



Finalist 'Best Class Blog'

Name: Kasey Downard

School: Mokoia Intermediate, Rotorua

Blog name: Digital Discovery

Blog address: <http://missdownard.blogspot.co.nz/>

1. Describe the class blog that you want to be considered for the award.

This is a reflective Teacher Blog.

It is a place where I share student work, achievements, lesson ideas, resources and any other content that is relevant to my classroom.

Parents, colleagues and students have access to view this blog, however I am in sole charge of the content that is put on it.

It started when I was a BT to show the ways I was meeting the RTCs and grew in a way to share with teachers, students, whanau and the wider community what is going on on a regular basis in my classroom. It is essentially a portfolio of who I am as a teacher.

2. Why did you choose to set up a class blog?

I originally set up the blog as a way to show that I was meeting the RTCs to achieve my full registration. As I become more invested in other professional's blogs and developing my own practice, I realized it was a way to network and share ideas/student work. It become a habit and positive way to share what was going on in our classroom. Staff at school would know if they missed a staff meeting all the notes were there, or if I want to show a colleague my teaching inquiry all my evidence was there and labelled. It started small and began to grow quickly. It is now something I love to do!

3. How do you manage and operate your blog?

I manage my blog in two ways. I add content when relevant. If we try out a new coding program or literacy website I will add a post on how we set it up, pros and cons and then ultimately student work as the final result. I don't have a set time schedule for content but do try to update it once a fortnight on minimum. The second way I manage my blog is to include labels. This shows what RTCs have been met when asked to show evidence and also makes the content easy to find and access.

4. What outcomes has it achieved for you and your class?

It has achieved organisation, whanau engagement and teacher networking for me and my class.

Organisation means for me that when I teach an awesome lesson and label it on the blog I can find it again easily. It is great to be able to say to my class today we are going to try this and then show them past students work that was successful.

Parents are able to see their students work, this blog is also linked into a classroom blog and each student's individual blogs making it all cohesive and easy for my students parents. A lot of parents

work late and don't have time to come in on parent open days and appreciate the accessibility of this blog.

Networking was an after thought, however I receive a lot of positive feedback on my blog which encourages me to continue with it. It is great to see what other people are doing in the classroom and that encourages me to keep updating my blog so others can see what we are doing.

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