

Increasing Access to Educational Technology outside the Classroom

Melinda S. Butler

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Dr. Jo Williamson

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## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

### **Description of Capstone Experience:**

This Capstone Project took place at Timber Ridge Elementary School with a first grade class during the 2013 – 2014 school years. This Capstone was to demonstrate to parents that the teacher blogs are an added benefit to support the curriculum for their children during the after school hours, on weekends, and even during vacation time.

The teachers at Timber Ridge update their blogs on a weekly basis to provide interactive educational sites like: opportunities to “listen to reading” to strengthen reading skills, creative writing opportunities, spelling practice, math review, higher level thinking word problems, math challenges, Kidblog writing, support in the content area, and helpful educational videos that explain strategies or other processes that we are learning in first grade. In addition, teachers post helpful calendars, schedules, menus, student work samples, photos of students engaged in learning, videos of students engaged in an assortment of classroom activities; including using different technology tools like iPads, Photo Story, Animoto, VoiceThread, and Chatterpix.

At Open House last fall, parents were notified about the teacher goal of increasing after school technology use through use of the teacher blog; a great online resource. They were also notified that the teacher would be requesting them to fill out online surveys twice during the upcoming the school year (see Appendices A and C). The parents were also made aware that they and their children were going to be used in a study for the teacher’s Master’s program. The teacher shared the study with the parents in hopes that the parents would utilize the [teacher’s blog](#) to its fullest capabilities. There was confidence that once the parents included the teacher blog as a favorite on the home computer and allowed the children to visit the teacher blog at home, they would recognize the educational benefits. With the educational activities available

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in all subject areas, the blog can support any students struggling in specific areas along with enhancing the abilities of those who are performing at or above grade level. .

Below is a chart detailing the number of blog visits in the 2012-2013 school year compared to the 2013-2014 school year.

Table 1

	<b>2012-2013 Blog Visits</b>	<b>2013 - 2014 Blog Visits</b>
<b>1st Quarter</b>	Aug. 13-Oct. 12, 2012 1709 visits	Aug. 7- Oct. 11, 2013 1879 visits
<b>2nd Quarter</b>	Oct. 13 - Dec. 20, 2012 <b>2043 visits</b>	Oct. 12 - Dec. 20, 2013 2132 visits
<b>3rd Quarter</b>	Dec. 21 - March 15, 2013 <b>2372 visits</b>	Dec. 21 - March 12, 2014 2462 visits
<b>4th Quarter</b>	March 16 - May 23, 2013 1834 visits	March 15 - May 21, 2014 2975 visits

### **Initial Stages**

The initial observations began after the Open House meeting with parents. Once the parents knew of the teacher mission to increase blog opportunities for primary students after school hours, the plan could begin. The plan involved many exciting ideas to be posted to the blog that would hopefully entice the students and parents to visit the teacher blog after school hours. Below is a list of some of the activities that were posted for the first quarter of the 2013-2014 school year.

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After completing the first quarter of the school year, the parents and students were given an online survey (see Appendix A and C) <http://tinyurl.com/ka9o4on>, <http://tinyurl.com/max3du4>. The analysis of the parent survey indicated that parents appreciated the teacher blog and the activities that were made available to the children. Their concerns remained in their beliefs that first graders were too young to be left on the Internet alone. In addition, they disagreed with expectations that their children should be going to a teacher blog for additional curriculum support on their own (see Appendix D) <http://tinyurl.com/ooxg9ct>.

The analysis of the student surveys revealed that the about half of the students had visited the teacher blog for various reasons. Some had been there for the interactive educational activities. Some had only gone there to see photos or videos when their parents allowed them to look only. Some children had indicated that only their parents were visiting the teacher blog after school and they thought that the blog was not meant for them to visit after school hours.

The results of the parent survey were not surprising as the parent concerns were valid about the dangers of young children on the Internet. There was a desire to make the parents more comfortable with allowing their children to be on the blog alone without constant parent supervision. In mid October, a Family Technology Night was hosted in the classroom. Students were invited to show parents the Historical Americans powerpoint that they had been working on along with other blog activities they enjoyed during technology time in the classroom. It gave parents an opportunity to see the types of internet activities the blog provided. The parents could see the relation of the blog activities to our curriculum. The YouTube videos were videos that had been changed to safeshare.tv videos, meaning that they were the free of the ads along with the ability to take them directly to another video of the same content once the initial video was

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over. The Family Technology Night also provided two handouts pertaining to Internet safety for youngsters at home. The first article was titled, Keeping Your Child Safe Online, by PC Magazine; <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2346997,00.asp> (see Appendix I) and the second article was titled, Internet Safety, from Kidshealth.org; [http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html) (see Appendix J). These articles were also sent home for any parents not able to attend the Family Technology Night.

Posting engaging activities on the [teacher blog](#) for the students was effortless as there are so many interactive and educational activities available for teachers to choose from that correlate to the first grade curriculum. On occasion, it was more the effort in deciding which activities to select due to the many choices available. I enjoyed sharing the videos and photos that I took of my students so engaged in their work or when doing science experiments, playing outside, working with iPads, and other exciting events in the classroom. Nonetheless, as time went by, the students became more comfortable with navigating around the blog on their own. They independently zipped to different pages, links, and even used the needed passwords that were necessary to log on to certain sites. Once this comfort level increased and they were seemingly independent on the teacher blog, the children began asking parents more frequently to allow them to go to the teacher blog during the after school hours, on weekends, and even on vacation days. The children were excited about showing the parents their ability to move from page to page on the blog independently. More importantly, they wanted to demonstrate the skills that the students were learning in class and how they could apply it to the interactive activities on the blog. The children also wanted to share the products that the students had created in class along with the videos that showed them working ever so hard. By the time the winter vacation was getting ready to start, the students were one hundred percent proficient on navigating the teacher blog for

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any type activity. It was clear that the students were demonstrating this confidence with the parents because all of a sudden, the number of visitors to the teacher blog began increasing.

Efforts in sending home a weekly newsletter through email indicating what subjects, skills, and strategies the students were learning. At the end of each weekly newsletter a link was always attached to the teacher blog, along with at least one “website of the week.” The parents could count on those blog links to related to areas that had been covered in class that week. Having the link to my blog on each weekly newsletter proved to be beneficial. The newsletter always stated if new posts with pictures had been posted to the blog. That was almost always an indicator that the parents would take a peek. Once they were there and showed the children the photos or videos, the children usually begged to allow them to do some activities on the blog. Building up those 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills was what it was all about. An exhaustive list of blog activities was provided was provided during the school year (see Appendix L ).

The project went as planned. The teacher worked diligently to include many different types of engaging blog activities that included web 2.0 tools along with other 21<sup>st</sup> Century activities. By mid year, the parents realized that the children were not going to the internet for inappropriate reasons but to further their education with higher level and critical thinking types of blog activities. As the children explained this higher level thinking to the parents, they determined the engaging activities were all very beneficial in allowing their children to create, problem solve, produce, and explore; all 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning activities. The parents could see their math and writing skills improving before their eyes with their eager children who were busy working away at these interactive lessons. In addition, a Kidblog had been created for the students. Kidblog really interested them, this gave them the chance to learn about digital citizenship (see Appendix M) <http://kidblog.org/MrsButlers1stGradeClass/>. All of a sudden,

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commenting, questioning, replying with correct grammar became a serious matter. Now the students not only had the teacher checking for correct grammar but their peers also were participating in peer editing. The children enjoyed using the many Web 2.0 tools that were utilized in the classroom. They were proud of their published work and enjoyed showing them off to administration, their parents, and even their grandparents across the nation.

The barriers that were encountered during this Capstone were expected. After careful consideration, it was determined that the parents were right to have been concerned back in October when most of their children were six years old. As the children grew and matured in their skills, the parents could see the dangers were not as they originally thought. These children were engaging in safe activities that increased their educational abilities to higher levels. The blog activities gave them opportunities to participate in 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology applications. The teacher blog also gave them the confidence to use technology independently.

### **Reflection**

It was amazing to see the children become more confident and independent with their 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. The more they were exposed, the more they wanted to utilize the Web 2.0 tools. Parents emailed me to mention that their children had come home and showed them an activity that was posted on the [teacher blog](#) and they begged the parents to upload it onto their iPads. The children were actually able to give the parents a tutorial on how to use Chatterpix, that was so encouraging to know the parents obliged.

From this study, I learned that I needed to give parents time to take a good look at the blog and the posted activities before losing confidence that this study wasn't going to work. That really proved beneficial when the families came in for the Family Technology Night in October. Initially, when the parents showed hesitance in allowing their children to go to the blog

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after school, I knew I'd have to win them over with a secondary plan. My secondary plan was to increase the blog use in the classroom. Then, when the children went home, they would ask their parents for time on the computer to visit the teacher blog. The students would be proud of their work and would want to show their parents what types of activities they are participating in on the teacher blog in school. When the parents can see what they are doing without assistance, they will feel more comfortable with their little ones navigating around the teacher blog without having to be sitting there with them the whole time. It surely paid off to have spent more time on the blog in the classroom as this really built up their independence, confidence, and skills.

The evaluations were determined by the end of the year survey that the parents took (see Appendix H). As you can see, the results were positive and the parents have now realized the benefit of allowing their children to visit the teacher blogs during after school hours. This project was definitely a success thanks to the hard work and dedication the teacher put into making the blog a place which the parents could feel was a safe place for their children to visit after school.

According to Burdette, McGraw, and Ross (2001), after school most primary children who went on a computer device, went to sites that were solely based on gaming, not educational games. My goal was to change the thinking of my first graders. I wanted them to see that they could still have fun using Web 2.0 tools and educational websites that they could learn from. My goal was to increase the time they went to their teacher's blog where they could benefit from their online experiences. I wanted their education to extend beyond the classroom in hopes that it will carry this on into their second grade year and beyond.



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It was evident that what I learned from this project correlates to the last two years of work in my Master's program. My learning related to the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of the Instructional Technology Standards. As I went out on the Internet to search for different Web 2.0 tools that would be appropriate for my first grade students, I kept in mind the design and implementation of technology-enhanced learning experiences that I could create and align with the student content and technology standards. Some of the Web 2.0 digital tools that I used were: VoiceThread, Kidblog, Tagxedo, Animoto, Chatterpix, Photo Story, Powerpoint, and Wordle (see Appendix M). These lent way for my students to model and facilitate the effective use of digital tools and resources to support and enhance higher order thinking skills. On any given day, you could have walked into my class to see collaborative learning strategies being used with digital tools. I was very pleased with the end results of this study. The children grew from being hesitant and shy at the beginning of the year with the blog activities to being independent and eager by the end of the year. By the end of the year, they were even begging for extra time to write on the blog or collaborate to write digital stories together, using Web 2.0 tools. They are on their way to becoming 21st Century students.

In advising another teacher who might choose to pursue this same study, I might suggest that they have the Family Technology Night a littler earlier in the year along with giving the surveys a little earlier in the year. I also would pass out the Internet Safety handouts at Open House instead of waiting until the Technology Night. I think holding the Family Technology Night was the one of the best actions I took. The good thing about doing it after the first quarter, like I did was that the students had powerpoints on Historical Americans that they had already made and saved to their student account. Just watching them log in to find the powerpoint impressed some parents. Then after they realized they made these on their own, really made the

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parents realize the amazing things these little ones could do already with technology. They have no fear and will try every button to see what it can do. With this initiative from these little ones, there were some really impressive powerpoints. If you did the Family Technology Night early in the school year, the children will be less familiar with the blog and have fewer projects made to share with the parents. So, the decision on the Technology Night might need to stay where I had it this past year, just after the first quarter.

I plan to proceed with this same process next year. I'm so pleased with how well my students progressed this past year with me having such a strong emphasis on technolog and 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning in the classroom. The [teacher blog](#) is a safe place for first grade students to extend their learning.

### References

Burdette, K., McGraw, T. & Ross, J. (2001). Toward an effective use of technology in education. A summary of research. (p.7) Charleston, WV: AEL

Rubenking, N.J., (2011, December 13). Keep Your Child Safe Online. *PC MAG*, 28(3). Retrieved from <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2346997,00.asp>

Internet Safety ( June 2011). Retrieved from [http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html)

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### Student Survey October 2013

Do you go to my blog when you are at home?\*

- Yes
- No

Did you ever go to your Kindergarten teacher's blog last year from your home computer?\*

- Yes
- No

Have you ever visited the Language Arts Links on my blog?\*

- Yes
- No

Have you ever visited the Math Links on my blog?\*

- Yes
- No

October

Have you ever looked at the photos on my blog?\*

- Yes
- No

At your house, do you go to other internet sites besides the ones on my blog?\*

- Yes
- No

Do you like going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?\*

- Yes
- No

Do you want to go to Mrs. Butler's Blog more often?\*

- Yes
- No

### Appendix A

2013 Student Survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/ka9o4on>

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**Appendix B**

October Student Survey Results: <http://tinyurl.com/l6bc6us>

October 2013- Mrs. Butler's Blog Student Survey	Do you go to my blog when you are at home?	Did you ever go to your Kindergarten teacher's blog last year?	Have you ever visited the Language Arts Links on my blog?	Have you ever visited the Math Links on my blog?	Have you ever looked at the photos on my blog?	At your house, do you go to other Internet sites besides the ones on my blog?	Do you like going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Do you want to go to Mrs. Butler's Blog more often?
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Appendix C**

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October 2013 Parent Survey: <http://tinyurl.com/max3du4>

## 1. Do you visit Mrs. Butler's Blog regularly?

- Yes  
 No

Comment:

## 2. About how long has it been since you've visited Mrs. Butler's Blog?

- 1-3 days  
 4-7 days  
 1 week  
 2 weeks

## 3. What kind of information do you go to Mrs. Butler's Blog for?

- Recent Posts  
 Check schedules (lunch menu, daily schedule, specials schedule, or calendar)  
 Photos  
 Educational Links  
 All of the above  
 Other (please specify)

## 7. Does your child ask you to allow them to go to Mrs. Butler's Blog?

- Hardly Ever  
 Sometimes  
 Often

## 8. Do you allow your child go to different links on Mrs. Butler's Blog?

- Almost never  
 Once in a while  
 Sometimes  
 Frequently

Comment:

## 9. Does your first grade student share a computer device with an older sibling who often has homework to complete on the internet?

- Yes  
 No

Comment:

## 4. From what type of technology source do you or your child most often use to access my blog?

- Desktop Computer  
 laptop  
 Tablet (I-Pad, kindle, etc.)  
 Smartphone  
 All of the above

## 5. Is there anything you would like to see Mrs. Butler add to her blog?

- Yes  
 No

Comment:

## 6. How do you feel about first graders going to a teacher blog before or after school hours?

- I am comfortable with it.  
 I think they are too young to be on the internet.  
 I'm not sure.  
 I am ok with it IF a parent is with him/her.

Comment:

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**10. How would you like to see 1st grade teacher blogs used?**

- Educational (Interactive) Links
- Communication/Information/Updates
- Photos of your children
- Calendar, schedules, menus
- All of the above
- No comment

Comment

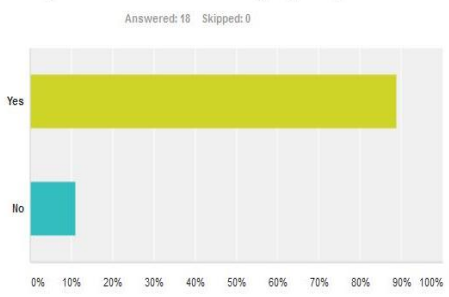
INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Appendix D

October 2013 Parent Survey Results: <http://tinyurl.com/ooxg9ct>

Q1

Do you visit Mrs. Butler's Blog regularly?



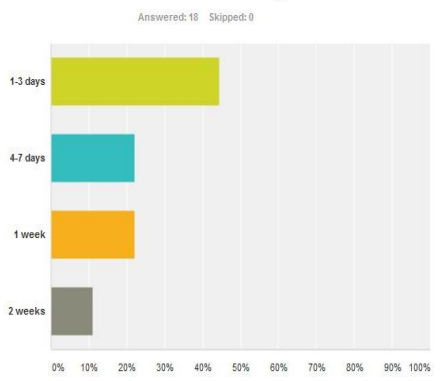
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.89% 16
No	11.11% 2
Total	18

Comments (3)

- Once or twice per month.  
10/27/2013 8:15 AM
- My daughter visits it frequently on her own.  
10/21/2013 12:12 PM
- I usually go when there is time in the evening. I enjoy the pictures the most.  
10/19/2013 5:53 PM

Q2

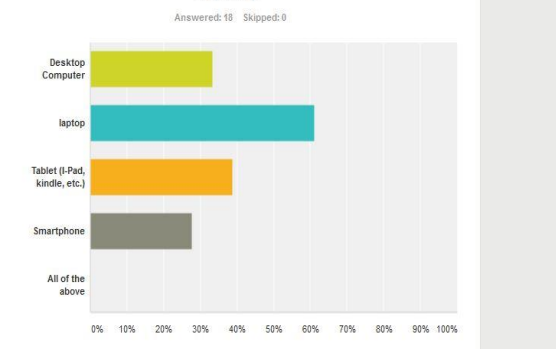
About how long has it been since you've visited Mrs. Butler's Blog?



Answer Choices	Responses
1-3 days	44.44% 8
4-7 days	22.22% 4
1 week	22.22% 4
2 weeks	11.11% 2
Total	18

Q3

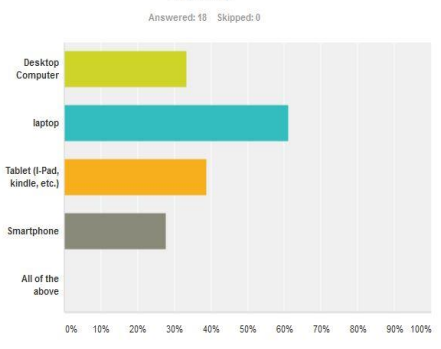
From what type of technology source do you or your child most often use to access my blog?



Answer Choices	Responses
Recent Posts	27.78% 5
Check schedules (lunch menu, daily schedule, specials schedule, or calendar)	22.22% 4
Photos	33.33% 6
Educational Links	22.22% 4
All of the above	61.11% 11
Other (please specify)	5.56% 1
Total Respondents:	18

Q4

From what type of technology source do you or your child most often use to access my blog?



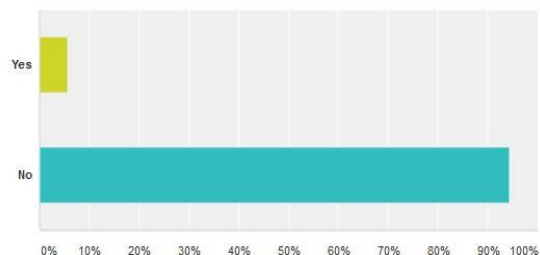
Answer Choices	Responses
Desktop Computer	33.33% 6
laptop	61.11% 11
Tablet (i-Pad, kindle, etc.)	38.89% 7
Smartphone	27.78% 5
All of the above	0.00% 0
Total Respondents:	18



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## Is there anything you would like to see Mrs. Butler add to her blog?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	5.56%	1
No	94.44%	17
Total		18

Comments (4)

It's very helpful

10/27/2013 8:15 AM

I think that Mrs. Butler's blog is great and is the most informative thus far

10/22/2013 4:16 PM

It's very comprehensive.

10/20/2013 11:26 AM

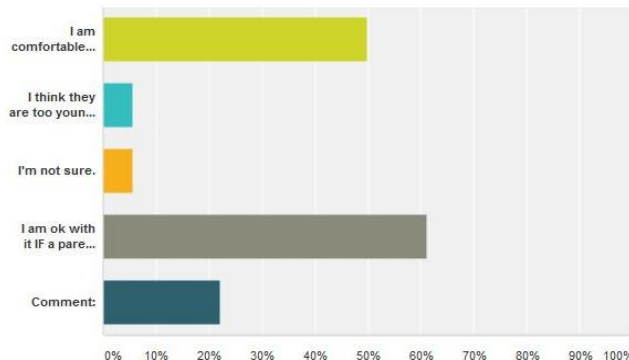
Parents always like more photos!

10/19/2013 6:16 PM

16

## How do you feel about first graders going to a teacher blog before or after school hours?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

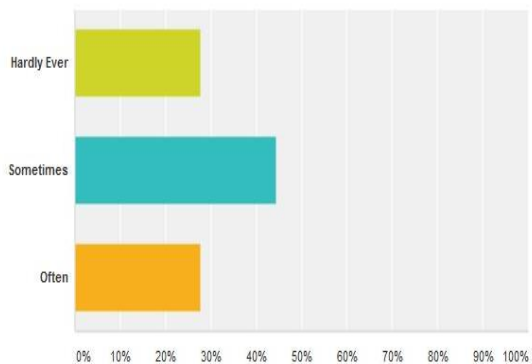


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
I am comfortable with it.	50.00%	9
I think they are too young to be on the internet.	5.56%	1
I'm not sure.	5.56%	1
I am ok with it IF a parent is with him/her.	61.11%	11
Comment:	22.22%	4
Total Respondents:		18

Q7

## Does your child ask you to allow them to go to Mrs. Butler's Blog?

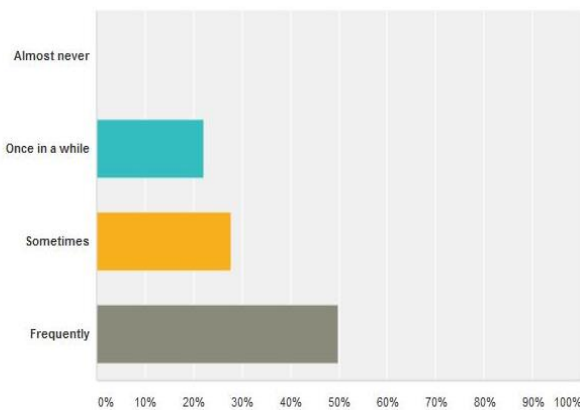
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Hardly Ever	27.78%	5
Sometimes	44.44%	8
Often	27.78%	5
Total		18

## on Mrs. Butler's Blog:

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Almost never	0.00%	0
Once in a while	22.22%	4
Sometimes	27.78%	5
Frequently	50.00%	9
Total		18

Comments (0)

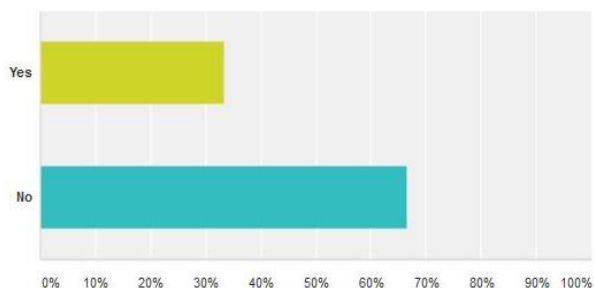
# INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

9

0

**Does your first grade student share a computer device with an older sibling who often has homework to complete on the internet?**

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

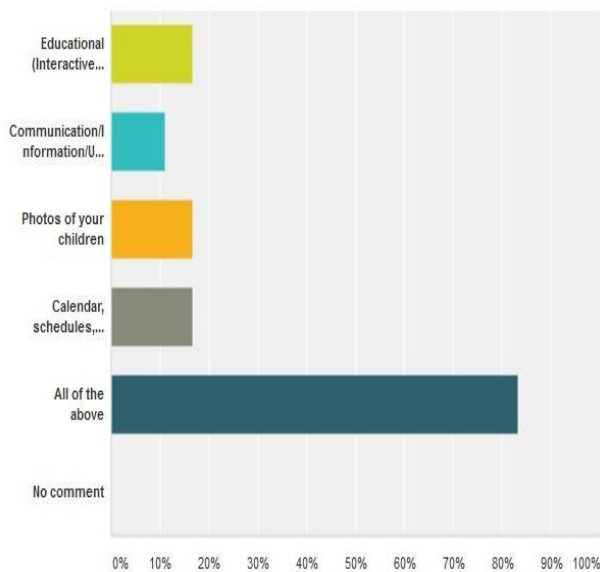


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	33.33% 6
No	66.67% 12
Total	18

Comments (0)

**How would you like to see 1st grade teacher blogs used?**

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Educational (Interactive) Links</b>	<b>16.67%</b> 3
<b>Communication/Information/Updates</b>	<b>11.11%</b> 2
<b>Photos of your children</b>	<b>16.67%</b> 3
<b>Calendar, schedules, menus</b>	<b>16.67%</b> 3
<b>All of the above</b>	<b>83.33%</b> 15
<b>No comment</b>	<b>0.00%</b> 0
Total Respondents: 18	

Comments (3)


I wish the communication/ information piece could notify you by email to alert you to updated info. I love getting texts as reminders and emails that share the educational links that they are working on in class.  
12/1/2013 2:41 PM

I think the blog is great. The only suggestion I have is that perhaps the educational links for the kids could be more separated from the links for the parents - that would make it easier for the kids to navigate around different activities.  
10/21/2013 12:11 PM

I wish we could reply as well. I have a lot of good things I'd like to add for Mrs. Butler to see.  
10/19/2013 5:53 PM

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## Appendix E

May\_2014 End of the Year Student Survey: <http://tinyurl.com/leqt59a>


**End of the Year Student Survey**

\* Required

**While at home, do you go to my blog? \***

A lot  
 Sometimes  
 Not too often  
 I'm not allowed to ever go on your blog.

**Have you ever gone to Math Links on my blog? \***

Yes  
 No

**At your house, have you ever gone to the Eagle Blog on my blog? \***

Yes  
 No

**Have you ever looked at the photos on my blog?**

yes  
 no

**At your house, have you ever looked at the videos on my blog? \***

yes  
 no

**At your house, do you go on the internet for other activities that are NOT on my blog? \***

Yes  
 No

**Do you like going to Mrs. Butler's Blog? \***

Yes  
 No

**Have you ever gone to another teacher's blog on the Timber Ridge Website? \***

Yes  
 No  
 No but I want to over the summer

**Do you plan to go to my blog over the summer? \***

Yes  
 No

**Have you ever done Type to Learn or Brainpop on my blog?**

- Both  
 Only Type to Learn  
 Only Brainpop  
 Neither of them

**Submit**

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Appendix F

May 2014 Student Survey results: <http://tinyurl.com/mu5ra3h>

Timestamp	While at home, do you go to my blog?	Have you ever gone to Math Links on my blog?	At your house, have you ever gone to the Eagle Blog on my blog?	Have you ever looked at the photos on my blog?	At your house, have you ever looked at the videos on my blog?	At your house, do you go on the internet for other activities that are NOT on my blog?	Do you like going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Have you ever gone to another teacher's blog on the Timber Ridge Website?	Do you plan to go to my blog over the summer?	Have you ever done Type to Learn or Brainpop on my blog?
5/16/2014 10:27:13	Not too often	Yes	Yes	no	no	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:27:36	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:27:36	Not too often	Yes	Yes	no	yes	No	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	No	Both
5/16/2014 10:27:34	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	no	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:27:48	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:27:46	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Only Type to Learn
5/16/2014 10:27:52	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:27:53	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:27:56	A lot	Yes	No	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Only Type to Learn
5/16/2014 10:28:00	Not too often	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Only Type to Learn
5/16/2014 10:28:03	A lot	Yes	Yes	no	yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:28:07	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both

Timestamp	While at home, do you go to my blog?	Have you ever gone to Math Links on my blog?	At your house, have you ever gone to the Eagle Blog on my blog?	Have you ever looked at the photos on my blog?	At your house, have you ever looked at the videos on my blog?	At your house, do you go on the internet for other activities that are NOT on my blog?	Do you like going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Have you ever gone to another teacher's blog on the Timber Ridge Website?	Do you plan to go to my blog over the summer?	Have you ever done Type to Learn or Brainpop on my blog?
5/16/2014 10:28:12	Sometimes	No	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	No	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:28:22	Not too often	No	Yes	no	no	Yes	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Both, Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:28:34	Sometimes	Yes	No	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Only Type to Learn
5/16/2014 10:28:32	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:29:09	Sometimes	No	Yes	no	no	Yes	No	Yes	No	Only Type to Learn
5/16/2014 10:29:21	Not too often	No	Yes	yes	no	Yes	Yes	No	No	
5/16/2014 10:29:41	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	yes	no	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:29:40	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Only Brainpop
5/16/2014 10:30:09	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No	Yes	No but I want to over the summer	Yes	Both
5/16/2014 10:31:33	A lot	Yes	Yes	no	yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Both
5/20/2014 9:06:32	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	no	no	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Neither of them
5/20/2014 15:21:47	A lot	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Appendix G

May 2014 Parent Survey: <http://tinyurl.com/pjvmrca>

Page 1 of 1

## End of the year Parent Survey- Mrs. Butler

Does your child visit Mrs. Butler's Blog?\*

- Often
- Occasionally
- Rarely

Are you comfortable with your child to going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?\*

- I'm comfortable with it.
- I'm not comfortable with my child going on the internet alone.
- I'm not comfortable with my child going on the internet at all.

What does your child do on Mrs. Butler's Blog?\*

- Eagle Blog
- Spelling City
- Skills Tutor
- Math Links
- Language Arts Links
- Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links
- Calendar and Schedules
- Photos and Shutterfly Account
- VoiceThreads
- Videos of students
- Common Core and Parent Information
- All of the Above

What do you like best about Mrs. Butler's Blog?\*

What would you like to see teachers add to their blogs?\*

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Appendix H

May 2014 End of the Year Parent Results: <http://tinyurl.com/py5sxxk3>

Timestamp	Does your child visit Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Are you comfortable with your child to going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What does your child do on Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What do you like best about Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What would you like to see teachers add to their blogs?
5/16/2014 16:12:47	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads	the links for doing extra work and always being able to check the daily schedule	Nothing! Maybe more weekly candid photos of kids @ school and in class. Updates on topics discussed that week
5/16/2014 16:18:13	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, VoiceThreads	FunBrain	
5/16/2014 16:53:29	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads	Informative	It's thorough
5/16/2014 19:00:46	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Math Links	It is easy to use and very educational.	Interactive games I would like to see homework assignments on the blog. We would have less fights about homework if it was done on the computer rather than worksheets.
5/16/2014 20:49:23	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students	Everything is all in one spot. Easy to find. The kids enjoy computer time. Never a fight to get him to look at the blog	I really like all the information on Mrs. Butler's - can't think of anything she should add
5/16/2014 21:28:46	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links	So many choices for activities	Lunch hours, volunteer opportunities( they seem to get hogged when given by room moms)
5/17/2014 8:23:49	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, Videos of students, Common Core and Parent Information	Easy to navigate, tons of information	
5/18/2014 8:00:35	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Photos and Shutterfly Account	User friendly and updated regularly	Message board
5/18/2014 8:40:51	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students, Common Core and Parent Information, All of the Above	it's easy for hte kids (and parents!) to navigate, lots of options so we can find a resource that my child responds to	I don't think anything is missing from Mrs. butler's blog

Timestamp	Does your child visit Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Are you comfortable with your child to going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What does your child do on Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What do you like best about Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What would you like to see teachers add to their blogs?
5/18/2014 12:07:57	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, VoiceThreads, Videos of students	I like that it gives students different alternatives to learning and helps teach them them technology. Mrs Butler mentions her blog in class and motivates students to want to log on at home.	I would like other teachers to embrace technology and start using the blogs similar to Mrs. Butler's blog.
5/18/2014 17:44:38	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, VoiceThreads	The activities my child can do that help him practice math ans spelling	I wish it would send an automatic email - listing suggestions to do on the website. Mrs. Butler does it herself but it would be nice to get notification or reminders to go on and see what is new or ideas to work on at home.
5/18/2014 22:46:00	Occasionally	I'm not comfortable with my child going on the internet alone.	Eagle Blog, Math Links, Calendar and Schedules , VoiceThreads	Updates and skill practice for kids	It's very thorough.
5/19/2014 11:48:52	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students, Common Core and Parent Information, All of the Above	ease. comfort knowing child can go on and play safe, educational games. ease of info for me as well	can't add anything :-) Mrs. Butler's blog is one of the best that I have seen thus far. I wish all teachers would follow.
5/20/2014 14:00:42	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links	That is is updated often and easy for parents and students	
5/20/2014 17:57:40	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Calendar and Schedules , Photos and Shutterfly Account, Videos of students	that it narrows down all of the educational stuff out there, so it is less overwhelming to find appropriate links	We always like photos of our kids!

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Timestamp	Does your child visit Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Are you comfortable with your child to going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What does your child do on Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What do you like best about Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What would you like to see teachers add to their blogs?
5/20/2014 18:06:49	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Calendar and Schedules, Photos and Shutterfly Account, Videos of students, Common Core and Parent Information	It is always up to date!	Update more frequently The blog is great...it is imperative that teachers keep it updated and current...Mrs. Butler did a fantastic job of this.
5/20/2014 22:04:39	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	All of the Above	The blog keeps us parents that work engaged in our child's learning, activities, and parent information.	Monthly curriculum I think Mrs. Butler's has had an amazing amount of info! nothing I'd add!
5/21/2014 8:33:19	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Skills Tutor, Math Links, VoiceThreads	Newsletter that she sends every week. Great teaching tool to help 'onboard' young kids to how to safely use the internet	More pictures ideas for interests and activities outside the school?
5/22/2014 10:39:19	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Calendar and Schedules, Videos of students	Updates on class	continue to add to content to reinforce what is learned in the classroom
5/22/2014 14:22:01	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Videos of students	keeping in contact and going beyond the classroom	Nothing - it is great!
5/22/2014 14:30:53	Occasionally	I'm comfortable with it.	Spelling City, Math Links, Calendar and Schedules, Photos and Shutterfly Account	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Photos and Shutterfly Account, Videos of students	Links to online resources, how they are useful, more details on topics taught (twice a week updates)
5/22/2014 14:40:57	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Math Links, Calendar and Schedules, Photos and Shutterfly Account, Videos of students	Eagle Blog	Can't think of anything
5/22/2014 15:04:55	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Language Arts Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Calendar and Schedules, Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students, Common Core and Parent Information	Weekly overview, links of resources	
5/22/2014 22:18:55	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Spelling City, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Calendar and Schedules, Photos and Shutterfly Account	That it is regularly updated and has great resources!	
5/22/2014 22:48:38	Often	I'm comfortable with it.			

Timestamp	Does your child visit Mrs. Butler's Blog?	Are you comfortable with your child to going to Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What does your child do on Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What do you like best about Mrs. Butler's Blog?	What would you like to see teachers add to their blogs?
5/23/2014 7:28:38	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	All of the Above	I am comfortable sending him there for fun, safe games that are also good for learning.	She is a fantastic communicator and the blog is a wonderful media that she uses
5/23/2014 13:50:33	Often	I'm comfortable with it.	Eagle Blog, Math Links, Calendar and Schedules, VoiceThreads, Videos of students	personal pics, updates	more clips, videos of the kids in action
5/25/2014 11:08:11	Often	I'm not comfortable with my child going on the internet alone.	Eagle Blog, Math Links, Science, Soc. Studies, & Health Links, Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students	Lots of websites to learn and practise	More class info
5/27/2014 11:47:20	Often	I'm not comfortable with my child going on the internet alone.	Eagle Blog, Skills Tutor, Math Links, Photos and Shutterfly Account, VoiceThreads, Videos of students	Math links, VoiceThreads and videos of students	I can not think of anything else other than whats listed above

# INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Appendix I

Keeping Your Child Safe Online, <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2346997,00.asp>



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Home / Reviews / Software / Security / Parental Control & Monitoring / Keep Your Child Safe Online

### Keep Your Child Safe Online

BY NEIL J. RUBENKING DECEMBER 13, 2011 9 COMMENTS

Just what kind of trouble can your kids get into online? We'll lay out the problems for you and the solutions.

778 SHARES



The Internet is absolutely loaded with content and activities that are entertaining and educational for children. Modern kids have access to resources vastly beyond what their parents had, and beyond what some grandparents even understand. You've surely heard, though, that you need to protect your kids from the Internet's dangers. Just what does that mean? Here are five ways they can get into

#### CONTENTS

Keep Your Child Safe Online

Traditional Parental Control Apps

Social and Mobile Parental Control Apps

#### Hardware-Based Protection

I mentioned that AVG and Bsecure can push their settings into supported routers. This blocks inappropriate sites on all connected devices, be they PCs, Macs, game consoles, or smartphones. That's definitely a good thing, since modern kids are just as likely to access the Internet on other devices.

A few parental control tools come in all-hardware form. If you own a supported Netgear router, [Netgear Live Parental Controls](#) (Free, 2.5 stars) will add hardware-based parental control. The more effective (but more expensive) [iBoss Home Parental Control Router/Firewall](#) (\$109.90 direct, 4 stars) replaces your existing router, as does the still more expensive (but less effective) [NETBLOX](#) (\$149 direct, 2 stars).

A hardware-based solution can definitely apply Web content filtering and Internet time scheduling to all the household's Internet-aware devices. However, it can't offer the detailed level of control and monitoring that a software solution can, and per-user configuration is difficult.

#### Mobile Parental Control

Parental control apps that install on smartphones and mobile devices are becoming more and more common. As with PC-based parental control, these apps can give parents a higher level of control and monitoring than obtained

#### Traditional Parental Control

The simplest parental control utility should prevent access to inappropriate websites (parents can decide which categories are inappropriate). It should also limit the amount of time spent online, set a schedule for what time of day Internet use is permitted, or both. And of course it should be hardened against hacking, so a clever teen can't disable it.

Advanced products do more, much more. [AVG Family Safety](#) (\$19.95 direct for three licenses, 4.5 stars) and [Bsecure Online v6.16](#) (\$49.95 direct for three licenses, 4.5 stars) are PCMag's current Editors' Choice products for parental control. Actually, they're the same product branded differently. Among many other advanced features, they can limit access to games based on ESRB ratings, monitor instant messaging conversations, and even push control up into the home router so that all devices, PC and otherwise, are covered.

[McAfee Family Protection 2.0](#) (\$49.95 direct for three licenses, 4 stars) and [Safe Eyes 6.0](#) (\$49.95 direct, 4 stars) are another pair of twins; same product, different branding. Along with AVG, Bsecure, and others, they store all configuration data online. Parents can access it from any PC, and the settings apply across all PCs that the kids use. That's an important feature in modern multi-computer households.

**Nasty Websites.** When home video players first came out, the porn industry roared right in to supply porn videos. Likewise, as soon as the Internet population reached critical mass, porn sites popped up like mushrooms. Young kids may encounter these by accident; hormone-crazed teens may seek them out deliberately. Gambling sites, sites promoting drugs or weapons, school cheating sites? There are a lot of places on the Internet your kids shouldn't go.

**Dangerous Contacts.** E-mail, instant messaging, and social networking allow your children a rich opportunity to communicate with friends and family even when they're not nearby. It also exposes them to contact from absolutely anyone at all, including people you'd never let near them in person. Pedophiles groom contacts, establishing trust and possibly leading to a disastrous real-world meeting.

**Too Much Information.** Social networking is so much fun! Kids love to share their thoughts and impressions with friends. When they share your home address with the whole world, that's a problem. And do you really want everyone to know that your house will be empty next week during your family trip?



## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Appendix J

Internet Safety, [http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html)

**KidsHealth**  
from Nemours

For Parents For Kids For Teens

Search here...

Parents Home  
General Health  
Growth & Development  
Infections  
Diseases & Conditions  
Pregnancy & Baby  
Nutrition & Fitness  
Emotions & Behavior  
School & Family Life  
First Aid & Safety  
Doctors & Hospitals  
Q&A  
Recipes  
En Español

Free preK-12 lesson plans

Internet safety

KidsHealth > Parents > School & Family Life > Family Life > Internet Safety

AAA  
Text Size Print

▶ What's in this article? (click to view)

Listen

The Internet can be a wonderful resource for kids. They can use it to research school reports, communicate with teachers and other kids, and play interactive games. Kids who are old enough to punch in a few letters on the keyboard can literally access the world.

But that access can also pose hazards. For example, an 8-year-old might do an online search for "Lego." But with just one missed keystroke, the word "Legs" is entered instead, and the child may be directed to a slew of websites with a focus on legs — some of which may contain pornographic material.

That's why it's important to be aware of what your kids see and hear on the Internet, who they meet, and what they share about themselves online.

Just like any safety issue, it's wise to talk with your kids about your concerns, take advantage of resources to protect them, and keep a close eye on their activities.

**Internet Safety Laws**  
A federal law, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), was created to help protect kids online. It's designed to keep anyone from obtaining a child's personal information without a parent knowing about it and agreeing to it first.

COPPA requires websites to explain their privacy policies on the site and get parental consent before collecting or using a child's personal information, such as a name, address, phone number, or Social Security number. The law also prohibits a site from requiring a child to provide more personal information than necessary to play a game or participate in a contest.

But even with this law, your kids' best online protection is you. By talking to them about potential online dangers and monitoring their computer use, you'll help them surf the Internet safely.

1 • 2 • 2 • 4 continue ▶

For Parents For Kids For Teens

**MORE ON THIS TOPIC**

- ▶ Cyberbullying
- ▶ How Can I Protect My Child From Strangers Online?
- ▶ Computer-Related Repetitive Stress Injuries
- ▶ Healthy Habits for TV, Video Games, and the Internet

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## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Appendix K**

## Visitors to Teacher Blog

	<b>2012-2013 Butler Blog Visits</b>	<b>2013 - 2014 Butler Blog Visits</b>
<b>1st Quarter</b>	August 13-October12, 2012 <b>1709 visits</b>	August 7- October 11, 2013 <b>1879 visits</b>
<b>2nd Quarter</b>	October 13 - December 20, 2012 <b>2043 visits</b>	October 12 - December 20, 2013 <b>2132 visits</b>
<b>3rd Quarter</b>	December 21 - March 15, 2013 <b>2372 visits</b>	December 21 - March 12, 2014 <b>2462 visits</b>
<b>4th Quarter</b>	March 16 - May 23, 2013 <b>1834 visits</b>	March 15 - May 21, 2014 <b>2975 visits</b>

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

**Appendix L**

Chart of Blog Activities for 2013-2014

<b>Month</b>	<b>Blog Activities used on Mrs. Butler's Blog for 2013-2014 School Year</b>
08/02/13	Post curriculum information for parents along with links to Common Core
08/03/13	Post math and language arts interactive links that supports the curriculum
08/06/13	Post slideshow of Mrs. Butler's students in action
08/24/13	Post homework activities for students to complete
09/01/13	Add interactive links that support our content lessons
09/01/13	Create a screencast to guide students/parents to get to my blog
09/06/13	Post homework activities for students to complete
09/15/13	Post photos of student making applesauce from scratch
09/29/13	Survey the students in regards to how often they visit to my blog
09/29/13	Post an (animoto) video of students making applesauce from scratch.
10/07/13	Post video of students participating in Music Class - Cocka Doodle Doodle Do
10/07/13	Family Technology Night- Invite parents to classroom and share
10/11/13	Check the number of visitors to my blog for first quarter
10/18/13	Add interactive links that support our content lessons
10/18/13	Survey parents in regards to home visits to Mrs. Butler's Blog - Using Survey Monkey
10/25/13	Post student created videos that show addition strategies
10/31/13	Post animoto video of student participating in Pumpkin Olympics
10/31/13	Post photos of students participating in Pumpkin Olympics
11/02/13	Post homework activities for students to complete
11/14/13	Post photos of students going on nature walk
11/18/13	Post more interactive links that give support to our curriculum
11/27/13	Post a link to our Thanksgiving Play that was performed in class
12/01/13	Post a Photo Story that the students created about their "leaf" project
12/01/13	Post homework activities for students to complete
12/11/13	Post pictures of students using I-Pads along with the assessments they completed
12/27/13	Post a photos and a video of students (animoto) from Winter Party

## INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

12/30/13	Post new interactive links for students to work on over the winter break
01/01/14	Check the number of visitors to my blog since October 11th
01/12/14	Post interactive links for students to work on to support the curriculum
01/18/14	Post Brainpop Jr. videos regarding curriculum- encourage parents to watch additional
01/24/14	100th Day picture of the class posted on the blog
01/24/14	Post pictures of students engaged in 100th Day activities
02/04/14	Post homework activities for students to complete
02/16/14	Post a President's Day VoiceThread for the students to comment on at home
02/21/14	Post interactive links for students to work on to support the curriculum
02/20/14	Post an animoto video of students playing in the snow from pictures parents sent me
02/22/14	Create and post a Kidblog for students to comment on regarding the Decorah eagle nest
03/06/14	Post homework activities for students to complete
03/15/14	Check the number of visitors to my blog in the 3rd quarter.
03/16/14	Post interactive links for students to work on to support the curriculum
03/30/14	Post pictures of students at work using iPads along with the assessments completed
04/04/14	Post a VoiceThread for students to comment on regarding the Decorah Eagles hatching
Ongoing	Decorah eagle nest Kidblog is available for comments and new posts
04/22/14	Earth Day Voicethread
04/06/14	Post Grammar related You Tube videos
04/11/14	"Listen to Reading" e-books posted, related to our Folk Tales unit
04/30/14	Post a Voicethread of comments from the Zoo Trip on the blog
Ongoing	Decorah eagle nest Kidblog is available for comments and new posts
05/11/14	Video of students engaged in Music Class with instruments
05/11/14	Add Videos of students participating in Zumba from Arts Jubilee
05/12/14	Include Chatterpix videos of students sharing information regarding their animal reports
05/16/14	Online Survey sent to parents using Google Docs
05/16/14	Students take Google Docs survey at school
05/20/14	Post a video of the children singing our school song in Music Class
05/21/14	Post Voicethread of planned summer activities that the students have recorded on blog
05/27/14	"Go Noodle" link posted for students to take brain breaks at home
06/01/14	Check the number of visitors to my blog in the 4th quarter.



INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Kidblog Site created for class to blog on: <http://kidblog.org/MrsButlers1stGradeClass>

Mrs. Butler's 1st Grade Class My Classes Upgrade

Mrs. Butler's 1st Grade Class

All Blogs  
My Blog  
New Post

*How fast can an eagle fly?*  
POSTED BY: BROCK APRIL 26, 2014 @ 10:05 PM 3 COMMENTS EDIT THIS POST  
LEAVE A COMMENT

*Do eagls go far from they're nest?*  
POSTED BY: ADDIE APRIL 26, 2014 @ 10:05 PM 2 COMMENTS EDIT THIS POST  
LEAVE A COMMENT

*How long does it take for baby eagls to*

MRS. BUTLER'S 1ST GRADE CLASS



Brock.mp4

Chatterpix- Web 2.0 Tool

INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY



INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY





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