

BEVERLY MEDIA CENTER

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http://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Schools/Elementary/Beverly/Media+Center/

November 13, 2006

Dear Parents of Fourth Grade Students:

In collaboration with the fourth grade teachers, the Media Center is pleased to announce the creation of the Fourth Grade Podcasting Club. Podcasting is an emerging technology trend that uses simple equipment to make audio recordings that can be burned to CD, posted to the web, or downloaded onto an mp3 player. This project builds on the recording projects made in third grade, when students used podcasting software to create CDs of their writing. We find that podcasting helps improve student fluency, build confidence, motivate quality work, and develop a real-world audience for student work. Many of last year’s podcasting projects are available online at <http://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Schools/Elementary/Beverly/Media+Center/Podcasts.htm>.

We would like to build on that work with an **optional** lunchtime program for fourth graders. All interested fourth graders are invited to participate. Good effort and attitude are the only prerequisites for continuing beyond the first session. Each week, up to eight students will visit the Media Center for two lunchtime visits. They will eat lunch in the Media Center, then work on a podcasting project – perhaps a small research project, an interview, a radio play, or more! – that will be completed that week. The final products will be posted to the Web. Students will continue on a rotating basis. Because we cannot accommodate all interested students each week, we will use a lottery to choose the first participants. We will hold the lottery to choose the first students on Tuesday, November 14. Permission slips received after that date will be placed on the list in order of receipt.

We are pleased that Ms. Fontichiaro’s proposal to author a book about podcasting in the school setting has been accepted by Libraries Unlimited, and this project may be written up in journals and magazines. Therefore, this permission slip also asks permission for images of your child, his/her planning worksheets, and/or his/her podcasts to be posted online or in published form.

If your student is interested in participating in the Podcasting Club, both you and your child must sign and return the bottom portion of this page. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristin Fontichiaro
Media Specialist

Jacqueline Stephenson
Technology Operations Assistant

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PODCASTING CLUB PERMISSION FORM

My student has my permission to participate in the lunchtime Podcasting Club on a rotating basis. I understand that his/her podcasts created may be published on the Internet. I also understand that my student’s photograph, planning worksheets, and podcasts may be used for future publication in a book, publicity materials, or other publication or linked from a website, and I give permission for this use. I understand that if my student’s image or work is used in a professional publication that there will be no compensation but that staff will make every effort to make me aware of such publication. I understand that no last names will be used in publication or online.

Student’s Name _____
Student’s Signature _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____