Dear Parents

Computer technology and digital citizenship are an integral part of the National Curriculum. A focus of the national curriculum is 21st century learning. After consultation with the local community, including Callaghan College Wallsend (Microsoft Partners in Learning-National Leading School in Innovative Schools Program and internationally recognised as top three in the 21st Century School of the Year award in 2013) and the parent community, Maryland Public is endeavouring to meet these challenges.

Maryland Public school is a member of the Callaghan Education Pathways and as a result Maryland PS is introducing a “Bring Your Own Digital Device” (BYOD) as an opportunity to facilitate greater access and responsibility to digital learning. This program is integrated with the Callaghan Education Pathways, especially the CC Wallsend Campus BYOD program.

The purpose of the BYOD program is to enhance and encourage in depth learning and collaboration in a digital age. By being able to bring their own BYOD device, students will have a greater opportunity to use the tools related to technology to complement current teaching and learning practices.

Maryland Public School's parent representative organisations (School Council and P&C) have significantly supported the implementation of 21st Century learning throughout the school in recent years, through the provision of Wifi connections in all classrooms, Smart Boards and portable technological laboratories. This has allowed for greater access to technology for all students with a view to enhancing and developing their technology skills.

With the BYOD program, safety is a major consideration. Students will only be able to access the internet through the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) Proxy Server which utilises sophisticated and stringent cybersafety filters. Access to such sites as YOUTUBE and social networking sites cannot be accessed through this platform and would have the same security levels currently in place on the DEC student portal. Any phone internet connection, such as 3G or NextG must be switched off, and it is suggested that sim cards be removed if possible to maintain cybersafety to DEC standards. Taking photos, video or recording voice of any individual or group is not allowed without the express permission of all the individuals being recorded and after permission is granted by parents/caregivers and students.

Expected parent, student and teacher behaviours are outlined overleaf.

The BYOD opportunity at Maryland PS is not mandatory. Equity and access to technology in the classroom will be maintained for those who do not bring their own BYOD device.

Regards

John Theissen

Class Teacher Principal