

PFA NEWS

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Cashion and Jody Collins Skinner

An iPad in every backpack?

Last month we began an open conversation with Principal Tom Gwin about the future of educational technology at WHS. How might we use technology to improve teaching and learning in Winchester in the years ahead? Will tablets replace textbooks? Will better technology lead to better learning outcomes? What will it all cost?

As part of the “Focus on the Future” Strategic Plan, a working group of WHS faculty, students and parents are looking at the possibility of introducing “one to one” technology in our school – one laptop or tablet device per student to deliver content and support instruction.

How would it work? Right up the street at Burlington High School, such a “one to one” experiment is already under way. In September, 2011, iPads were distributed to all students, school-wide. **On Wednesday, February 1st, at 7:30pm, Burlington High Principal Patrick Larkin will be our special guest and talk with us about the launch of his school’s iPad program.** Bring your questions, bring your concerns and help us continue the conversation. Members of the “One to One” working group will be present as well.

As a starting point, you may wish to listen to the January 24, 2012 discussion on WBUR’s “On Point,” which framed some of the key questions very well:

<http://onpoint.wbur.org/2012/01/24/future-of-textbooks>

Happy listening, and we look forward to seeing you Wednesday February 1 at 7:30pm in the WHS Library!