September 25, 2015

Dear Parents,

I am very excited about our participation in the upcoming Global Read Aloud (please see attached letter). One of the most awesome elements of participating in this project is that the students will get the chance to connect with (and, hopefully, learn from!) other students around the world who are also listening to the same book (*Fish)* in their classes.

In order to connect with students from around the world, we may be using a variety of technology tools throughout the unit (about 6 weeks). Regardless of the tools that we are using, there are a few key elements of safety that will be in place:

* students’ last names and other personal information will never be provided to anyone
* students will be communicating directly only with other students and teachers who are also participating in the project
* as much as possible, students’ comments will be posted in private or semi-private networks

I have given a bit of information below about each tool that we might use; would you please sign to indicate your permission for your child to participate in each type of communication?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Platform | Key features  | Your permission?  |
| Skype | live video chats with other classes |  |
| VoiceThread:<https://voicethread.com/>  | Students leave voice comments on an image  |  |
| WriteAbout:[www.writeabout.com](http://www.writeabout.com)  | Students write posts; can be posted privately or to the global read-aloud group; completely teacher-moderated - teacher approves all posts  |  |
| Padlet: <https://padlet.com/>  | Students write posts to a common page created by a teacher; the page is only seen/accessed by those using it. Students may be posting photos of their work.  |  |
| Today’s meet:<https://todaysmeet.com/>  | Backchannel chat website that requires creation and moderation by teacher; only active online for a short period of time  |  |
| Edmodo: <https://www.edmodo.com/>  | A website in which students can connect with each other - resembles Facebook but all student accounts are controlled and monitored by teachers; their writing must be approved |  |
| Our class blog: <http://blogs.acpsk12.org/teamcherry/>  | Students might write comments in response to a post that I create. All comments must be approved by me before being posted online. I may want to post photos of students working - please indicate whether I have your permission for that!  |  |
| Twitter  | I might tweet about students’ responses to analysis questions about the book, or post photos of their work - this is a major way that schools are connecting with each other as well as, in some cases, even the authors of the books! I will leave student names off of anything I post on Twitter.  |  |

Thanks so much for taking the time to look through these options and giving your child your permission. At the moment of printing this letter, I am in the process of seeking connections with other classes, so we may not use all of these platforms; but if there are any others that I would like for us to use I will request your permission first!

Warm Regards,

Katie Cherry