



Making the most of teacher time with ActivPanel

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Emily Leschke

Teacher at The Hall State School

A bit of background

Rockhampton, Australia, is home to The Hall State School - where there are around 325 students from preparatory level up to Year 6. The Hall is committed to treating every student as an individual and offers a range of activities around creating a positive impact, including a school-wide recycling program and a whole-school social-emotional wellbeing program.

The Hall is keen to keep up with developments in education technology, and has access to a range of online resources and a few interactive whiteboards across the school. That said, looking for ways to upgrade technology on a tight budget is no mean feat - until teacher Emily Leschke found out about the Promethean Grant!

Why the ActivPanel?

Having previously met with one of the Promethean team and seen an ActivPanel demonstration, Emily was convinced that it would be a brilliant addition to her classroom. "We didn't have budget to purchase one ourselves," she explained, "but we were overwhelmed by the potential of the technology."

Emily was looking to introduce a more interactive classroom experience, and recognised the potential for the ActivPanel to provide a platform through which the students could work together and share ideas.

On top of this, Emily was looking for technology which could help streamline workloads for herself and her fellow teachers by bringing their resources together and enabling seamless lesson planning and delivery on the fly.

With the help of her class, Emily put together a winning entry to the 2017 Promethean Grant, and had an ActivPanel installed in her classroom.



ActivPanel opens up a new world of engaging lesson content

The Hall had a few devices available to them already, such as iPads, and Emily found that the ActivPanel worked well with their existing resources. Elaborating on this, Emily added: "As a teacher, I found that the in-class connectivity functions really helped to bring content to life through using the technology to integrate different media and resources."

As the ActivPanel doesn't rely on external devices, Emily soon realised she could use her laptop whilst her students were working independently on the Panel. Being able to demonstrate at the front of the class, then invite the children up to try it for themselves proved to be engaging for the pupils whilst freeing up Emily's own devices for other tasks. "Also," said Emily, "when there is a relief teacher, they can just plug in via USB and deliver the lesson content easily, allowing students a consistent experience no matter who is teaching."

Having access to a huge number of apps through the ActivPanel's Android device has also been invaluable for Emily, putting a huge variety of engaging content at her fingertips. During a module about space, for example, the class made use of an app that displayed exactly what they were learning about on-screen for all to see. "It's an amazing resource to support learning and lesson delivery," Emily commented.

There is also scope for Emily's class to enjoy more

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group work now that the ActivPanel is available to them. Specifically, the multiple touch-points mean that more students can get involved at any one time, encouraging more discussion and sharing of ideas between the children.

The benefits of the ActivPanel go beyond the teaching environment at The Hall. Emily has been using the ActivPanel to facilitate staff meetings - just like the students, the school's teachers are sharing content and ideas more than ever.

The Hall State School's ActivPanel has enabled Emily and her colleagues to find new ways of engaging and inspiring their students whilst managing their own workloads more effectively. Enthusiastic to maximise the potential of the ActivPanel, Emily has undertaken classes on the interactive benefits of the technology so as to help the staff upskill across the school. Promethean has since recognised her efforts once more by gifting Emily's class VR shirts at EduTECH 2018, setting them up for a fantastic virtual reality experience.

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