

March 2012

Dear families,

We are about to start an exciting new project to promote enthusiasm and excitement about reading, writing and learning in general.

The students in Division 3 will use Kidblog (<http://kidblog.org>) to create and maintain their own student blog. Our blogs will be used as personal reflection of individual learning as well as a way to communicate and present our learning.

Joanne McLarty, our teacher-librarian, will be working with us on this project to facilitate this new learning environment.

### **How it works**

Each student will have their own blog connected to a main page for the class (<http://kidblog.org/Suzannesclass/>). Students will be required to post on their blogs weekly on particular topics or in response to certain ideas. They will have class time to work on their posts, but may wish to work on their blogs outside of class as well. Students may also utilize computers in the library before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays or access their blogs from home.

### **Online safety and responsibility**

Kidblog is a website dedicated for educational use only and has been created specifically for students. Having a real audience is one of the components of working online, however, all posts and comments must be approved by me before they are posted on the website. For privacy, no personal information will be included in the blogs. Students will be identified using their first names only. Students are allowed to post their ideas and opinions, but not their age, address, phone number, photographs of themselves or other or other identifying information. Parents are encouraged to visit the blogs and see what we are learning.

### **More about blogs**

A blog is a special type of online journal, in the form of a website, that can be created and easily updated using a web browser. The exciting thing about a blog is that students can take full advantage of the wealth of resources available on the internet by actually publishing their own work online. Students can also read and comment on other student's blogs. In this way, students are really participating in the read/write web.

Six reasons why kids should know how to blog - <http://bit.ly/wg2kwV>

20 reasons why students should blog - <http://bit.ly/z6l1ld>

Feel free to contact me or Joanne at the school if you have any questions or comments.

Yours truly,

Suzanne

### **Permission**

Before your child may start posting to their blog, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign the following form. We will also be going over the blogging terms and conditions in class. Please have your child return the form to me.

### **Blogging Terms and Conditions**

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree to not post or give out your family name, password, user name, email address, home address, or other information that could help someone locate or contact you in person.
2. Students using blogs agree to not share their user name or password with anyone besides their teachers and parents. You agree to never log in as another student.
1. Students using blogs are expected to treat blog spaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is not appropriate for your blog. While we encourage you to engage in debate and conversation with other bloggers, we also expect that you will conduct yourself in a manner reflective of a representative of this school. Students are expected to treat others and their ideas with respect.
1. Student blogs are to be a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such will sometimes be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers. Students are welcome to post on any school-appropriate subject.
1. Students using blogs should take care of the computers by not downloading or installing any software without permission, and not clicking on ads or competitions.
2. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.

I have read and understood these blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from the Blog Policy at [http://budtheteacher.com/wiki/index.php?title=Blogging\\_letter](http://budtheteacher.com/wiki/index.php?title=Blogging_letter)