



Media Release: Smarter than Smart Shopping

Tyalla Primary School parents and friends have reason to feel proud of their shopping efforts, as the money generated from their purchases at the Ritchie's Super IGA store have enabled the school to purchase a whiz-bang computer smartboard.

These smartboards have to be seen to be believed, as Park Beach Plaza Super IGA store manager, Adrian Rigby learned when visiting the school to learn how the Ritchies Community Benefit funds had been spent in the school.

Mr Rigby thought the smartboard was "sensational," but was very glad he didn't have one in his office at the store, as he "wouldn't get any work done - they were so much fun." He was "Really pleased to see how the loyalty benefits were being spent by one of the organisations supported by his store's program."

The students demonstrated to Mr Rigby how to convert his handwriting on the board into typed text, all by using their fingers to manipulate the large touch screen in front of the class. Tyalla Primary School students said you need to be careful to write neatly and not put spaces in the wrong place, or the text recognition tool "doesn't know what you've written."

However, the text recognition tool isn't the student's favourite computer application, they were urging for the frog dissection program to be demonstrated to the school visitors, who were not quite as keen on the idea. While a computer graphical frog dissection program is probably very welcome news to the world's frogs, students also nominated the dice relay games and drawing programs as other favourites.

Tyalla Primary School's computer expert, Sandy Ryan says, "The smartboard is a fantastic educational resource, enabling truly interactive use in a classroom setting by use of the touch screen." Ms Ryan says "The smartboards enable younger students, who have yet to develop mouse skills to touch the tools and drag them with their fingers to where they need them. This gives them a great deal of confidence to be able to have such easy success with technology and the screen size keeps the whole class involved."



"We're so grateful to Ritchies IGA and our community for supporting the school to purchase such a wonderful educational resource," says Sandy Ryan.

Photo caption: Adrian Rigby, Store Manager of Ritchies IGA at Park Beach Plaza is treated to a demonstration by students of the new computer smartboard purchased for Tyalla Primary School with funds from the Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Fund.