

Tech Tips

- the control panel is where the blog is operated “behind the scenes”
- if you try to upload a video from your iPad to kidblog.org, it may say the file is too large. First, upload the video to a Dropbox and then insert the video into the blog.
- choose “add media” and then “from URL” in Dropbox, click on “share link to video”
-  then, (still in Dropbox) click on “copy link to this page)
- now you are ready to paste the link into the “add media” “from URL” box in kidblog.org



kidblog.org now as an app!

(kidblog image credit: appfinder.lisisoft.com)

REFERENCES

Davison, S. (2012, 9 27). Kidblog in action! classroom q & a with kindergarten teacher sharon davison [Twitter message]. Retrieved from <http://kidblog.org/home/kidblog-in-action->

Wedin. (2012, 11 3). Why blog with 6 and 7 year olds? [Twitter message]. Retrieved from <http://www.mrswideen.com/2012/11/why-blog-with-6-and-7-year-olds.html>

Bloggin Basics



Image credit: langwitches.org

**November 2012
Grantsburg
School District
Coffee House**

Prepared by Billie Rengo
Literacy Coach

Getting Started

What is a blog?

A blog is a site that allows you to post information or discussions. Entries usually appear in reverse chronological order with the most recent post on top (Wikipedia). Typical blogs are interactive and allow readers to comment on what they are reading. They can contain text, picture, video, or even audio clips. Depending on the purpose you have for your students to create a blog, they can be used as a type of digital portfolio to showcase work or an opportunity for students to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. Blogs are great tools to connect parents and other individuals to your classroom.

kidblog.org

Kidblog is a great website that allows you, as the teacher, to set up a safe blogging environment for students.

First Things First

Go to kidblog.org and set up a classroom blog. You will need to think of a name. A good idea is to post the link on your classroom website to enable parents easy access. Students can write about simple things to start. (ex. their favorite book, their favorite subject, etc.)

Questions? email Billie Rengo at bsimo@gk12.net

Internet Safety Considerations.

- teach students to use first names only when they create blog posts or submit comments
- as with any type of social media, students should not include any identifying information such as addresses, telephone numbers, etc.
- you can control who views your students' blogs as well as who may comment on posts
- through the control panel blog settings, you can require each blog post or comment to have your approval before it is published and appears on the blog

In the beginning

- decide whether each student will have their own blog and write their own posts or if you will post topics and have students respond
- set up usernames and passwords for each child
- be explicit in your expectations for student writing (see example below (Davison, 2012))
 - Write at least 2 ideas.
 - Start each sentence with a capital.
 - End each sentence with a period.
 - Use spaces between words.
- teach students to comment effectively (see example below (Wedin, 2012))
 - Make a connection
 - Ask a question
 - Say something you like
 - Re-read your comment