

**Holly Colquhoun**  
**Teacher Librarian/ Computers**  
**Summerland Middle School**

## **Blogging: an Innovative Way to Improve Literacy**

Blogging is a creative use of Internet technology in the classroom. The educational blog can be a powerful and effective technology tool for students and teachers.

### **What is a blog?**

Blogs were originally called Web logs. A blog is a web publishing tool set up like conventional web site that allows you to make text entries similar to a diary or journal. These postings include the date and can be commented on by other people. Postings appear in reverse chronological order and may include photos, links or other digital media.

### **Why Blog?**

- Promote literacy
- Kids love blogging
- Creates an audience – publish online
- Encourages students to write more
- Motivates them to be better writers
- Requires them to use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Increases self-expression
- Creative way to motivate students
- Increases communication with parents
- Helps struggling readers/writers
- Accommodates all learners
- Allows others to respond, providing feedback to the authors
- Collaboration
- Discussion

### **Our Blogs**

- ◆ I am a Taxi – Novel Study Grade 6 <http://iamataxi.edublogs.org/>
- ◆ Literature Circles – Grade 8 <http://smsbookreview.edublogs.org/>
- ◆ SMS Library book review <http://literaturecircle.edublogs.org/>
- ◆ Math Problem Solving

### **Creating the Blog**

- ◆ Edublog.org
- ◆ Classblogmeister.com
- ◆ Blogger.com

**Resources:**

Blog on Educational Blogging:

<http://supportblogging.com/?responseToken=9f8e388de96c2bf5ccb3776e558b51b4>

Classroom 2.0: a community of educators interested in collaborative technologies: <http://www.classroom20.com/>

David Truss's Start Your Own Blog Page:

<http://startyourownblog.wikispaces.com/?responseToken=489f25b05994a017ef9b2646e376d6d6>

**Vocabulary activity – Word Splash** ~ Connecting what you're learning to what you already know. Word Splash is a learning strategy that asks students to sort and classify words, while explaining the connections and relationships between the words or concepts.

Blogosphere ~ all blogs or the blogging community also called blogspace

Wiki ~ collaborative websites that can be edited by anyone with access

Weblogs ~ original name for blogs

Blogroll ~ list of favourite blogs sometimes listed down the sidebar

Voki ~ online software for adding voice to your blog

RSS feed ~ "Really Simple Syndication" A file containing a websites latest post

Ping ~ an alert to original poster of a comment posted responding to original post

Blogger ~ person who runs a blog

Podcasting ~ posting audio and video materials on a blog

Clustrmap ~ hit counter map showing location of visitors

Lurker ~ or blurker, someone reading blogs but not responding

Flickr ~ online software for sharing your photos

Blawg ~ a blog by a lawyer dealing specifically with legal issues

Moblogs ~ a blog posted and maintained via mobile phone

Splog ~ spam on a blog

Technorati ~ a real time search engine that keeps track of what's going on in the blogosphere

Vlog ~ video blog or a blog that consists of video "YouTube"

Edublog ~ education related blog

Delicious ~ online bookmarking

Netvibes ~ a custom web 2.0 home page that you can personalize

Blaudience ~ audience or readership of a blog

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_blogging\\_term](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_blogging_term)**

## Blogging Word Splash

|             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| blogosphere | lurker     | ping       |
| wiki        | blawg      | Voki       |
| weblog      | RRS feed   | Flickr     |
| blogroll    | Clustrmap  | podcasting |
| blogger     | Technorati | splog      |
| vlog        | Edublog    | Delicious  |
| Netvibes    | blaudience | moblog     |