April 8th, 2013 

Dear Parents,

RE: DIGITAL ACCESS ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

As part of West Vancouver School District’s ongoing effort to provide innovative and quality learning opportunities, your child’s classroom has volunteered to be part of a Digital Access Action Research project.

There is increasing support that access to digital resources and tools combined with inquiry teaching and learning practices improves student engagement, learning relevancy, and academic success. A challenge in today’s classrooms is the inconsistent access to digital tools: some students have access some of the time, some have no access and only a few students have access all of the time. The Digital Access Action Research project is aimed at understanding the impact of “ubiquitous” or pervasive digital access on student learning and teaching.

The action research project (action research is a type of research that allows for the participants to engage in solving the answer to “how does ubiquitous or pervasive access impact learning and teaching”) is being designed to occur over **April 22nd - May 30th** . During this time, all students in the class are asked to bring their own digital device. More specifically, if you have access to an iPad or laptop, we are asking that your child bring it to school daily during the duration of the project and bring the device home at the end of each day.

Teachers participating in the project are being provided time to prepare for pervasive access in the classroom. They will learn how to secure the devices, when to use the devices and when not to (pervasive access does not mean that students use them all day), and how to use “inquiry” to explore and develop learning opportunities. We do not expect families to go and purchase devices for their children; rather, we are asking that you send existing devices that you presently have. For those students who do not have access to a device, the school district will provide a device for the duration of the project.

We thank you in advance for your support with this project and in helping us better understand and learn about the opportunities and challenges of pervasive digital access. If you have any further questions, please contact Gary Kern, Director of Instruction, at [gkern@sd45.bc.ca](mailto:gkern@sd45.bc.ca).

Thank you,

Jennifer Towers, Scott Lawson and Kelly Spearman