Dear Parents,

One of the writing tools your child will be able to explore this year is our classroom blog: *Fill in name of blog (as a hyperlink)*. A weblog, or blog as they are commonly called, is a special type of web page that allows me to post about classroom activities, assignments, and current topics of interest. Students – and parents – can add comments, which will appear on the blog, once I have approved them.

The blog is a great school-to-home connection, but will also make it possible for me to connect our classroom with teachers and students in other parts of the state, nation, or world. Providing students with a real audience for their writing can positively impact their literacy skills, and encourage them to read and write beyond the school day.

One of the blogging activities we will participating in this year is the 2013 Student Blogging Challenge. This international event is offered twice each year, starting in September and then again each March. Participating classrooms are challenged to complete a series of 10 weekly tasks via their classroom blogs. (To learn more about the Blogging Challenge, visit <http://studentchallenge.edublogs.org/about/info-for-first-time-visitors/>.)

By participating in Blogging Challenge, your child will be provided with multiple opportunities to build in his/her blogging and commenting skills, while connecting with a global audience.

Equally important, our classroom blog is a powerful tool for me to teach your child how to use the Internet safely, effectively, and ethically – essential skills for 21st century learning!

Before your child may start posting to our classroom blog, I ask that you read through this letter and then discuss and sign the form below.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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***Blogging Terms and Conditions***

Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their comments. Personal information includes family name, phone number, or home address.

Students using blogs are expected to treat blog sites as classroom spaces. Inappropriate language or content will not be posted.

Students who do not follow these terms and conditions may lose their privilege to participate in blog discussions.

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

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* Students who do NOT have permission to post the blog, will be provided with a notebook and equal access (paper/pencil) to all online projects.