

Life in a Year 4 ePAL Program

Our class have enjoyed the opportunity to complement and extend our learning with devices in our room this year. Using this added tool has opened up areas for rich discussion and higher order thinking.

To ensure our safety and responsible use of devices we participated in online safety sessions through programs like Digital Passport. These lessons specifically covered cyber-bullying, creative credit, search skills and privacy. The ability to be able to explore these areas in a fun way online, and then extended with rich discussions and daily activities, made the learning valuable.



The Microsoft Office suite provides a wealth of options to prepare and present work. Just recently we have researched topics for our Genius hour projects on the internet, learning how to acknowledge our sources in a bibliography, then drafting and editing an information report using 'track changes' in Word, listening to our writing using the 'speak' tool while editing, and then presenting and submitting our work via email.

At least three times a week we work on our touch typing alongside regular book work where we maintain and improve our cursive handwriting. Our daily edit and writing is sometimes completed on the computer and sometimes on paper. We discover various approaches to complete tasks that meet the various learning strengths of the students. Using computer applications like M8 Mind mapping, Book Creator and Snappy give us organisation and presentation options that enhance our reading and writing. Sharing and discussing our writing on our class blog has been a new and fun way to learn.

We have been learning about the components and capabilities of various technologies and gaining skill in coding to create a quiz using the coding site Scratch in the new Digital Technologies subject. This unit has given us an opportunity to look at higher order thinking concepts such as systems thinking and how to apply this to various situations.

The technical and educational support we are provided by Mr King and Mrs King has been invaluable. Every child has maintained a working device and any issues have been promptly solved, while a school device has always been available when a student computer is not working. Mrs King has shared her knowledge, supported and encouraged me to explore new areas, and has guided students in their digital literacy confidence.

We are constantly changing our ways we learn, discovering great opportunities to change our thinking, and thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn from each other along the way. I love my class! They are confident, kind, polite and enthusiastic young people. They inspire, challenge and make me laugh every day. I have the best job in the world!