



Finalist 'Best Class Blog'

Name: Yaron Overeem

School: Maungatapere School, Northland

Blog name: Inquire It

Blog address: www.inquire-it.blogspot.com

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

Our class blog is a virtual window into our classroom. What you see through it is a reflection of what is happening in our class and the wider lives of the students. We post about what we have learnt, experienced, and created.

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

Room 7 students are proud of the blog and always strive to find new and exciting ways to use it. Room 7 choose to set up a blog because we wanted an outlet for our creativity. We don't want to confine what we have learnt, made and created to just the inside four wall of our classroom. Because of our blog our classroom is now a massive open environment where we can invite and attract a huge and diverse audience to our work. This gives us a feeling of being part of the global community and an understanding that we create work so that someone will look, read, listen to and enjoy it.

3. How do you manage and operate your blog?

We operate our blog in several ways.

We have two "bloggers of the week" who have tasks that they complete during the week. These bloggers are exempt from normal classwork and focus solely on 'working the blog'. Their tasks are diverse and include home activities, specific blogger tasks and time to add whatever is happening around them. To see the task sheet go here; <http://inquire-it.wikispaces.com/file/view/blogger+of+the+week+tasks.pdf>

The second way we operate our blog is to add our own work. Whether that is our published writing, photos, class activities, or blog homework.

The third way is that we have students who have a particular interest and skill that add short video clips teaching or showing it on the blog.

Our teacher also adds content. He has an Ipad and phone which he uses to snapshot work and sends it directly to our blog.

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

The outcomes of our blog have been very exciting.

It has given us a massive amount of new ways to create, share and present our work. We are not just restricted to the same old worksheets and paper centred methods.

Our parents love seeing what we have been doing. Recently at a parent night our blog was listed as one of the things parents like about our school.

The blog has given us ownership and a realisation that our work isn't just for the teacher but for an audience. Therefore we try hard to produce work that is worthy of that audience.

It has also been a great vehicle for our teacher to teach us about internet safety.

We have also had teachers visit from different schools and cities who have come in and seen how we run our blog and classroom. This has given us the sense of achievement. The blog has enabled us to share our knowledge with these teachers and their students.

We also hope that the next years students will carry on and extend the outcomes we have had already.

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