully charged at the beginning of every day. The netbook battery will last a typical school day.

Backup / recovery
Students will be responsible for their own backup of critical data at all times. This may be through a USB or external drive. Students may periodically back up their work on the school server. This is the sole responsibility of the student but will be supervised by teachers.

Installing their own software
It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that there is enough hard drive space and RAM available to engage in all educational requirements. Downloading music, games and videos from the internet during school hours is prohibited except when directed by a teacher.

What kind of contract or agreement needs to be signed?
The “Armadale Primary Acceptable Use Policy” (Student Agreement) will need to be signed along with the 1:1 Netbook Lease Agreement.

Can students bring their own netbooks from home instead?
No. Home netbooks are not configured to the school network.

Is the netbook password-protected?
Yes. Students will be prompted to log on with a password when turning on the netbook.

Where do the netbooks go when not in use?
When not in use, the netbooks will be in a student’s tub, schoolbag, on the desk or locked classroom cupboard.

Will students use computers too much?
The 1:1 device will enhance the existing school curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with more traditional learning tools. Typically the students will use the netbooks for between 20% and 40% of a typical school day.

What about handwriting?
Students will continue to be required to improve their handwriting as well as using the keyboard.

What subjects will students continue to use paper and pencil for?
The students will continue to use paper and pencil for many activities including: handwriting, spelling, writing (planning, initial draft and publishing), mathematics (notes and problem solving, mental maths) and parts of Inquiry learning.

The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?
That is the responsibility of the parents. When off school grounds, parents have responsibility to monitor netbook usage.

Are these devices going to add to the heavy loads students carry from home to school?
No. The netbook has been chosen for a number of reasons including its light weight specification. It weighs approximately 1.3kg.

How can students access the internet from home?
Home internet connection is not supplied by the School or Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. There is no mandated expectation that internet access be made available at home. If there is an existing provision at home, the netbook is able to be configured for access.

What about safe internet use?
Teachers will supervise students as they would for any learning activity as they create and maintain a safe, comfortable and learning-focused classroom. Appropriate use of the internet service within the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development network is closely monitored by a filtering system, which allows for inappropriate content blocking by a regularly updated list of categories and sites. This does not apply to use of devices outside of the school network.

Available Support Resources
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Working with the Web: http://www.education.vic.gov.au
The students will also have lessons on cybersafety using Budd:e and Skoodle (SuperClubs Plus).

What if the Netbook is used for inappropriate purposes?
This will be seen as a breach of our school’s “Acceptable Use Policy” and the netbook may be banned for a period of time, depending on the severity. It may also be restored to its original image and all personalised content may be deleted. It is important that teachers, students and parents share the responsibility to ensure safe and responsible use of netbook at all times.

Will the student files on the netbook be private?
No. Students can expect their netbook to be periodically inspected and monitored for appropriate usage. Teachers may request access to the browser history and/or caches as well as all files belonging to the student resident on the netbook as well as stored on the school servers. Students and parents need to be aware that files stored locally or on school servers are not private.

What does ‘reimage’ a netbook mean?
Reimagining a netbook wipes out everything on the netbook and installs a new software image. The netbook is set up again, just like the first time the student received it.

Netbooks and student learning
How will netbooks be used in the classroom?
This is a technology-rich world and students are immersed in digital technology in their out-of-school lives. Schools can either capitalise on young people’s affinity for technology or fail to engage them in learning, and be perceived as more and more irrelevant.
Ways the netbooks may be used include:
- English - reading comprehension (Reading Eggspress)
- Writing - publishing stories, articles, reports using Word, Publisher and online writing tools.
- Mathematics – graphs (excel), basic number facts and skills to extension activities (Mathletics), 3D modelling
- Integrated Studies – research, presentations using PowerPoint and Publisher
- Touch typing and skills from Victorian Essential Learning Standards – Level 4
- Specialist programs – Italian, Music, Art
- ICT – learning a suite of new applications and programs that will enhance their learning in all other curriculum areas

How will parents continue to be informed about the integration of netbooks into the curriculum?
School newsletters, emails and the website will be used to provide updates to the school community. Students will be provided with opportunities to showcase the extent of their development with the netbooks.

Will there be more homework?
No. Some of the homework that has traditionally been completed on worksheets or paper will now be done on the netbooks.
Software

What software will be on the netbooks?

With the help of classroom teachers, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has researched and designed a standard image for netbooks which incorporates both DEECD licensed and free open source software. This image has also been developed to aid students in meeting requirements of Victorian Essential Learning Standards. It is envisaged that the comprehensive and high-quality software list will meet the needs of students over the life of the netbook; however, schools and students may load additional software to meet their needs subject to appropriate copyright and licensing laws.

Software to be included on the devices:

Adobe Flash Player  Adobe Reader 8
Adobe Shock wave Player
Apple Quicktime  Audacity  Blender
CD Burner XP  Cute PDF Writer
Debut
DEECD Fonts Victorian Cursive
DVD Flick  Free Mind
Gamemaker  www.yoyogames.com
GIMP  Google Picasa 3
Google Sketchup  Irfan View
Jahshaka  Java runtime environment
Kahootz V2  Microsoft Internet Explorer Web browser
Microsoft Office 2007 Word, Excel and PowerPoint
Microsoft Office Media includes the Microsoft Clip Organiser and library of:
Microsoft PhotoDraw 2.0
Microsoft PhotoStory 3
Microsoft Producer for PowerPoint
Microsoft Silverlight
Microsoft Student with Encarta Premium
Microsoft Windows Media Player
Microsoft Windows Vista Enterprise
Symantec Client Security Anti-virus software Tuxmath
Tuxtyping
VLC Player

Who is going to handle warranties and repairs?

Acer will supply a two year onsite exchange warranty for all netbooks within 50km of the nearest service centre.

What about flat batteries? Will students ‘plug in’ in the classrooms?

Students will be expected to charge the netbook overnight and to bring it fully charged to school each day. The netbook has a six-cell battery which lasts approximately eight hours before needing recharging; this will be sufficient for student use during the school day. The School may also set up a system to manage the charging of batteries during the day.

What happens if a virus gets into the netbook?

The netbooks will come with up to date virus protection that will be set to automatically scan the netbook when the student logs on at school. If a virus is identified the school technician will remove it.

Will the students have wireless access to the internet before school and at lunchtime?

The students will not log on until they come into their classroom in the morning and the netbooks will be locked in the classrooms at lunchtime unless the students are working with a teacher.

Do the students have to take the netbooks home every night?

Yes. However, under certain circumstances the student may leave their netbook in a locked cupboard in the classroom.

What is the cost of leasing a netbook?

The quarterly (term) payment will be approximately $90. This covers the cost of the hardware, software, carry case and insurance.

What if I can’t afford it?

Please contact Rochelle Cukier (Principal) to discuss the options available to you and your child.

Tax Refund

It is likely that parents will be eligible to claim the costs associated with the netbook back on your tax return. Please contact the Australian Tax Office on 13 28 61 for further information.