On August 12, we welcomed Linda Pitt, Queensland Apple Education Development Executive. Linda joined our weekly Teacher iPad meeting before school and then visited some of our BYO iPad classes and talked with many of our students. Linda said that she was most impressed with our initiative and the learning opportunities and 21st Century skills we are providing our students, particularly the high level skill development in the early years. She was also glad to see our school’s strategic use of Kirsty Cutajar, eLearning Mentor, who supports students, staff and community Hilliard SS. Linda has booked to come back to Hilliard SS in 3 weeks to further discuss the future partnership between Hilliard SS and Apple.

This is an exciting time for Hilliard SS. While we are not formally recognised as a showcase school for our iLearn@HilliardSS initiative, we have welcomed many visitors from other schools, and fielded many requests for information regarding our program. Later this term, I will be showcasing our initiative to the Deputy Principals of the South East Region during a 2 hour session.

Kind regards
Jason Meijboom
Deputy Principal

**Consistency of Teacher Practice**

At a recent Teacher iPad meeting, our group discussed the need for a consistent approach for providing learning opportunities to students at Hilliard SS. We discussed a DRAFT Teacher document, “What Learning Looks Like at Hilliard SS”, which outlines expected learning opportunities and use of required apps. Current iPad Teachers were given a survey to complete in order to gauge their current use of iPads to help inform this document. We hope to trial this consistent approach through the remainder of Semester 2.
Homework

The BYO initiative at Hilliard SS offers many opportunities and benefits for our students and staff. Many of these are outlined in our 21 Educational Benefits on our iLearn@HilliardSS page on our school website.

Hilliard SS Homework Policy states, “Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.”

We are aware that many students in the BYO iPad classes are very much enjoying doing homework as much of it is fun and also engaging. Obviously there needs to be a balance and parents are the best judge of this. Teachers will set homework, not for the sake of doing so but to benefit the students with their learning. Understandably, some children do not like doing homework and we certainly do not want parents to engage in conflict if this is the case. Encouraging your child or sitting with them at the beginning (also known as hurdle help) can often get them started. Also speak with your child’s class teacher if have any concerns with homework.

Showcasing Student Achievement

Students in Year One regularly use iPads as a part of their daily reading group rotations. In the picture below, students can be seen to use the app Skoolbo to improve word recognition and develop literacy skills. The app Raz Kids allows students to access levelled books to read, listen and complete quizzes on. The Educreations app has been used to allow students read books and record their own voice. Students love using headphones with their iPad!

Students in Year 2 have used the app Keynote to write and record poetry as a part of the English curriculum. Students also added different pictures within their Keynote presentation to support their written content. These students are certainly proud of their iPad created work!