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Friday 7th July

Re :Digital Technology Plan at North Loburn School

Dear parents,

The board is aware that as a digital school, we need to be providing our kids with access to up to date technology whenever it is required, to enhance their learning. We currently cannot achieve this as we have many outdated computers (some as old as 10 years) that need replacing. The Ministry of Education funding simply isn't enough to cover this cost and the previous ICT plan only allowed us to purchase new technology when funding became available through a grant, or home and school funding.

The limited access to fully operational / up-to-date equipment is frustrating our teachers and students. The board recognised the importance of resolving the situation and believed we had 2 options; either the school provides enough computers for each of our senior students, or we request students to 'Bring Your Own Device'.

The board felt that BYOD has several drawbacks;

- 1. The upfront cost to our families, some of whom might have to purchase 3 computers*
- 2. Inequality, if some students have better or worse equipment than others*
- 3. Different operating systems make teaching/problem solving difficult and time consuming*
- 4. Technology dates very quickly and you would be left with an out of date machine which requires further personal cost for replacement.*

Due to these concerns and after careful consideration and research, the board has made the decision that the better option is for the school to provide the technology.

The school currently has a budget for the replacement of some of our computers, which will continue to be used across the school and we intend to lease enough Chrome books to ensure every child in Year 4 - 8 will have access to computers on demand. Leasing means that at the end of the lease period we get new up-to-date machines. Years 1 - 3 will predominately use iPads.

*The total cost of our proposed ICT programme for Years 4 - 8 includes: replacement of MacBooks on a regular role over and leasing of Chromebooks over a 3 year period. To help fund this ICT programme the board is asking for a donation (tax deductible) of \$12.50 per child, per term, for students in our 3 senior classes (Y4-8). We hope that our families see the value that access to up to date technology on demand will have for their children, **without the upfront cost of BYOD.***

The donation the Board is asking for will not be enough to fund the annual costs of this plan, however we were not comfortable in asking for any more. Therefore to ensure the plan is sustainable the Board has identified other avenues for funding the shortfall.

The new machines will be available early in Term 3 for our students to use therefore the donations will begin to appear on your Term 3 statements.

*We thank you for your support.
The Board of Trustees.*