



14 November 2007

Dear Parents,

We are about to start an exciting new collaborative project in Ms. Bellone's class!

We are creating a "global classroom" with several other fourth grade classes in international and public schools around the world. Our goal is to bring a global perspective into the classroom by participating in collaborative units of study during the year. We will use a website called Ning to learn together. The web address is:

<http://connectedclassroom.ning.com/>

Please note that this learning environment is password protected, meaning only students, parents and teachers participating in the project can see our work. We would be happy to invite all parents to join our Ning to allow you to participate in the learning with your children.

Ms. Cofino, our 21st Century Literacy Specialist, will be working with us on this project to help facilitate this new learning environment. Please feel free to read more about what Ms. Cofino is doing with other classes here at ISB on the Connect 2.0 blog: <http://connect2.edublogs.org>

Requirements to Participate

In order to create a student account on Ning, each student will need their own e-mail address. We will use the same e-mail address that we used for the VoiceThread project.

More About Ning

Ning is an easy to use, free, social networking website which allows users to communicate and collaborate with text, pictures and video. Our students will each have their own page on the Ning where they can reflect on their learning and other students and parents can comment. Our Ning will be completely private and only invited students, teachers and parents can see our work. We encourage all parents to join our Ning to learn along with us!

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- My child, _____ already has an e-mail address, it is:
_____. The password is written in a safe place.
- My child, _____ does not have an e-mail address, please help him/her set one up in class.
- I would like to join the class Ning, please send an invite to this e-mail address: _____
- parent's signature:* _____ *date:* _____