

Luca's story: The power of technology for dyslexic learners

Year 6 Ithaca Creek State School student, Luca, is one of a small group of students who has completed a six week iPad course run by Speld Qld.

Luca presented a speech on his experiences with technology in the classroom at the school's annual Arch Bevis Public Speaking Competition. Luca's eloquent speech is a testament to the transformative power of assistive technology for dyslexic learners.

This is Luca's speech:

Imagine reading a sentence and looking at one word and the other words disappear – that is what it is like for me. Good morning teachers and fellow students. I am here to talk about how technology helps people with dyslexia, and so prove that technology is good.



I got an iPad not long after I had realised I have dyslexia – there are courses for people who have dyslexia to use technology to their advantage. Technology helps me learn in class. I wrote the first chapter of a book using an iPad and computer.

During class instead of writing what is on the Interactive Board I can take a photo of it or type it out. This saves me time and I don't have to keep on looking up and down at the board. I get the work done faster, I can listen to the teacher more, I can pay more attention to and join in class discussions. Technology helps me keep up with the rest of the class.

People with dyslexia can use iPads and laptops to help them with writing a speech by researching on the Internet for ideas and creating the speech. I wrote this speech by using the Simple Mind App. Simple Mind makes a mind map on the iPad. With Simple Mind you can brainstorm ideas, and then you can order the ideas and join ideas together. After this I copied the ideas down in sentences on the laptop using Microsoft Word.

I recorded my voice as well in Audio Note. This helped me listen to me practising my speech. Now you see how technology helped me with this speech.

Technology will help me in high school. I have been learning more off the iPad in Grade 6. I have learnt how to use it and when to use it. This will help when I go to high school. Every day new technology is being made. I wonder what it will be like by the time I am in Grade 9? I am glad there are technologies to help kids with dyslexia – I am glad I was born when I was because there is more technology than there was in the olden days.