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## Tool, Context, & Activity Ideas

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| **Contributor:**  | Breanne Quist |
| **TOOL Name:** | Twitter  |
| **TOOL URL:** | www.twitter.com |
| **Closed/Open:** | Open |
| **General Description:** | Twitter is a platform where people can create a twitter id that does not tell anyone who they are. With twitter, students are able to send ‘tweets’ which are messages that are 140 characters or less and can include videos, pictures, or URL links. Twitter also incorporates hash-tags (#) to help you find things that are of interest to you. |
| **Grade Level:**  | 9 |
| **Class/Course/Subject:** | Math, Science, Social Studies, Elective courses, adapted English (BC, Canada) |
| **Activity Idea 1:**  | Tweet from the perspective of the settlers coming to Canada or the Native people already in Canada as we work through the social studies course. For social studies nine, the learning outcomes are centered around Europe and North America from 1500 to 1815. My students use a textbook that is broken into 7 sections. Each section is also broken down into three subsections. The students will be required to choose a role at the beginning of the year and then tweet, at least once per subsection, from the perspective of the role they are in. Students will be able to tweet on their own time, at their own pace as they will be working through it at their own pace and some will be faster or slower than others. |
| **Activity Idea 2:** | Collecting data to use for graphs in math. With math, my students use a textbook that doesn’t do too much around data collection and displaying data so there is supplementation that needs to occur. With this assignment, students would be able to collect their own data by sending out a tweet and having people respond with a certain hashtag. For example, someone would be able to tweet: “what is the weather like where you are?” and the responses could be #raining, #sunny or #overcast. Since my students all live throughout different parts of BC, there would be a variety of responses and I would hope to connect with another teacher or two that I know and have their students work on the same assignment. Another way students could collect data would be to take a reality show (such as Survivor or Big Brother) when it gets to the finale and follow the hashtag to see how many people were happy with the result and how many people thought that the other person should have won. Students will then use this data to create different graphs to show their understanding of gathering and displaying data. Students would be required to choose the first ten responses they came across that identified whether the ‘tweeter’ was happy that the person who won, did or if they thought the other person should win. This would allow students to have enough of a sample size to make a graph without having to go through many different tweets for hours on end. |
| **Activity Idea 3:** | Tweet science videos that are found for other students to use. Since my students are all distance learning students, some of the science experiments needed to understand certain concepts are not possible due to equipment limitations. With this activity, students will find (via twitter, a Google search or on YouTube) science videos that demonstrate a certain objective or learning outcome and then tweet it for the other students in the class to view. We will be using a class hashtag that the students can tweet to with this, but they are also able to use other hashtags that are related so that someone who comes across it may be able to benefit from the video or add their own to it. |
| **Activity Idea 4:** | Tweet pictures of your Textile creations, artwork or foods you created as part of your elective assignments. Students are completing a variety of electives and as a requirement, I have to see pictures of what they have created and made. With this activity, students are given the opportunity to tweet their pictures for me to see instead of having to send them as email attachments. This will also allow other students to see creations made by their peers and get ideas. My hope is that students will share a note about their creation in their tweet to inspire others. |
| **Adapted Activity Idea:**  | The student – who has Spanish as a first language – could tweet English sentences to other young learners in our school (link with other primary teachers using the same tool . These sentences would be using new English words that they have learned. Since language and sentences are still new to students at the grade one level, this would help not only with vocabulary but also with sentence structure. This could be something that would be required once a day to see that learning is taking place as I am not able to see them face to face every day because of the distance learning setting. |

For further information, contact the contributor at Breanne.quist@gmail.com

Tool & Policy Alignment(s)

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| **Tool Name** | Twitter |
| **Resource Policy Alignment:** | SD 43, Coquitlam, BC (as our school does not have a policy as of yet) |
| **Relevant Policy 1:** | Digital Citizenship – Rights and Responsibilities |
| **Policy 1 URL:**  | http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/RightsResponsibilites.aspx |
| **Policy 1 Key Considerations: (What you will need to consider or address)**  | * The rights and responsibilities with regards to digital citizenship will be address and discussed with students prior to informing them about the opportunity to join twitter. I will also share the link with all of the parents allowing them to see what is expected (on the parent information sheet)
* "The intent of looking at both rights and responsibilities is to enhance an inclusive and respectful culture which promotes participation and active citizenship in each unique learning community."
* Main policies that will be applicable to my students are:Be assured that when I give my personal information it will be kept safe and only used in appropriate ways.Acknowledge and respect the ownership of others over their works.Learn, and communicate my learning.Locate and share information.Be protected from being hurt or mistreated in body or in mind.Choose who I will associate with.
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| **Relevant Policy 2:** | Digital Citizenship – Guiding our Practice |
| **Policy 2 URL:**  | http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/GuidingOurPractice.aspx |
| **Policy 2 Key Considerations: (What you will need to consider or address)** | These rules and responsibilities are for me to consider for the safety of my students. I will be following these to help keep them as safe as I can. I will be doing a demonstration to show my students how to use twitter and in doing so I will follow the SD43 policies.Main policies that will be applicable to me and my students are:Keep my students’ personal information, including their names and images, private, unless parents are informed. (included in permission form)Ensure personal information can only be stored on a server located in Canada, unless parents are informed.Ensure that any content used is licensed for its intended use or that otherwise permission for use has been received.Model the ethical use of information, which includes citing images and content.Model digital responsibility in my classroom and in my school. (included in permission form)Ensure students feel safe, are protected and are respected online within the realm of my classroom activities and projects, or that affect school relationships and/or climate. (included in permission form)Facilitate student learning about appropriate behaviour online by allowing them to practice.Report behaviour that is harmful, unsafe and/or inappropriate, e.g. harassment, stalking, threats, insults or attacks on others. (included in permission form) |
| **Relevant Policy 3:** | District-Wide Network and Internet Appropriate Use |
| **Policy 3 URL:**  | (URL link is currently broken) |
| **Policy 3 Key Considerations: (What you will need to consider or address)** | I will use this form (or the policy form that my school develops in the next month or so) with my students. I will make sure that I go over this form with my students in a Blackboard Collaborate session and I will post it in my Canvas classroom so all students and parents have access to it whenever they would like. They can also download the PDF if they wish. Main policies that will be applicable to me and my students are:8.3.4 Users may not share password(s) with others (included in permission form)8.3.6 Users may not reveal anyone else’s personal address, phone number, or picture withouttheir consent, except as required in the course of one’s duties (included in permission form) |
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## Permission Slip

In an effort to bring our students together and connect with other students throughout the world, we will be using the social media platform called Twitter. With Twitter, people are able to send out pictures, videos or 140 or less character ‘tweets’ to the world. We will attempt to use twitter in many different subject areas including: math, science, social studies, English and our elective courses. While students will be able to have their own twitter id, students are by no means required to share any of their personal information with the twitter world and there is a shared twitter id option. The id that the students use will be able to keep their personal information hidden and to that end, I suggest students using their parent’s email address to sign up and selecting ids such as a name of their pet and their favorite number (eg: Buddy21) or their favorite colour and favorite food (eg: pink\_chocolate), or so on. Although we will be taking steps to keep the student’s name and personal information hidden, if you still feel unsure about having your child set up their own twitter account, I will be making one for the class (MrsQ\_students) to use and I can give each student who is using it a number so I can keep track of who is tweeting what.

Guidelines for using twitter:

1. Do not give out your –or anyone else’s – real name, address, or email / phone number. Basically, anything that can identify you (or anyone else) and where to find you (or them) should be kept private as those who need to know the information (the teacher and peers in your class) will already know it.
2. Everything that is posted online has a ‘digital footprint’ this means, once something is posted online, it is online for good so put thought into what you are tweeting and make sure it is acceptable.
3. Understand that twitter is a public forum and you may come in contact with people from all over the world, if you are contacted by someone who makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, you will let your parents and teacher know as soon as you can (show your parent the tweet if possible) and you will also keep track of the twitter id that the person used to report it to the teacher.
4. Do not contact or treat other people and students in a way that you would not like to be treated. Do not bully anyone, peers or other people from around the world by using twitter, we are an inclusive class. If you are worried about something a classmate tweets, contact the teacher but do not tweet a negative comment back to them.
5. Do not post any videos or pictures that you have taken which contain other people or yourself without consent of your parent and the other person (who is shown in the picture or video).
6. Allow your parents to have access to your user name so they can view what you are posting on twitter should they decide that they would like to.
7. Do not give your password to anyone. If you give out your password, things may be tweeted on your behalf that you do not approve of.
8. If you believe your account has been compromised or hacked, you will report it to your parent and the teacher immediately.

Please keep page one for your records and complete page 2 to be sent back to me for my records. Thank you.

Breanne Quist

Please choose one of the following, if you feel that you do not have enough information to make an informed decision, please contact me to discuss further:

[ ] My child agrees to the rules for using twitter and will be making their own twitter account, their twitter id is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] My child agrees to the rules for using twitter but I do not feel comfortable having them use their own id, I prefer them to use the shared one. My child is number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] My child agrees to the rules for using twitter but I do not feel comfortable having them on it, so they will check things using my twitter account but they will not be sending any tweets, instead they will post in the secure online classroom and email the teacher directly.

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Parent Signature Date

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Student Signature Date

## Elective Addition: Background Information for Parents

As you know, our class is a hybrid (some online, some on paper) class that is hosted in a distance learning setting. I have students in the class from all over the province that I would like to give opportunities to connect with each other on their own schedule. One way that I will be able to do this is by using twitter and I would like to outline how we will use it, as well as some of the risks and how these may be managed.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a platform where students are able to send ‘tweets’ which are messages that are 140 characters or less and can include videos, pictures, or URL links. Twitter also incorporates hash-tags (#) to help you find things that are of interest to you. For example, if you like the Vancouver Canucks, you can search #Canucks and find what people are tweeting about them. We will be using #MrsQ so when your child tweets something and includes the hash-tag, other people can search the hash-tag and find what their peers are tweeting.

Something else that your children are able to do is ‘follow’ their friends and myself on twitter. You can do this by searching for the twitter name (mine is @quistb) and then click follow. This will allow your child to see what is most recently tweeted by their peers and myself every time they log in. There is also an app available for smart phones if you would like.

With Twitter people can create a twitter id that does not tell anyone who they are. My suggestion to the student is to sign up with their parent’s email address and choose something such as their pet’s name and favorite number (@Buddy21) or their favorite colour and favorite food (@pink\_chocolate). I will also be allowing my students to use a shared class id (@MrsQ\_students) but it would be best if they had their own id.

Why twitter?

Since twitter uses very little information about yourself to get signed up (all you need to enter is your email and name) it is a secure social media platform to use. It does not ask for any geographical identification. Tweets are kept to 140 characters or less (including hash-tags) so posts may be done quickly. Twitter is a way that students can connect with others to discuss educational things such as assignments and requirements for their course as well as personal interests, such as the Canucks. It is a very easy way to quickly check in to see what the new tweets are and sign out, most people would be able to read through all the new posts in a few minutes and take about a minute or less to create a new tweet. Since twitter is available online and on mobile devices, it is a great tool that can go anywhere and connect our class with other classes and students from around the world.

What are the risks/ privacy issues?

The major risk associated with Twitter is being contacted or tweeted by someone that your child does not know in an inappropriate way. If this happens, your child should tell you and I immediately so we can deal with the situation. There is also the risk of the student posting something and the ‘digital footprint’ it leaves, we will discuss the effects of a ‘digital footprint’ in our Blackboard Collaborate sessions. We need to make sure the students are aware that once something is posted, it is online for good and they should be aware of what they are tweeting. The personal information requirements (anything that can be used to identify you and where to find out) for creating a twitter account just include your name and email, no locations or addresses. The name and email address you sign up with can be used to search for you to connect in twitter. If you are concerned about someone figuring out your child’s name, you are able to sign up with your name instead. I want to remind you as well that I have suggested that you have your child sign up with their parent’s email address so that if any notices come from twitter, you will be able to see them and have access to them. If there is a concern about your student using an individual twitter account, please let me know and I will give them access to the class account or I can tweet on their behalf if they email me what they would like tweeted. Twitter is not 100% risk free but I have been doing everything I can to put rules, guidelines and options in place to keep your child as safe as I possibly can.

How to stay safe

Twitter is mostly designed to have tweets go out to everyone and not so much for private messages so in that regard, everything is in the open and it lessens the chance of your child being made to feel uncomfortable. Make sure that you have access to your child’s Twitter id so when you want, you can go online and see what they are tweeting out. I will also have access to all of their twitter ids and will be checking in daily for tweets that they have posted. If I find something that is unsettling, I will contact you immediately. There is also the option for your child to click on a button titled ‘report abuse’ if they come across anything unsettling.

Also, before a student will be able to use twitter and contact others, I am requiring them to sign (as well as their parents) the consent form so that they are aware of the expectations when using the tool. I will also be demonstrating proper use of Twitter in a Collaborate session before the students sign on for the first time. If you do not feel comfortable signing the consent and having your child on twitter, even with all of the adaptations suggested, your child can email me their ‘tweet’ and I will post it on their behalf in an anonymous way.

More information

Twitter is hosted on servers based out of the United States, because of this, the information is subject to the U.S. privacy laws and the Patriot Act, if you would like more information about this, please go to: <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference-Shelf/FOIA.shtml>

For more information about twitter, you can visit their website at: <https://twitter.com/about> and while on that webpage, there are links to their security page.

Something that might be interesting and helpful for you to look into is HootSuite. This is something that allows you to set up “streams” and follow certain hash-tags. You can find more information at: <https://dev.twitter.com/programs/twitter-certified-products/hootsuite> .

Your child’s rights and responsibilities using social media: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/RightsResponsibilites.aspx>

You can access the BC laws regarding privacy at: <http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/LOC/freeside/--%20F%20--/Freedom%20of%20Information%20and%20Protection%20of%20Privacy%20Act%20RSBC%201996%20c.%20165/00_Act/96165_03.xml#section30>