

Dear Parents,

We have started an exciting new project to promote enthusiasm and excitement about reading, writing and learning in general! Your children have created and will maintain their own student blog to use as a personal reflection of individual learning, as well as a way to communicate and connect with students in other classes here at ISB, as well as partner classes in other international and public schools around the world.

Mr. Utecht will be working with us on this project to help facilitate this new learning environment. Please feel free to read more about what is happening in technology here at ISB on the Connect 2.0 blog: <http://inside.isb.ac.th/eshub/>

How it Works

Each student will have their own personal blog on <http://blogs.isb.ac.th/>. This website is dedicated to educational use only and has been created specifically for student users. Students may want to work on their blog outside of class. All that is required is an Internet connection and a web browser. Students may also utilize the library before, during and after school. Students are able to save their work as drafts before publishing it to their blog. Having a real audience is one of the key components to this program. In addition to receiving comments from their classmates, students will receive comments from other classes who visit their blogs. Parents are also invited to visit the blogs and respond.

Online Safety and Responsibility

Please note that absolutely no personal information about your child will be shared during the course of this project. We will use only first names or nicknames to refer to any student. Online safety will be infused throughout the entire project. It's important to note that because these blogs are posted on the internet, they are accessible to the world at large and students may receive inappropriate comments. Please assist students and teachers in monitoring all comments.

More About Blogs

A blog is a special type of online journal, in the form of a web site, that can be created and easily updated using a web browser. The exciting thing about a blog is that students can take full advantage of the wealth of resources available on the internet by actually publishing their own work online. Students can also read and comment on other children's blogs.

Blogs created by Elementary teachers and students around the world:

<http://itc.blogs.com/minds/>

http://classblogmeister.com/blog.php?blogger_id=40878

<http://ithink.edublogs.org/>

News articles about blogging

- Gilbert, Alorie. "Blogging 101 – Web logs go to School" CNET News. 17 October 2004. <http://news.com.com/Blogging+101--Web+logs+go+to+school/2100-1032_3-5895779.html> (16 August 2006).
- Stach, Michael. "Introduction to Blogs and Blogging" TechLearning. 1 April 2004. <<http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=18400984>> (16 August 2004).

Blogging Terms and Conditions

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree to not post or give out your family name, password, user name, email address, home address, school name, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact you in person. You may share your interests, ideas and preferences.
2. Students using blogs agree to not share their user name or password with anyone besides their teachers and parents. You agree to never log in as another student.
3. Students using blogs are expected to treat blogspaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is not appropriate for your blog. While we encourage you to engage in debate and conversation with other bloggers, we also expect that you will conduct yourself in a manner reflective of a representative of this school.
4. Student blogs are to be a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such will sometimes be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers. Students are welcome to post on any school-appropriate subject.
5. Students blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing student writing with real audiences. Most visitors to your blog who leave comments will leave respectful, helpful messages. If you receive a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, tell your teacher right away. Do not respond to the comment.
6. Students using blogs take good care of the computers by not downloading or installing any software without permission, and not clicking on ads or competitions.
7. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.

Adapted from the Blog Policy at

<http://budtheteacher.jot.com/WikiHome/Blog%20Policy>

Regards,
Cheryl Terry
Grade 4 Teacher

I have read and understood these blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.

Student's name: _____

Student's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Parent's signature(1): _____ *Date:* _____

Parent's signature(2): _____ *Date:* _____