**Dear Division 3 Parents**,

I wanted to provide you with further information regarding Weebly for Education, the blogging tool that we will be using this year. Please read the following and visit the links provided for more information about Blogging and internet safety.

**What is Weebly for Education?**

Weebly for Education is a free website creation tool designed for K-12 teachers who want to provide each student with an individual blogs. Students publish posts and participate in academic discussions within a secure classroom blogging community.

What is blogging?  A blog is a website for which an individual or a group frequently generates text, photographs, video or audio files, and/or links, on a regular basis. The term is a shortened form of weblog. Authoring a blog, maintaining a blog or adding an article to an existing blog is called "blogging". Individual articles on a blog are called "blog posts," "posts," or "entries". The person who posts these entries is called a "blogger." Here is an animated explanation and review of safety that I will reviews with students at school:<http://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/blogs/>

**Why am I using Weebly for Education?**

Weebly for Education provides teachers with the tools to help students safely navigate the digital – and increasingly social – online landscape.

Weebly for Education allows students to exercise digital citizenship within a secure, private classroom blogging space. Weebly for Education’s security features put safety first:

* Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts
* Students’ blogs are password protected making them viewable only classmates and the teacher.
* Comment privacy settings block comments from outside sources.
* Weebly for Education does not require any personal information from students.

**Internet Safety**

It is important to have a discussion with your child about internet safety. At the very minimum they should know that they must not share any personal information online. Websites such as cyberwise.org recommend that children should not have access to the internet without adult supervision. This doesn’t mean that you should monitor their activity constantly- just that they should use the internet in common areas of the house rather than in their bedrooms. Parents should keep a copy of their children’s passwords for reference.

While at school, I will take every reasonable precaution and make every effort to assure the safety of your child. However, no online activity or tool can be deemed 100% safe.

Students are expected to abide by the Burnaby School District’s Acceptable Internet Use policy which outlines the following recommendations for students working online:

**DO**

• Use District and personally-owned devices and digital tools for educational purposes.

• Follow copyright laws and acknowledge and respect the ownership of others for their creative works.

• Keep your personal information (last name, home address, phone numbers, picture, passwords) private.

• Respect the privacy of other students and adults.

• Report uncomfortable, unsafe, or inappropriate behaviour or messages to your teacher or principal.

• Treat others fairly and with respect.

• Understand that digital tools such as e-mail, messaging, social networks, websites, wikis, blogs, texting are not guaranteed to be private.

**DO NOT**

• Share your passwords.

• Take and use someone else’s identity (their name, password).

• Falsify your identity.

• Take pictures or videos of others and share them without their permission.

• Hurt or mistreat others by what you create or share.

• Harass, stalk, bully, threaten, insult, abuse, or attack others.

•Use information or work of others as your own without their permission.

 (Burnaby School District REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES POLICY # 7.90.01)

Furthermore Weebly for Education is an American company and content created by your child will be stored on an American server which are subject to American laws. FIPPA regulation 30.1 requires the school district to obtain parent’s consent to store personal information outside of Canada.

Participation in blogging is entirely voluntary and students who do not participate will be given the opportunity to submit alternative assignments for evaluation. If you have any questions or concerns about Weebly for Education, please don’t hesitate to contact me at derek.cockram@sd41.bc.ca

Please complete the following letter of consent and return it to the school at your earliest convenience.

(To be completed by the Parent or Guardian)

I do hereby give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to participate in classroom blogging. I have read the preceding information and understood the risk entailed in participating in social media online.

I consent to the collection, use and storing of some of my child’s personal information outside of Canada and to the publication of his or her work on Weebly for Education.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Signed) (Date)

(To be completed by the child)

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand Burnaby School District’s Acceptable Internet Use policy. I will adhere to it whether at school or at home while posting on Weebly for Education.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (Signed) (Date)

Please indicate the username that you would like to use online:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_