Eaglehawk North Primary School
Multi Media Centre

OUR ICT VISION IS TO:

Provide an effective integration of a range of technologies across the eight Key Learning Areas, which develop a challenging teaching and learning program whilst assisting learners to be confident, productive and creative users of information and communication technologies.

Provide a valuable technological environment in which to prepare ENPS students as future members of an ever-changing global community rich in information.

Provide a supportive internal structure that will develop skills in both staff and students.

Provide the opportunity for mentoring for both staff and students, by staff, students and outside sources.

Provide professional development that addresses personal needs.

Provide an effectively functioning system for the school community to operate and communicate successfully for the present, with consideration to foreseeing future needs.

Provide an enhanced system that will offer students unique learning opportunities in multimedia.

TO ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING?

As educators we are responsible for preparing students for their future. Teachers then need to create a technologically rich environment, ensure richness in teaching and learning, and to develop potential to the fullest in use of technology.
Current statistics and logistics indicate:

80% of children currently in Year 2 will enter careers that do not exist now.

Employees will change professions four to five times during their working lives
- 80% of young people who lose their first job do so because of
  • inability to work cooperatively with co workers and bosses
  • inability to communicate the steps to solve problems
  • inability to cope with or manage change

90% of information and knowledge required beyond the year 2000 is yet to be invented

The amount of information and knowledge in the world doubles every 2-5 years.

By the time Year 2 students complete Year 12 the body of knowledge will have doubled four times.

Therefore tomorrow’s workplace requires people who:

- Are comfortable with new technology
- Are willing to retrain continually to upgrade their skills
- Are team players
- Can think logically and critically
- Can solve problems
- Are entrepreneurial and innovative
- Can manage people and information
- Are effective communicators

The Department of Education and Training has articulated a Learning Technologies objective for schools. “This objective is based on access to networked, multi-media capable technology which allows students to experience a range of learning styles and access communication to expand their horizons and opportunities. It is premised on the ability of teachers to develop teaching and learning strategies and curriculum plans that fully utilise appropriate technologies.”
At Eaglehawk North Primary School our educational policy is to create an environment where staff and students will have access to the best in Learning Technologies and the opportunity to use these as tools that will enhance their learning experiences as problem solvers and cooperative workers.

Learning Technologies will become an integral part of Key Learning Areas wherever they will enhance teaching and learning. Policies and planning will specifically address the use of Learning Technologies in that area.

Staff will embrace the Learning Technologies in their own PD to enable them to have the skills and confidence to enhance their teaching and personal work organisation, wherever relevant and practical.

Staff will become role models to others including their students and peers. Experience of staff and use of equipment will be made available to the wider school community through the ‘Access Program.’

This quote from Sofweb’s eLearning Planning Guide may help us make a judgement as to where we stand at Eaglehawk North Primary School and whether we are heading in the right direction.

‘Effective eLearning requires an appropriate environment – one that addresses physical, technical, organisational, professional and pedagogical elements. The learning environment of the 21st century will be:
  - a wall-less, networked community learning centre
  - Integrated into the wider community, and allowing authentic links to the community
  - A ‘learning hub’ that allows for both physical and virtual classrooms.’

Use of the school Intranet

The school Intranet is undergoing development and will have the benefits of assisting in and creating effective organisation, communication, collaboration and integration of curriculum. The current provider of our intranet is ‘MYINTERNET’ offering a personalised greeting page, search engines, timetables, e-mail, forms and schedules and resource banks. It also incorporates integrated curriculum and administrative functions. The IT Committee has input into the design structure and update of the site which is attached to our school web page. An ongoing commitment is required by the staff to attend Professional Development on accessing and using the school Intranet.
**Professional Development**

The school has an ongoing commitment to Professional Development. This is evidenced in the Personal Professional Development Plans formally developed every twelve months and by the budget allocation to Professional Development. The changing role of the teacher as a facilitator of learning allows excellent opportunities for the teacher and student to learn together.

The teaching staff at Eaglehawk North Primary School has a range of computer skill levels. Our contribution then to Professional Development is to assist common needs and extension of skill levels to keep abreast with children’s requirements as they become more prolific in their own development and application of skills. The Multi Media Centre engages classes in interactive lessons/sessions, designed so that both teachers and children attend the beginning of a lesson based on skills development. The teachers are able to develop/acquire skills and apply to their own situation as well as being informed of skills taught and applied to learning for students. Web-Page design and digital portfolio development supports both assessment and reporting. Both class and individual teacher development takes place to balance skills. Staff is supported in the use of Rubrics Grid for assessment and computer skills/software continuum. Their use supports consistent judgements, moderation support and pupils having a better understanding of expectations placed upon them. This allows staff to familiarise themselves with the new system set up and provide professional development as necessary. It is anticipated that much of the PD that takes place will be ‘in-house’ using a modified ‘train the trainer’ model and one to one mentoring. Staff who attend outside PD programs report back to the school in a formal way, usually via staff meetings. Some ‘outsourcing’ may occur where there is a recognised need for expertise. We also hope to use the Multi Media Centre to host Professional Programs of our own.

**Internet use**

Collaborative Projects such as a Soft toy exchange eg. Teddy Bear Projects, Environmental Mystery, E-pals, Chess, E-mail, Poet’s Corner, web-quests, NetMeeting, Murder Under the Microscope are all programs that the school actively participates in plus other appropriate on-line programs. For the past 2 years Eaglehawk North’s Environmental Mystery has attracted many participants from throughout Australia and overseas. A review of the Internet User Agreement Policy has been made and the updated document is to be signed by all users in the presence of a parent/guardian so that all parties are in agreement as to what protocols are to be used during Internet access time on school computers. Children are directed to use the Education Channel as a search engine which is accessible from their own login via the School Intranet.

**Access to Computers**
Computers in the classroom, as distinct from and in addition to computers in the Multi Media Centre, offer distinct benefits. They are immediately available and classes are able to use them spontaneously. They become part of the learning that takes place in that classroom. The teacher/student is able to encourage decision making and offer opinions whilst working one to one or with a group of children. Sharing as well as mentoring takes place in this rich learning environment. Whilst the Multi Media Centre becomes important in skill training and development, so does the pod/classroom system in classroom situations. It is vital that we offer software and programs that will enrich classroom programs and promote broader learning outcomes.