

Dear Parents,

Our class has our own blog! We are using a blogging platform called Edublogs. We will also be using a class twitter account to follow exceptional people like Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield, as well as to provide updates and reminders to parents who follow us.

About Our Blog

If you are unfamiliar with blogs, they are online journals. Blogs are essentially websites where an administrator (in our case, Mrs. Kostiuk) can add posts, which are displayed in reverse chronological order. There are icons on the side, called widgets, where you can find past posts, recent comments, links to other blogs, and more. There are tabs at the top that will navigate you to different pages of our blog. We will be using our blog to document what is happening in our classroom throughout the school year and to connect with parents and classes around the world.

Why blog?

Blogs are great because you can share work and achievements with a wide, authentic audience. Instead of just the teacher seeing the students' creations, all of the parents and students can view the work and leave comments. Having a blog helps to strengthen home-school partnerships and build a sense of classroom community. Class and student blogging have been related to improvement with students' skills in literacy, typing, social interactions, and geography. Blogging provides the ideal opportunity for students to learn about appropriate online behaviours and get experience using a 21st century technology.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is an online social networking site that enables users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets".

Safety

Internet safety is very important. Through blogging, the students in our class will have the opportunity to learn about appropriate online behaviours in an authentic and supervised setting. Students will not be using personal Twitter accounts and will only have access to the class Twitter account in a supervised setting. Please see the attached "Blog Permission Form", which outlines safety precautions and rules of our classroom blog.