

# ***STUDENT BLOGS – DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS***

## **PARENT INFORMATION**

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Dear parents,

Thank you for returning the permission note from the start of the year indicating that you give permission for your child to be part of the class and student blogs.

The grade four students are now in the process of setting up their own blog. Students will be using their blog as a digital portfolio to document some of the work they're doing at school.

Using a blog as a digital portfolio is very exciting for our students because they can show their friends and family what they're doing at school. Blogs are an excellent way for students to improve their literacy and ICT skills, while learning to be a responsible digital citizen.

**Blog URL:**

### **Some information about the student blogs:**

- We are using Global2 which is the Department of Education's blogging platform. Global2 is a blogging platform powered by Edublogs.
- Teachers set up each blog and therefore have administrator powers.
- Unlike blogs that some students have had in previous years, the purpose of these blogs is to document learning, not to talk about hobbies etc. (there is an *option* for students to post about things other than learning – see below).
- The students will not be posting identifying photos of themselves on their own blog at school (they can do this at home if their parents approve – see below). They will use an avatar and only use their first name.
- We put a strong emphasis on internet safety in grade four. Students have learnt about creating positive digital footprints and not revealing personal information about themselves such as their last name, address, phone number etc. Having their own online space is a great way for students to put this knowledge into practice.

### **Working on student blogs at school:**

- Students will publish a new post approximately once a week. This will include a sample of their recent work and reflection on what they learnt.
- Students are the administrators of their own blogs and are learning to moderate any comments they receive etc.

### **Working on student blogs at home (optional):**

- Students are **not required** to work on their blog at home, however, they're welcome to with parent approval and support.
- If students do post at home, the topic could be anything they're interested in (eg. a book review, a holiday, pets, hobbies, research etc).
- Students may post photos at home with parent permission. Remember never to post pictures of *other* children or people without their permission. Blogging is an authentic and engaging way for students to practise their writing.
- If students are blogging at home, parents must proofread posts before they are published.

### **Learning about blogging:**

- Learning about blogging is a year long process. Students will not know everything at once and need to be patient as they develop their skills.
- If students do wish to learn more about blogging on their own, they can look at the Edublogs help pages which contain step by step guides <http://help.edublogs.org/>

Any other important information about the student blogs will be provided via our fortnightly parent emails throughout the year.

Thank you,

Grade four teachers