

Dear Grade 2 Families,

This year, we have been learning about blogging, digital citizenship, social media, and connecting globally as a class. As you may have seen on the class blog, we participated in the Edublog Student Blogging Challenge in the fall.

Now we will be moving forward by learning how to capture our learning and share it.

This is where student blogfolios (BLOG + PORTFOLIO) come in. The concept isn't new. Every year, students come home with folders full of completed tests, projects and worksheets as documentation of their learning from that year. Some of you may sit down with your child and look through the different pieces slowly. Others may put it on a shelf with binders from past years. And some of you may even throw it in the recycling. Our goal is to introduce students to blogfolios as a space for the students to collect and share their artifacts (journal entries, projects, videos). In Grade 2, our blogfolios will be much more of a *portfolio*, while the majority of the skills needed for blogging will be developed over the years to come.

As a soft launch into student blogfolios, students will each be given their own personal blogs. We will begin adding artifacts to our blogs based on what we are doing in class. There are a few things you should know:

- Blogfolio URLs (addresses) will follow the formula: firstnamelastinitialojcs.edublogs.org (ex: liannakojcs.edublogs.org);
- All posts and comments will have to be approved by Morah Lianna, Morah Batya, Morah Dora, or Mr. Polowin before they get published;
- Students (with the consent of their parents) may choose to post pictures and videos of themselves and their work online;
- Personal information (address, last name, birthday, etc.) WILL NEVER be posted on the blogfolio;
- Students will be encouraged to comment on each other's posts;
- Parents who choose to comment are asked to use their first name only, so as not to identify personal information about the child.

Understanding that this may feel new and uncomfortable to some of you and our students, there are a few privacy settings to choose from:

- **Public Blogfolio** - URL will include the student's first name and last initial. It will be public, meaning anyone would have access to seeing the content and comments (for example, our class blog is public.) This adds tremendous value to the work students are doing, in that their audience is greater than their teacher and peers, and they'll see that others care to read what they say. For example, connecting directly with scientists, subject matter experts, authors, other students from around the world, etc.;
- **Public Avatar Blogfolio** - URL is made up of an alias and students do not post their real name, picture or video on their Blogfolio. However, the site is still public and anyone will be able to access the content and comment.
- **Password Protected Blogfolio** - URL will include the student's first name and last initial. Anyone who tries to access the blogfolio will be required to enter a password. Students and parents would control who knows the password.
- **Private Blogfolio** - URL will include the student's first name and last initial. Only people with an edublog account (parents would need to create one to have access) who have been granted permission to the blog will be able to view the content.

Please ensure you have carefully read through all the information above. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. Please complete and return the attached permission form.

Sincerely,

The Grade 2 Team
Morah Lianna
Morah Batya
Morah Dora
Mr. Polowin

Grade 2 OJCS Blogfolios

I _____, give permission for
_____, to participate in the Grade 2 Blogfolio Program.

I give permission for the following blogfolio setting (please select one)

- Public Blogfolio
- Public Avatar Blogfolio. I would like my child's avatar name to be:

- Password Protected Blogfolio
- Private Blogfolio

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____