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SMALL SCHOOL ~ BIG HEART ...

GARIN COLLEGE

Buying the Right Device

... from Head Teacher John Boyce



As parents know, last year we started work on how we will incorporate student computers (in the wider sense of that term) on our network. As they move on to higher education nearly all students will be forced to buy a computer to help with their studies – so it makes sense to start that at school.

We already have about 15 devices being regularly used by students in our classrooms, and as students begin to own portable computers, more and more of them want to use them at school.

As a school we can see the point. We were the first school in the region to give each of our teachers a laptop – and most see it as an indispensable teaching tool.

We are in the process of upgrading our school network. That will be done next term – so by the end of next term we will be able to use wireless devices in any of our rooms and close to them to access the internet through our wireless network.

We have a growing number of students with issues like dyslexia – and a computer can make their learning much easier. All that meant that when I received a request from a parent last week for advice about what to buy, I wasn't surprised. So, what will we insist on, before allowing a student onto the network with their own machine?

It can be Mac or Android. It can be an expensive laptop (\$1400-3000), or notebook (around \$1200) or i-pad – but it could be a relatively cheap netbook (\$400-800). Staff are training right now on Google docs and "cloud" computing (cloud just means saving somewhere that is always accessible through the internet) – and that is what netbooks were invented for.

Netbooks usually don't have DVD drives, and have a smaller hard-drive because users normally save work to the "cloud" and run programmes and applications sourced from the "cloud". (The smaller hard-drive makes them lighter and cheaper, but if you go this way get a good guarantee and a good brand, because cheaper can mean lower quality).

I'm sure we will find that some computers will work better than others in an educational environment – but at the moment we just don't know. Here is my best guess about the bottom line we will allow onto our wireless network.

Minimum Specs

Battery Life – Should last 5-6 hours to be able to get through a school day without recharging.

Weight – Should be light enough for your son or daughter to carry around all day, anything more than 1.5kg including the case might be too heavy.

Wireless – Must be dual-band capable, and state that it has a/g/n, or a/b/g/n.

RAM – Should be 2GB or more, or else programmes may be much slower to run.

CPU – Faster is usually better, but may also reduce battery life. Intel Atom CPU's mean longer battery life, and Core i3 or i5 are more powerful but reduce battery life, so discuss your needs with the supplier.

Hard Disk Drive – Should be at least 160GB. Some newer devices may feature SSD drives, which are faster, lighter, are more reliable and give longer battery life, because they have no moving parts, but they are also much more expensive.

What will it be used for? Photos, films, games need a lot more memory (often too much to save to the "cloud") – documents and spreadsheets use a lot less (and work really well as "cloud" documents).

Robustness – Your device should be strong enough to survive a fall onto a hard surface.

Insurance – While we take care to protect students' property, we cannot accept responsibility for devices lost or stolen, so make sure it is covered for these possibilities. Accidental damage insurance may also be available if desired.

Warranty – Minimum warranty is 1-year, but you may want to consider upgrading this to a 2 or 3-year warranty. Another factor is how long the device will be away for should it require repair under warranty, it could be a few days, or as long as a few weeks.

Optional USB DVD – Some devices such as Netbooks do not have a built-in DVD drive, so make sure you have one or more USB ports so you can purchase a USB DVD to be able to load any additional software you may purchase, or store files too big for the "cloud".

Anti-virus Software – Anti-virus and anti-spyware software is essential to protect the data on the device, and prevent the device being used to spread this malware to other devices at home or at school. Removing this malicious software from devices is one of our ICT Helpdesk's most frequent requests.

GARIN NOTICEBOARD: events, advertisements & information

Emailing Staff

If you want to email teaching staff at Garin College you use the person's name @cloud.garincollege.ac.nz, e.g. tracystock@cloud.garincollege.ac.nz.

Below is a list of the names of Garin-teaching staff (not case sensitive):

Alexishead	Abbiewright
Alanwest	Amycornelisen
Andrewpenman	Catharonsten
Danmoon	Daviddehurst
Denismoriarty	Edrimmer
Edwinmcræ	Elainerowling
Glyniswoodhead	Henrykersten
Janekrammer	Janellemacgregor
Jocalt	Johnboyce
Jossbradley	Judithd Davies
Justinebutler	Kathrynwalker
Kimpope	Kyleproffit
Kyliemead	Margoruhén
Marymcentyre	Mikerose
Nidajoyce	Paultraynor
Paulbucknell	Petermellor

Sarahrankin	Sheilaghditchfield
Simonpimm	Suellenboyce
Sueroughton	Tonyetchells
Tracyduncan	Tracystock
Trudiewalter	Vincefox

CatholicTV.net

The 2011 Deaf and Hearing Impaired Exhibition, a new perspective for those of us without hearing loss this week on www.catholicTV.net <http://www.inspirationalTV.net>. Great for sharing with a friend.

Relay for Life - Sat 3 March

Garin College have an amazing 5 teams entering Relay for Life this year. It is an awesome effort, so please support us with our fundraising efforts. There is one staff team and a team for each house. If you wish to make a donation please contact jocalt@cloud.garincollege.ac.nz.

Garin Netball Trials

For: All Players
When: Saturday 3rd March 2012
Juniors: 9.00am - 11.00am
Seniors: 11.30am - 1.30pm

Please wear sports shoes. Bring a towel and a drink bottle. Warm up before your trials.

If you wish to coach or manage a team please email Janelle at janellemacgregor@garincollege.ac.nz.

CALENDAR

- Friday 9 March
 - ♦ Online parent interview bookings for senior students
- Monday 12 March
 - ♦ Year 11 & 12 Journey
- Wednesday 21 March
 - ♦ Reports posted for whole school

Boosting Opportunities for Visual Arts Students

This year will see the introduction of two new arts initiatives to further support senior students studying visual art. These new initiatives come in addition to the highly successful arts scholarship programme which was launched last year.

After School Art Classes Term 1

In March, Rose Shepard will conduct three after school workshops from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at a cost of \$10 per session:

20th March - Drawing: Examining 'line' including gestural, contour, expressive and modelled form.

27th March - Painting as medium: Looking at artist models, analysing an artwork, considering its materiality: collage, texture, glazing, etc.

3rd April - Painting techniques - Looks at colour theory, understanding paint, layering.

IMPORTANT: 5 spaces only are available...so if you are interested...be quick and email: catharonsten@garincollege.ac.nz (first come, first served basis).

Rose Shepard Art Scholarship Term 2

Two senior students will be identified by the Arts Faculty to participate in a specialist workshop at Rose Shepard's Studio - conducted over five weeks in April and May.

Holiday Art Workshop 2-6 July

Expressions of interest are being taken now for a holiday workshop programme for senior students that will involve: how to prepare boards, canvas and paper; understanding paint; understanding brushes; composition; understanding colour. 6 spaces only available. (first in, first served basis).

Please email catharonsten@garincollege.ac.nz to register your interest.

Shakespeare Teams Hard at Work

This year has seen another great response to the call for entries in the upcoming Shakespeare Festival. Fortunately, we now have the added expertise of Shakespeare enthusiast Tony Etchell to help us on our way! Tony has recently joined the English department at Garin College...and we feel very fortunate to have him on board. At this stage it looks like we will have 7 entries. The Shakespeare Festival is on the 31st of March at Waimea College. Ticket

costs are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and can be purchased at the door.

Sue Roughton, (Teacher in Charge of Drama and Joint Head of Faculty Arts)



Kapa Haka Underway

This week saw the formation of the new Garin College Kapa Haka Group. Twenty five students have signed on for this exciting initiative that provides students with the opportunity to learn about Maori culture and tikanga as well as perform and accrue valuable NCEA credits. From all accounts the first session was a fabulous success with the students learning a haka and waiata as well as having fun doing a range of warm-up games for voice projection and body movement.



Busy Time for Cricketers

Last week was a busy one for our senior cricket team, competing in the Gillette Cup series on Monday and Tuesday as well as their Saturday game against Motueka.

In the Gillette Cup Garin was seeded in the top four and played very strong Nelson and Waimea First Elevens. On the first day Garin bowled and fielded very well to hold Nelson College to 160, but then struggled with the pace and accuracy of their bowling to be all out for 44. Chris Sinnot and Rupert Wockner were the pick of the bowlers.

Against Waimea we batted first and did better to be all out for 76, Gabe Marshall scoring 18. Waimea

reached the target with 3 wickets down to win the match. Our boys tried hard, played with great spirit and learnt a lot.

This showed on Saturday with an innings of 210 including 55 to Paul O'Regan, and 27 to Clark Hinton with solid contributions from all the others. Garin bowled Motueka out for 160, Tasman Walker taking 2 wickets, Paul O'Regan 3 and 3 good catches from Dean Bruning.

Winter Sports Sign Up

Sign up for Winter Sports was held on Tuesday and students were given the opportunity to register for netball, rugby, hockey, basketball, football and tennis lessons. Permission/payment slips should have been taken for parent/caregiver signature and arrangement of fees. Sporting fees need to be paid as a separate item and cannot be charged to a school account. They can be included in an automatic payment system which is organised through our Business Manager, Ron van Drunen. In fairness to all families Garin has a "no pay, no play" policy for sports activities. **Winter fees are due at the office by Friday March 16.** If you have any questions, please contact Head of Sport Henry Kersten or Sports Director Mike Aronsten.

Athletics Day Results

A great time was had at the School athletics day last Friday. It was held at the new Saxton Stadium that is now complete with seating for 600.

Students were able to compete in individual athletics events and house races such as tunnel ball, tug o war and chariot races.

Some excellent individual results were achieved, particularly by Jeff Lautenslager, Tarras Glover Sophie O'Connell, Sjaan Hungerford and Joseph Bull who all broke school records and by the following students who gained the most points in their respective grades.

U19	Points
Sjaan Hungerford	55 points
Reuben Springer	50 points
Tarras Glover	50 points
U16	Points
Sophie O'Connell	50 points
Joseph Bull	60 points
U15	Points
Bounty Davis	50 points
Joshua Moffat	50 points
Joe Snodgrass	50 points
U14	Points
Poppy Restieaux	60 points
Cole Barker	45 points

The top house was McAuley who also won the best house spirit and had the individual with the most sun smart costume.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Interviews for Years 11, 12 and 13 students are coming up on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 March at 3.30pm.

This is an important stage of the year in terms of your son/daughter's progress or otherwise.

Teachers will have a really good perspective on how students are performing and can supply you with some quite specific details of this.

You are encouraged to bring your son or daughter along to the interview as it is an important part of reporting on academic progress.

To make things easier, parents are able to make their interview times online...

1. The website address is www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
2. The school code for booking on line will be QUDJL. Bookings will not be available until Friday 9 March at 3.30pm.
3. Just follow the instructions and you will be emailed confirmation of your times.
4. Where there are no check boxes to tick, the teachers are unavailable for those times.
5. If the teacher's name does not show on the website, that means they are unavailable.

NB: Bookings are not available until 9 March.

If you miss out booking an interview online you can email your son or daughter's teacher to discuss their progress.



Take a Moment ...

It is a lonely existence to be a child with a disability which no-one can see or understand, you exasperate your teachers, you disappoint your parents, and worst of all you know that you are not just stupid.Susan Hampshire

