Dear Parents/Caregivers,

INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY – AN INVESTMENT IN OUR CHILDREN’S FUTURE

Throughout the past year, staff and parents at Mackay West have been working to understand the impact that the introduction of the new Australian Curriculum in 2012 will have on our school community.

One of the key areas it will impact is ICT (Information, Communications and Technology).

For example:

- ICT is no longer regarded as another subject for students to undertake. Rather, it is now considered, as with Literacy and Numeracy, to be a foundation skill that every child must attain.
- Education Queensland has provided many resources to help teachers deliver explicit lessons while implementing the new Australian curriculum. All of these resources are online resources. Students will no longer require textbooks.

Furthermore, in our quadrennial school reviews and annual parent surveys, parents, teachers and students alike have all identified ICT as an area needing improvement at the school.

As a result, Mackay West State School has made a commitment to prioritise ICT over the coming years. The ICT committee has developed an ICT Strategic Plan. Our P&C Association, in its Strategic Plan for 2012-14, has also prioritised ICT and is committed to providing financial support to ICT development in the school.

Although we receive funding from Education Queensland and have the financial support of our P&C Association, this is not enough to fund the ICT requirements of a school the size of West.

We are now asking for your help.

The school, with the support of the P&C Association, is seeking a voluntary financial contribution of $25 per student to go directly towards establishing essential technology and ICT access within our school.

This voluntary financial contribution begins in Term 1, 2012. We would appreciate your support in this project. You can send your $25 per student in an envelope to your child’s class teacher or it can be paid at the school office. Contributions would be appreciated by the end of Term 1.

This initiative is an exciting project for the Mackay West community. Please refer to school newsletters for future Technology updates.

On behalf of the staff and students at Mackay West, we sincerely appreciate your support in this matter. Voluntary Contributions will be directly supporting your children in establishing Digital Classroom Toolkits for all 34 classrooms within our school.

Kind Regards

Doug Sturgeon Janice Quadrio Julia Shaw
Principal P&C President ICT Committee Coordinator