



**Cambridge Primary School**

Quality - Tradition - Innovation

*Alma literarum amore*

## **CPS eLearning Update - June 2016**

Kia Ora Parents/Caregivers,

We are now 6 months into the year and I would like to share with you some of the successes and highlights of our eLearning journey so far. You might not be aware that this year the BOT have made a financial commitment to enhancing student achievement and engagement through eLearning opportunities which is in alignment with the New Zealand Curriculum. Through their vision, they have supported and funded the release of myself for one day a week to implement a long term eLearning Professional Development plan. This means that I am working alongside teachers and students across the whole school on raising skills, knowledge and driving a pedagogical shift that allows students greater eLearning opportunities that can assist in raising student achievement and engagement. We are also lucky to be part of a Ministry eLearning contract and we also have the support of advisors who I work closely with. I feel privileged to be given this role and I am incredibly proud of the shifts I have seen over the last 2 terms. Each teacher has developed specific eLearning goals and my role is to support them and provide additional next steps for their personal and professional development.

### **Blake and Batten - Book Creator, Puppet Pals, SeeSaw**

The Junior teachers are all using SeeSaw as a way of connecting and sharing with parents and wider family members. This has been positively received by our Junior school community. Seesaw is a child friendly tool which is easy to use and allows for quick multimedia uploads. The children enjoy the interactive nature of this app. Senior buddy time on a Friday has allowed children to explore and create items to share while building relationships. Puppet pals and Book Creator are great tools to enable children to express ideas, knowledge and communicate to an audience.

### **Hillary and Rutherford - Google Apps, Blogs, Facebook, Digital Citizenship, Hapara, Book Creator**

We have introduced class/hub blogs as a forum for children to share the learning throughout the day. Children are learning the protocols and guidelines for effective communication to an audience through a blog. Rutherford established a Facebook page to communicate quickly with parents and the message of Digital Citizenship has been a huge focus. Google Apps are now well embedded into the culture of the senior children and it has been wonderful seeing the collaboration between children and their teachers. Some classes are even doing homework online now. We still have a long way to go, but the teachers and students have shown massive development and growth.

**Google Apps for Education (GAFE)** - is a series of free programs that are 'cloud' based. Similar to Microsoft Office with Word, Excel and Powerpoint, GAFE provide free access to Doc, Sheets and Slides. The advantage of the cloud base is that you can access your files, anywhere, anytime and on any device. However, the main advantage is that documents are shared between users so feedback and collaboration can occur. Each child has their own school login and password. Children are allowed to change their passwords as the teacher can change them and access their work at anytime. I suggest that you ask your child for their school google password and get them to show you what they are doing. It is acceptable that you, as parents, can access your child's Drive "storage" at any time. To keep you upskilled, I will be organising an eLearning Parent Info Evening on Tuesday 2nd August at 6pm, where we can show and explain just what exciting things the children are doing in class. It will be an opportunity to learn (hands on) more about Google Docs yourself!

**BYOD** - The feedback from the teachers in the senior end of the school has been very positive. The main comment I have been getting is about the speed and ease it is for a child to access files on their Google drive, and access learning sites like Mathletics when they have their own device. While all children at CPS are allowed to bring their own devices to school (recommended devices are mention in the CPS BYOD website) the uptake is (not surprisingly) greater in the senior area. More and more learning opportunities are enhanced and created through the use of technology.

Carol-Lynn Hill

**eLearning Lead Teacher**