

To Blog or Not to Blog? That is the Question

Table Topic

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- Definitions
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Definitions

Personal Website: A website maintained solely the individual Board member used to communicate to interested stakeholders in their community.

Blog: Generally speaking, it's an online journal comprised of links and postings in reverse chronological order, meaning the most recent posting appears at the top of the page. As Meg Hourihan, co-founder of Pyra Labs, the blogging software company acquired by Google in February 2003, has noted, weblogs are "post-centric" -- the posting is the key unit -- rather than "page-centric," as with more traditional websites. Weblogs typically link to other websites and blog postings, and many allow readers to comment on the original post, thereby allowing audience discussions.

Examples



Coffee with Superintendent

November 11, 2006

Superintendent Ardella Dailey is interested in the quality of your child's education in the Alameda Unified School District! A series of parent coffees is planned for Thursday, November 30, January 11, and March 22, at 6:30 p.m. to hear parent perspectives on Alameda schools. The first "Thursday Evening Coffee with the Superintendent" is planned for November 30 in the Paden Elementary School Media Center, 444 Central Avenue. Child care is available by RSVP to 337-7176.

BOE Meetings
Assessment
Facilities
Finances
Favorite Links
Speak Out

BOE Meeting 11/28

November 23, 2006

Alameda Unified School District will honor its **2006/07 Teacher of the Year**. The Board will also review and take action on staff recommendations for 2006/07 budget revisions. The entire agenda is [here](#).

A Permanent Revolution

Because real educational reform doesn't just happen at weekly School Board meetings. We need a continual dialogue to effect dramatic change.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005

➤ No Child Left Behind Is A Civil Rights Issue



Last month, I cited an [editorial by Brent Staples](#) chastising the civil rights establishment for losing "its independence, becoming so allied with the Democratic Party that it is disinclined to embrace even beneficial policies that happen to have Republican face, such as Pres Bush's No Child Left Behind law"

In [School Law Spurs Efforts to End the Minority Gap](#), Sam Dillon clearly makes the point:

[[Continued...](#)]

posted by Florence D. Johnson @ [8:26 AM](#) [100 comments](#)

➤ It's Raining Good News For Charter Schools...

➤ It's Raining Good News For Charter Schools...



Esmonde writes in, [Charters paying off for city kids](#):

The recent numbers are in, and they are good for Enterprise and the city's charter schools. The seven charters with at least a two-year track record had, on average, 51 percent of their kids reading at grade level. Traditional public schools had a school-by-school average of 37 percent - 14 points less than the charters.

[[Continued...](#)]

posted by Florence D. Johnson @ [8:14 AM](#) [1 comments](#)

➤ Bloomberg's Numbers...



About Me



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Links

- [Buffalo Public Schools](#)
- [SchoolMatters](#)
- [NSBA's BoardBuzz](#)
- [fix buffalo](#)
- [Buffalo Rising Journal](#)
- [Nickel City Journal](#)
- [WNY Media Network](#)
- [BuffaloPundit](#)
- [buffalopundit](#)

Recent Entries

- [No Child Left Behind Is A Civil Rights Issue](#)
- [It's Raining Good News For Charter Schools...](#)
- [Bloomberg's Numbers...](#)
- [NYC: Charter students tops in test scores](#)
- [Useful National Charter School Roundup](#)
- [Instead Of Throwing Buffalo Charter Schools Under The Bus...](#)
- [One of My Biggest Regrets](#)
- [An Object Lesson In The Importance of Contract Provisions](#)
- [Seniority v. Merit](#)
- [Where Does All The Money Go?](#)

Comparison

	Personal Website	Blog
Content	Structured, timeless	Personal, event related
Frequency of Updates	As needed	At least weekly
Feedback	Limited via Email	Immediate
Navigation	Usually hierarchical	Topic and search
Technical Expertise Needed	HTML knowledge needed	Minimal HTML understanding needed

Governance Issues

Personal opinion vs Board position
District website
Filling the gaps
Technology Policies

Other Issues

Copyright - Copyright law secures for the creator of a creative effort the exclusive right to control who can make copies, or make works derived from the original work. There are a lot of subtleties and international variations but that's the gist of it. If you create something, and it fits the definition of a creative work, you get to control who can make copies of it and how they make copies, with some important exceptions.

Fair Use - There is a complex doctrine associated with copyright law which allows certain types of copying without permission in areas where it is felt that some more important social principles would be violated otherwise.

The "fair use" doctrine (fair dealing in Canada and some other nations) in its purest form, lets a film critic include a clip from a film in her review to illustrate a point. Since negative critics would never get permission to do this, the fair use exemption exists to stop copyright law from being used to stifle criticism.

This means that if you are doing things like comment on a copyrighted work, making fun of it, teaching about it or researching it, you can make some limited use of the work without permission. For example you can quote excerpts to show how poor the writing quality is. You can teach a course about T.S. Eliot and quote lines from his poems to the class to do so. Some people think fair use is a wholesale license to copy if you don't charge or if you are in education, but it isn't. If you want to republish other stuff without permission and think you have a fair use defense, you should read the more detailed discussions of the subject you will find through the links above.

Libel: With the posting of comments to a blog, the moderator has to be aware the potential legal ramifications if the posts slanders or defames an individual. In law, **defamation** is a right of action for communicating statements that may harm an individual's reputation or character. The common law origins of defamation lie in the torts of **slander** (harmful statement in a transitory form, especially speech) and **libel** (harmful statement in a fixed medium, especially writing but also a picture, sign, or electronic broadcast), each of which gives a common law right of action.

"Defamation" is the general term used internationally, and is used in this article where it is not necessary to distinguish between "slander" and "libel". Libel and slander both require publication. The fundamental distinction between libel and slander lies solely in the *form* in which the defamatory matter is published. If the offending material is published in some fleeting form, as by spoken words or sounds, sign language, gestures and the like, then this is slander. If it is published in more durable form, for example in written words, film, compact disc and the like, then it is considered libel.

From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slander_and_libel

Resources

Bloggng Overview:

<http://ceap.wcu.edu/houghton/EDELCompEduc/CH1/blogthinking.html>

Copyright and Fair Use:

<http://fairuse.stanford.edu/>

Blogs in Education:

<http://blogsavvy.net/how-you-should-use-blogs-in-education>

Blog Software Comparison:

http://www.ojr.org/ojr/images/blog_software_comparison.cfm

Website Software Design Review:

<http://www.consumersearch.com/www/software/web-design-software/index.html>

Website Hosting Comparison:

http://www.dailydeals.com/free_internet/web_page.htm#Compare