2011 2KM and 2KJ Class Blog

Dear Parents,

2KM and 2KJ have a new joint blog for both classes to work on and follow in 2011. We use a blogging platform called *Global2* which is supported by the Victorian Education Department.

About our blog

If you are unfamiliar with blogs, they are like online journals. Blogs are essentially websites where administrators (in our case Miss Jordan, Mrs Morris and 2KJ/2KM students) can add posts which are displayed in reverse chronological order. There are panels on the side (called widgets) where you can find past posts, recent comments, our global visitors and more.

We use our blog to add information about what is happening in 2KM and 2KJ and to connect with parents and classes around the world.

> Our blog address is
> http://2kmand2kj.global2.vic.edu.au

Why blog?

This is the fourth 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 things with a wide audience. Instead of just the teacher seeing the students' work, all of the parents can view the work and leave comments. Having a blog helps to strengthen home-school partnerships and build a sense of classroom community.

Using blogs is also a great way for students to improve their ICT skills and get experience using an emerging technology.

Students improve their literacy skills while blogging and it a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about appropriate online behaviours.

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 2KM and 2KJ 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 will only be identified by their first name.
- Posts written by students are checked by Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris before they are published on the blog.
- Posts will not include personal details about students such as addresses and family information.
- All comments submitted have to be approved by Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris before they are included on the blog.
- All students must have parental permission to have their photo and work posted on the blog.
- Parents who leave comments are asked to use their first name only so as not to identify their child.
- All students must abide by the blogging rules that we have established as a class.

If you have any other questions about the 2KM and 2KJ Blog, please contact Mrs Morris or Miss Jordan.

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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!