

# 2013 4KM and 4KJ Class Blog Information

Dear Parents,

4KM and 4KJ will continue to have a joint class blog for both classes to work on and follow in 2013. The students will also be starting an individual blog later in the year as part of the 1:1 curriculum.

We use a blogging platform called *Global2* which is established by the *Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)*.

## About our class blog

If you are unfamiliar with blogs, they are online journals. Blogs are essentially websites where administrators (in our case Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris) 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, our global visitors and more.

We use our blog to document what is happening in 4KM and 4KJ and to connect with parents and classes around the world.

Our class blog address is  
<http://4kmand4kj.global2.vic.edu.au>

## Why blog?

2013 is the sixth year Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris have had class blogs and they've seen so many **benefits for their students**.

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**.

In previous years, Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris have documented clear improvement with students' skills in **literacy, typing, ICT, social interactions, and geography** through blogging.

Blogging provides the ideal opportunity for students to learn about **appropriate online behaviours** and get experience using a **21<sup>st</sup> century technology**.

One of the most rewarding experiences from blogging is the **global connections** we make. We are able to communicate and even Skype with our blogging buddies from all over the world. Blogs flatten our classroom walls!

## Safety

**Internet safety** is of upmost important to us. Through blogging, the students in 4KM and 4KJ will have the opportunity to learn about **appropriate online behaviours** in an **authentic and supervised** setting.

**The following guidelines have been established to ensure the safety of our students when blogging.**

- Students' first names, photos, work, video and school name **MAY** be included on the blog(s).
- Students' surnames, address, email address, phone number, specific plans, date of birth and other personal information **WILL NOT** be included on the blog(s).
- All comments have to be screened and approved before they are included on the blog(s).
- Students will be encouraged to comment on other class/student blogs with teacher/parent supervision.
- Parents who leave comments are asked to use their first name only so as not to identify their child. *Eg. Please identify yourself in comments as "Jane - Sally's mum" rather than "Jane Brown - Sally's mum".*
- All commenters must be polite, respectful and courteous.
- Others' work, images, music or videos will not be used without permission and attribution.
- Parents are asked to proofread comments and posts that students write on blogs at home.

Our blog is a collaborative effort. While Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris moderate all comments and posts, please let us know if you think we have overlooked any breaches in our safety guidelines and we will fix it up ASAP.

## Classroom Blogging FAQs

### Who writes the posts on the class blog?

Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris are the only ones who can publish posts on the 4KM and 4KJ blog. The teachers write the posts and the students, parents and other people comment. Later in the year, students may be chosen to write guest posts on the class blog. These will be checked by Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris before they are published.

### Who can comment on the class blog?

Anyone can comment, however, all comments are moderated. Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris receives an email every time a comment is submitted. They can choose to publish, edit or delete the comment.

### Will students have their own blog?

Yes. This year we endeavour to have all 4KM and 4KJ students blogging at school as part of the 1:1 curriculum. This will be one way students will create a digital portfolio of their work. We will begin the year with a focus on the class blog to build the students' skill sets before moving into individual student blogs. You will be informed about your child's blog when the time comes. The same strong safety and security rules will apply. While students will be encouraged to do some work on their own blog at home later in the year, it will primarily be a school task in 2013.

### How can parents and family members be involved in the class blog?

We LOVE receiving comments on our class blog from parents and family members. Comment as often as you like! Your comment will always be read and appreciated. Evidence shows a strong correlation between parents' interest in their child's schooling and the child's success at school. Blogging is a great way for parents to be involved in their child's education.

### Why do you have a blogging program in your classroom?

As outlined on the previous page, Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris have documented *many* benefits of blogging. In fact, they have not seen another program that provides so many positive outcomes for students. Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris have presented to educators at schools and conferences around the state and world about blogging. Their blogging program has been featured as a "best practice" model in magazines, podcasts and newspapers. It is something they are very passionate about!

### How often do you blog? When will my child be blogging?

4KM and 4KJ will look at the class blog every day for a brief amount of time. There will generally be 2-3 new posts on the blog every week. Students will be provided with opportunities in class throughout the week to comment on the class blog. The writing of comments will involve practicing a literacy convention learnt in class.

If they have internet access at home, the students are asked to comment from home at least once a week. Our blogging sessions are always carried out with a strong literacy focus; blogging is an authentic way to teach important reading and writing skills.

### Have you had any parents who have not given their child permission to blog?

No. In the five years that Miss Jordan and Mrs Morris have been blogging with their students they have not had any parents not give their child permission to participate.

### Have you ever had any incidents of cyber bullying or leaking of personal information on the blog?

No. We take internet safety very seriously. We moderate everything that happens on the blog and have never had any problems in the past.

**If you have any other questions about the 4KM and 4KJ Blog, please contact Mrs Morris or Miss Jordan.**

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[missjordan@leopold.vic.edu.au](mailto:missjordan@leopold.vic.edu.au)

*Don't know how to blog? Don't worry!  
We will send home more information to help you navigate our class blog soon!*

Please return the attached permission form ASAP to allow your child to begin their blogging journey!