

June 25, 2013



**RIDGEVIEW  
ELEMENTARY**

Dear Parents

Over the past few years Ridgeview Elementary has continued to understand how digital access can improve student engagement and learning throughout all the grades. The use of technology has specifically grown in the intermediate grades in connection with the introduction of inquiry-based learning.

As a school we are fortunate to possess a class set of laptops for the intermediate grades that were purchased by the RPAC a number of years ago. These were a fantastic learning tool for a number of years but as technology has become more intertwined into classroom learning, our teachers are discovering frustrations around the consistency of the devices being available for "just in time teaching" and the speed at which they are working.

To ensure our students have the opportunity for ready access to technology as a tool for further engage and enhance their learning, we have developed a technology plan for all the grades for the new year.



## **Integration of Devices into Student Learning in 2013/2014**

Primary Classes

iPads and Netbooks (provided by the school)

Grade 4

Intermediate Laptops (provided by the school)

- these devices are currently being used by grades 4-6
- the district will refurbish the laptops and each one will be assigned to two students, one in each of the grade 4 classes. They will remain at school.

Grades 5-7

Students are asked to bring their Own Devices

- a list of recommendations is provided below. These do not need to be new devices; rather we are asking that you send devices you presently have.

## **MAKING DEVICES ACCESSIBLE FROM A FINANCIAL STANDPOINT**

The West Vancouver School District is committed to making devices accessible to all students and has entered into a partnership with a leasing/financing agent who will provide opportunities for a payment plan for those wishing to take advantage.

The School District will also provide Microsoft Office at a nominal cost for those who do not have a software package available to them.

## **THE FOUR PILLARS TO SUCCESS**

1. In the new school year we will hold a Parent Education Night that will provide a host of learning opportunities around the positive impact of integrating technology into student learning, computer basics, the Virtual Classroom and internet safety.
2. We will be educating the students on the appropriate use of technology with clear guidelines around expectations and consequences. This will include a revamped technology contract and handbook so students, staff and parents have a solid and consistent understanding of what is considered appropriate.
3. We will ensure the safety of the devices through lessons around the proper handling of devices, use of security carts and reinforcement of the Technology Contract.
4. There will be professional development for teachers so they may personalize their use of technology to their classroom learning. This will be done through collaborative teaching with our District Innovation Teacher and grade level colleagues as well as use of in-school and district wide professional development opportunities.

As a school, we are very excited to be taking this step towards pervasive digital access with student learning. We have been at the forefront of formalizing an informal culture of inquiry in West Vancouver for a number of years. The opportunity to now continue to lead by significantly improving the integration of technology into classroom learning will provide our students with the thinking and technological skills that will set them ahead of the rest.

As you decide on your child's device over the summer (for those going into grades 5-7) we have created a list of "should haves" for devices you are considering. We believe it is important for you and your child to decide on the device that will best work for them, but to ensure you have a device that will be effective for their learning please note the recommendations on the following page.

Thank you and should you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I will be available the first week of July and last week of August.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cantlie  
Acting Principal  
[ccantlie@sd45.bc.ca](mailto:ccantlie@sd45.bc.ca)

## DEVICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRADE 5-7 CLASSES

*Whatever you buy/bring, it must have:*

- Internet capability
- a word processing program (either Microsoft Word or Apple's Pages)
- a slideshow creation tool (PowerPoint, Keynote)
- built-in speakers

*Whatever you buy/bring, it should have:*

- a protective case or cover
- a power cord
- a set of earbuds or a headset for times when everyone is listening to different things

*Whatever you buy/bring, it would be nice if it had:*

- a movie making program (on a Mac or iPad it would be Moviemaker, on a PC, download Microsoft Moviemaker 2.6)
- a data and graphing program (Microsoft Excel or Apple's Numbers)
- a Bluetooth mouse (**if** your child struggles with trackpads)
- an external keyboard if your child will be bringing an iPad and is not yet a proficient typer

*Things to know about iPads:*

- there will be some programs your child will not be able to access on an iPad due to the fact that iPads are not Flash enabled
- make sure your child is comfortable with the size of iPad they have – some people find the screen on the iPad mini to be too small

*Things to avoid:*

- sending a device that is too old so that nothing new runs on it
- sending a device that has so many parental controls that your child is unable to access sites and programs we will use