Dear Parents and Carers,

Amaroo School has developed an ICT Action Plan to be implemented over the next three years. A key direction of this plan is the commitment for Amaroo School, Years 9 and 10, to become a bring your own device (BYOD) school from 2015. BYOD refers to the practice of students bringing their own devices with them to the learning environment. For those families that are unable to provide a device, the school will have a range of options to support your child and ensure they are not disadvantaged.

At Amaroo School we recognise the importance of preparing our students for a rapidly changing, multi-dimensional, high tech world. We want to enable this by improving our use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) with the goal of maximising personalised learning opportunities for each student.

Another key direction of our ICT Action Plan is investing in a cloud based teaching and learning platform using Google Apps for Education (GAFE). Cloud computing in schools enables collaboration and flexibility to create virtual classroom environments that can be accessed at school and at home. Moving to BYOD and GAFE has the potential to offer students at Amaroo School improved opportunities to collaborate with peers and community experts and to progress in their learning.

Phase one of the 3 year ICT Action Plan for Amaroo School begins in 2015. As a result, we are asking parents to invest in a Google Chromebook for your child if they are in year 9 or 10 in 2015. Google Chromebooks are an excellent and affordable example of a cloud based computing device that Amaroo School has researched, invested and piloted the use of in 2014. We are confident that this device will meet the needs and demands of a truly 21st century learning environment at Amaroo School.

Chromebooks are fast, portable computers that give students access to the web’s rich educational tools and resources. Prices start from $280 per device and include Google Apps for Education free of charge. These computers make technology affordable for learning.

In return for this investment in your child’s education, Amaroo School has partnered with the ACT Education and Training Directorate to upgrade our school WiFi infrastructure to be capable of supporting the constant use of a device by each student and staff member in the school.

Phase two of our plan involves students in Years 5 to 8 also moving to BYOD and GAFE.

Students in Preschool to Year 4 will be provided with enhanced opportunities to incorporate iPads into their learning and this will be a feature of delivering our ICT plan. The resources needed for this will be provided by the school.
The key points of this communication are:

- Year 9/10 students need their own device for school in 2015, parents unable to provide these devices will have support available.

- Families are asked to purchase a Chromebook computer, prices start from $280 per device (see attached sheet).

- Years 5 to 8 classes will gradually move to bringing their own device over the next two years, parents unable to provide devices can access support.

- Selected classes in Years 5 to 8 will move to Chromebooks from Semester 2, 2015 and this will be communicated as quickly as it is known.

- This is the first of a range of communications with parents and our community, further information can be found on our School Website.

- We aim to avoid the purchase of student stationery for those families who purchase Chromebooks.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process please do not hesitate to contact:

- Senior School      Tiffany Mahon  email: tiffany.mahon@ed.act.edu.au
- Middle School      Sam Beattie   email: sam.beattie@ed.act.edu.au
- Primary School     Gail Taylor   email: gail.taylor@ed.act.edu.au
- Early Childhood    Benjamin Hall  email: benjamin.hall@ed.act.edu.au

Richard Powell
Principal
2 December 2014
Suitable Chromebook Devices

There are a number of factors that should be considered before making a purchase.

1. **Processing speed:**
   Processing power is one of the important factors. The greater the processing power, the better the performance will be. The table on the next page provides processing comparisons of various chromebooks.

2. **Memory:**
   Memory also impacts the overall performance. It is recommended the device should have at least 2GB memory or higher.

3. **Disk Space:**
   Chromebooks don’t require large disk space as all files created through this device are stored into cloud based storage called Google Drive. Amaroo School will create and provide these logins to the students. We will also provide Wi-Fi access to connect these devices to the internet. Most of the chrome devices come with 16GB built in disk space which is enough for its normal operation.

4. **End of Life (EOL):**
   This is also another important factor. Recommended chromebooks should have at least 4 years EOL.
   When a device reaches EOL, it means that the product model is considered obsolete and automatic software updates from Google are no longer guaranteed. Please refer to this link for latest EOL for various chromebooks [https://www.google.com.au/chrome/devices/eol.html](https://www.google.com.au/chrome/devices/eol.html). In the attached table the devices with an unknown EOL means they have recently been released and haven’t been updated on the Google website yet. This also means that they may have the longest EOL.

5. **Other Factors:**
   Other factors that may be taken into consideration are weight, battery life and screen size. Please refer to the table on the next page for more details.

Lenovo 11e chromebooks have, in our experience, proved to be more durable. Please refer to the device reviews and manufacture’s website for more details.

The purchase of a quality Chromebook should provide your child with a device that meets their learning needs well into the future.
**Chromebook Specifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>End of Life date (EOL)</th>
<th>Processor</th>
<th>Memory</th>
<th>Hard Drive</th>
<th>Battery Life</th>
<th>Screen size</th>
<th>Bluetooth</th>
<th>Webcam</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>WiFi</th>
<th>Touch Screen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer</td>
<td>C720-2800</td>
<td>Nov-18</td>
<td>Intel Celeron 2955U</td>
<td>4GB</td>
<td>16 GB</td>
<td>upto 8.5 Hrs</td>
<td>11.6&quot;</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.25 Kg</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>intel® Celeron Quad Core 2.16 GHz</td>
<td>2GB</td>
<td>16GB</td>
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<td>11.6&quot;</td>
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<td>1.4 Kg</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Oct-18</td>
<td>Exynos 5250 dual core 1.7 GHz</td>
<td>2GB</td>
<td>16GB</td>
<td>Upto 6 Hrs</td>
<td>11.6&quot;</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>1.22 Kg</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14&quot;</td>
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<td>16GB</td>
<td>Upto 8 Hrs</td>
<td>11.6&quot;</td>
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<td>11.6&quot;</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>upto 10.5 Hrs</td>
<td>13.3&quot;</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1.35 Kg</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online purchasing has proven to be an excellent source for Amaroo School. Parents might like to check out the website below:

http://goo.gl/Xbv4sA

This information has been supplied to assist parent and carers in purchasing decisions for their children. Amaroo School does not recommend any purchasing method or supplier in preference to another.