October 15, 2013

Dear Parents,

The Apex Elementary staff wants our children to be productive members of the 21st Century. To prepare them for a workplace in their future, they must move beyond the skills of the 20th Century. The characteristics of the 21st Century classroom will be very different from those of the classrooms in the past because the focus is on producing students who are highly productive, effective communicators, collaborators, creative, inventive thinkers, and masters of technology.

During your child's education, an understanding of technology including Web 2.0 tools will be used that will assist them in their learning over the course of their school experience. New tools arise every day. Some common tools that your children may encounter and use this year are, **but are not limited to:**

- **_Edmodo_**- *online site where teachers and students can safely and easily communicate, collaborate store and access files.*
- **_Google Apps_**- *An online suite of productivity and digital tools.*
- **_Voki_**- *a talking avatar creator that can be used to share their ideas.*
- **_Voicethread_**- *website that allows students to communicate and to make comments on other projects using any mix of text, a microphone, a web cam, or uploaded audio file.*
- **_Glogster_**- *a social network that allows users to create free interactive posters, or Glogs*
- **_Weebly_**- *an easy way to create a high- quality websites.*
- **_Go Animate_**- *an animated video creator that allows users to creator a digital stories or presentations.*
- **_Prezi_** - *a cloud-based presentation software and storytelling tool for presenting ideas on a virtual canvas*

Your child's safety and security are our number one priority. All websites and tools have been and will continue to be thoroughly examined and are used commonly in education today.

Students will follow school policies for appropriate use when using Internet based services like Web 2.0 applications & Google Apps. These services are considered an extension of the school's network. Teachers and administrators have the right and ability to monitor user accounts and remove students from having access when found to be in violation of school polices for appropriate usage. If you have questions and/or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Susan Reid
Technology Facilitator
skreid@wcpss.net

Your signature below indicates that you give permission for your child to engage in classroom activities involving the Web2.0 tools.

Student's Name _____ Grade Level _____

Teacher's Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____