

2012 4KM and 4KJ Class Blog Information

Dear Parents,

4KM and 4KJ have a new joint blog for both classes to work on and follow in 2012. We use a blogging platform called *Global2* which is established by the *Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)*.

About our 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 blog address is
<http://4kmand4kj.global2.vic.edu.au>

Why blog?

2012 is the fifth 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 **21st 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.
- Students' surnames, address, email address, phone number, specific plans, date of birth and other personal information **WILL NOT** be included on the blog.
- Posts written by students are checked by Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris before they are published on the blog.
- All comments have to be approved by Miss Jordan or Mrs Morris before they are included on the blog.
- Students will be encouraged to comment on other class/student blogs with teacher/parent supervision.
- All students must have parental permission to
 - comment or post on the class blog/other blogs.
 - have their photo, videos and work appear on the blog.
- 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 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 breeches in our safety guidelines and we will fix it up ASAP.

Classroom Blogging FAQs

Who writes the blog posts?

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?

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.

Can students have their own blog?

In 4KM and 4KJ we have a system where students can *earn* their own blog. This would probably occur from Term Two onwards. Students who want to earn their own blog should aim to do the following:

- Write quality comments on our class blog on a regular basis.
- Reply to comments on our class blog regularly. Our class blog is a team effort.
- Show an interest in others' blogs (eg. leave some comments on our blogging buddies' blogs).
- Demonstrate an understanding of cyber safety and netiquette when writing blog comments and using the internet.
- Show a general enthusiasm for learning about blogging.
- Demonstrate support from their family. Students will not be chosen for a blog without family support.

Parents will be contacted for permission if their child is chosen to have their own blog during 2012.

How can parents and family members be involved?

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. 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. If they have internet access at home, the students are asked to comment from home at least once a week. This will be homework for writing practice.

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

No. In the four 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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*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!