Simone Kiprioti,
Senior programme coordinator St.Edmund's College

A little about us…

St Edmund's College in Wahroonga is a year 7-12 co-educational special high school for teenagers with a wide range of disabilities including sensory impairment, intellectual disability and autism. We welcome students from a wide catchment area throughout Sydney, with 130 students currently on our roll.

Each pupil is catered for through an individual program which addresses their academic, personal wellbeing and emotional spheres.

At our school, each student is fortunate to have access to their own tablet device as high levels of technology support all aspects of our program, which also includes dance, creative art, music and sport.

Why we entered…

We have 12 interactive whiteboards in the school which have historically provided all students with access to this technology. Over the past year the school has also invested in an ActivPanel, which has proven a big hit with our students who are used to working with a tablet-style device. It provides a great large-scale solution for students who are developing their fine motor skills. We are able to use our existing ActivPanel to mirror individual devices which has been great for communication and collaboration in class and this engagement is something that we want more students to benefit from.

Unfortunately, the interactive whiteboard in the library was not working very effectively, which was causing frustration for the students wishing to use it in their learning. So the competition came at an opportune time, as we were seeing the advantages of the panel that we already had and knew that another one would provide a great resource for more of our students. Additionally, it provides another tool for our teachers as they explore ways of encouraging more interactivity in learning.

The year 12 students who created our winning video were really excited by the project, and that they were responsible for what was created.
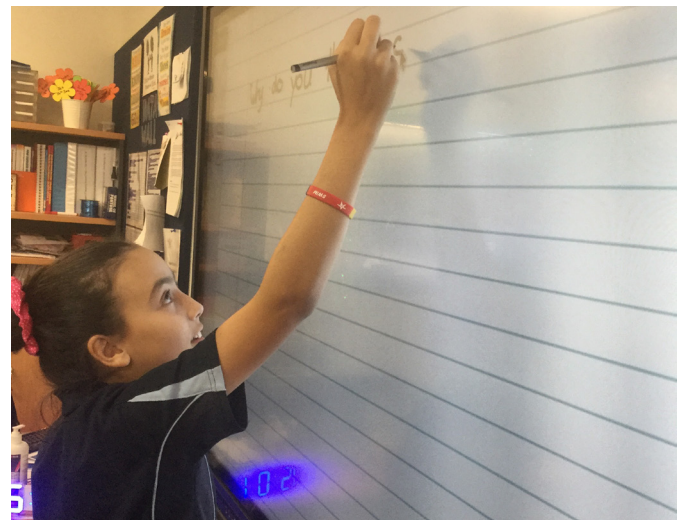
What winning means to us...

In our video we started in black and white and progressed to colour, which we feel reflects our learning without and with interactive technology. Our students firmly believe that the ActivPanel brings colour to class activities and we are so proud that our video was successful. Within the project, this group of students, each with varying levels of ability provided individual input and ideas, so it is incredibly exciting for us to be awarded a grant as it recognises what is a big achievement. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to undertake a multi-faceted project which required them to review and understand the entry criteria, develop the story board and agree which app would be most suitable to communicate their ideas.

Our killer three tips...

- Make sure that all students involved understand the capabilities of the panel - get them to relate to the technology as a big tablet, something that they are comfortable with and already excited by
- Make sure that the students have an investment in the project so that their ideas and ownership are at the forefront of what is created
- Do something different in terms of the presentation - research and investigate which apps are most suitable for the pupils creating the video

Social Media...

f @stedmundscollegewahroonga

> It is such a big achievement to have been selected as a Promethean Grant winner and we are really delighted that our video was successful. Each student has a varying level of ability, but everyone provided individual input and ideas, so it is incredibly exciting for us to be awarded a Grant as it recognises all of our hard work.
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> Having had experience of using an ActivPanel in our school before, our students feel that using this technology really brings colour to class activities. We are really proud that with this Grant, we are able to give more students the opportunity to benefit from interactive learning.