October 1, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

An important part of our class work this year will involve using Internet-based tools to create and share our learning. The literacies-based activities include practice with critical thinking processes, communication skills, documenting learning, and file organization – all components of the new curriculum, which we are beginning to use in our classroom this year. Throughout the year, these activities will also enhance understanding of digital citizenship, which includes “internet safety”.

The websites and applications accessed for educational purposes will include: Wordpress SD41 blogs and SD41 ePortfolios. These websites store data on servers within the Burnaby School District on Canadian servers and is protected. Our class blog <http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/karvelisl/> is accessible to anyone who navigates their way to it; however, there are safeguards in place which allow the classroom teacher to manage all posts.

ePortfolios are assigned to individual students and are kept private. To access an ePortfolio, students must know their unique login and password information. Parents will have access to their child’s ePortfolio where they can see the learning process. This form of communication allows the student opportunities to practice self-assessment and ownership of their learning (an extremely important skill for this year).

Students are expected to use their assigned accounts and follow teacher guidelines when using website applications.

This will be Division 8’s third year using a SD41 blog and ePortfolios and we are excited to expand our use of them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at liane.karvelis@sd41.bc.ca or jennifer.raptis@sd41.bc.ca or at 604-664-8637.

Liane Karvelis and Jennifer Raptis