



# BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Using Smart Technology

### SMART BOARDS

A typical SMART Board setup, consists of a touch sensitive whiteboard connected to a projector and computer. You can then run any computer application (e.g. CD ROMs, Digital Cameras, DVDs, CD's the internet and other educational software), interacting with those applications using your finger instead of a mouse.

Beumaris's continued commitment to embedded learning technologies and desire to continually improve teaching and learning relationships for our students, lead our staff to take on a new technology challenge. SMART Boards!

### BACKGROUND

The term 'Information & Communications Technology' is applied to various forms of technology & communications apparatus including: computers; scanners; videoconferencing units; SmartBoards; digital cameras; listening centres; audio and broadcasting systems; and the Intranet and Internet. As ICT in general is part of everyday life we need to promote use and ensure all users acquire knowledge, understanding and the ability to use various forms of ICT throughout the curriculum, to better engage learners and improve outcomes. This we intend to do by integrating 'Smart Board' technology into teaching and learning pathways, connecting learning to the outside world, including schools and classes across district, state, nation and globe.



### AIM

An action research project to:

- Further develop the use of SmartBoards as a tool and hence o Further promote whole school teaching – learning engagement in working towards productive pedagogy and improved outcomes
- Continue to develop skills, programs, action research reports and whole school and interschool 'train the trainer' programs to benefit all interested stakeholders

### OBJECTIVES

#### The condition of school facilities

The school and parent organisations have invested considerable local funding into upgrading IT facilities, which are now, relatively modern and current in basic areas. The school has embarked on a long term vision, "Plan for a Whole School Learning, Thinking & Caring Community." We have embraced this vision and given what support we can. We continue to seek additional support to deliver the vision.

### Needs related to the well-being of students

While we know staff have made significant development in personal IT skills, pedagogy needs to continue to change. SmartBoard technology offers a logical and practical strategy to link together and further develop IT & multimedia skills in promoting: higher order learning pathways; engaged teaching & learning; linking classroom to the home; linking classroom to other classrooms; linking classroom to the world; and collaborative teaching teams - in school and beyond school. We believe such a pedagogical shift will revitalise teaching - learning and promote improved outcomes.

### The educational needs of students

The technology will enable teachers to lead learning beyond classroom walls, through individual and collaborative strategies with other schools and points of interests, locally, nationally and internationally. The technology is engaging and early trials, provided through parent funding and private sector programs, are already showing markedly improved levels of student and teacher interest and creativity that is sufficiently challenging old ways of teaching, in preference for more productive pedagogy.

### The overall needs of the school

Smart board technology has the capacity to improve teaching - learning relationships and outcomes, across the board. It also has the capacity to make learning easier for our many 'special needs students' who find it easier to manipulate and incorporate into their learning program. This is also the same for 4-5 olds, who form almost 25% of the school population. Early trials have reported back greater engagement, easier manipulation, a sheer enjoyment of the technology and a significant improvement in skills. Smart technology will be central to delivering our vision.

### RESOURCING:

To date Beaumaris has invested over \$250,000 in-technology resources as part of the school vision. We currently have half the classrooms with Smart Technology. Over the coming years our aim is to develop multi dimensional communications for learning, class – home links and global networking by accessing and utilizing smart technology. In all we will invest over \$400,000 to improve teaching – learning relationships and outcomes.

### KEY SOURCES FOR FUNDING INCLUDE:

Department of Education Western Australia (State Government)  
Department of Education Science and Training (Commonwealth Government)  
Beaumaris Parents & Citizens Association Private Sector programs and grants

### CONCLUSION

Our aim is to strengthen and modernise teaching – learning relationships that are more appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and our students who must thrive in this new age.

