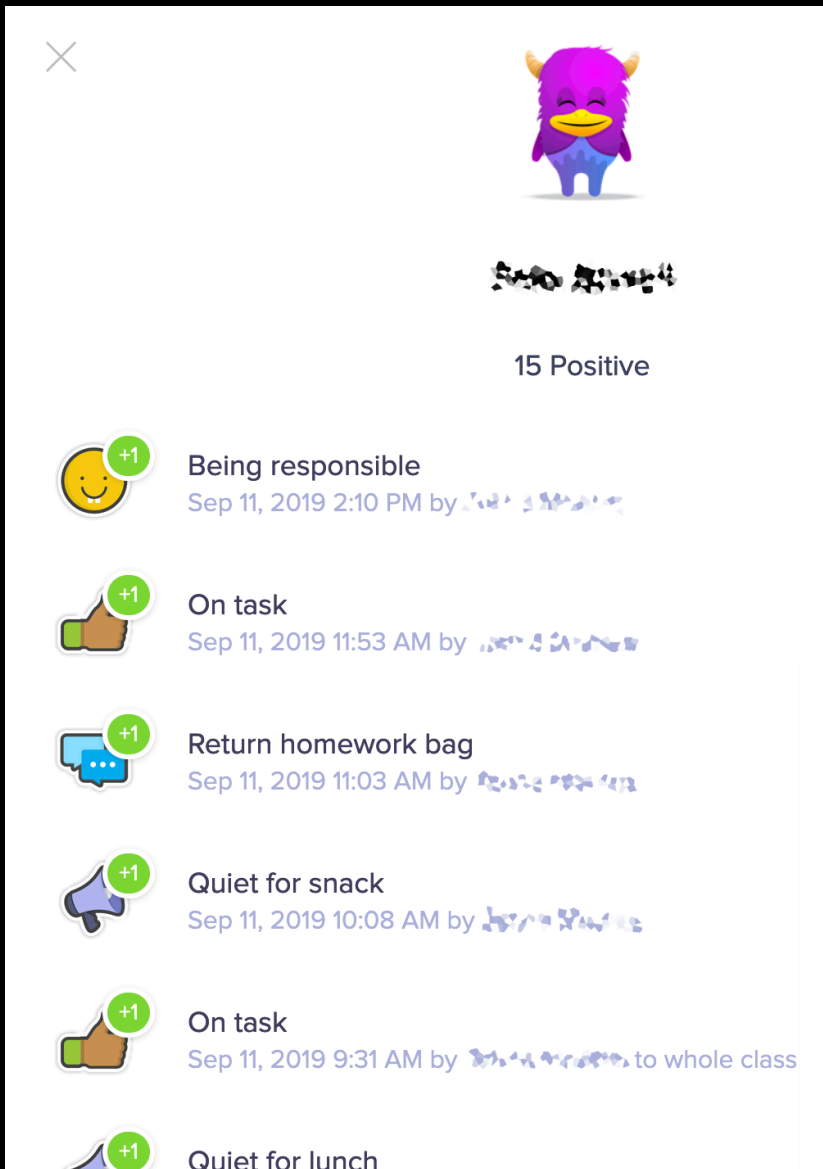


Class Dojo's Illegal and Inappropriate Use in SD61

Cara Gibson, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Class Dojo (CD) Background



Screenshot Cara Gibson

- Free app that uses generic monster avatars for children to award/deduct points based on pre-selected list of behaviours
- Not favoured by SD61 (FreshGrade is preferred, but e-Portfolio only)
- CD data stored in USA by Amazon Web Services indefinitely (child's info, images of their work, any messages sent through the app can never be deleted by either parent/guardian or teacher once consent has been given)
- In my child's ½ class, teacher has app on phone & computer, 5x / day awards students points for "good" behaviour (e.g. being quiet, a "ping" sounds in class) or deducts points (e.g. speaking out, a "pong" sounds)
- Scores projected for everyone to see; student with most points at week's end wins a small prize (e.g. a pencil)

Issue 1:

Illegal use in BC without informed consent

- BC's Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act (more stringent than privacy laws in USA), requires more explicit explanation regarding data storage
- My child's teacher nor principal aware of this; District VP of Information Technology for Learning was aware & said privacy training for district is planned
- But data is accumulating now – who will pay for damages if/when there is a class action lawsuit over a violation of privacy rights, or worse, a breach of these 5, 6 and 7 year old's data?

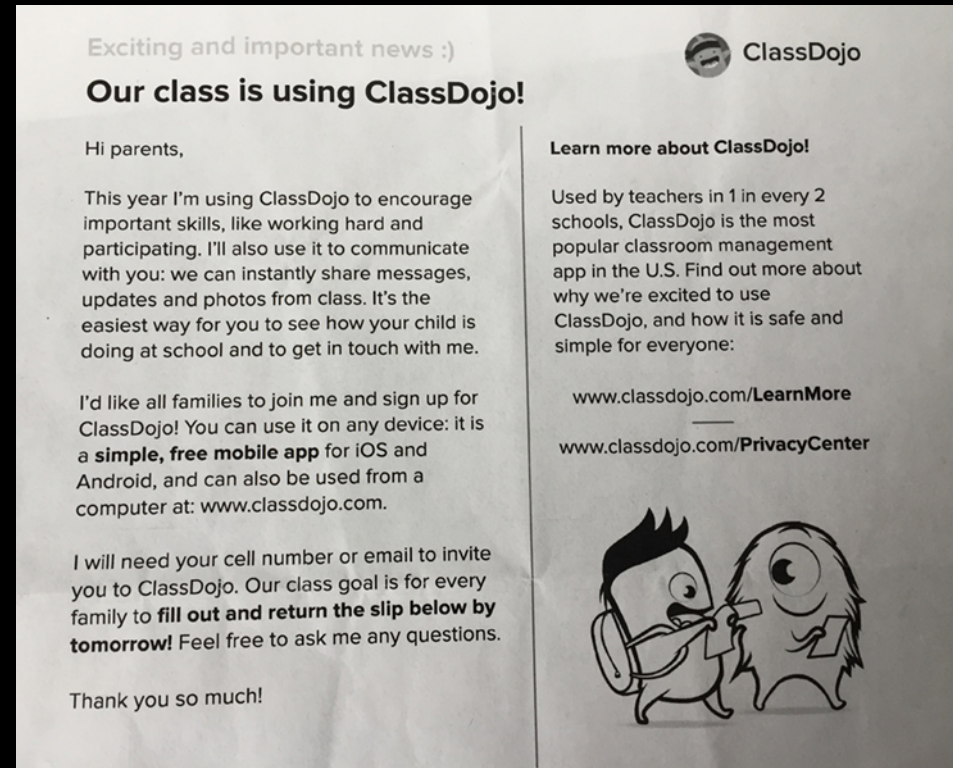


Photo of only consent form that I received. Cara Gibson

Issue 2:

Violation of SD61's Regulation 4303

- Punitive use of this app and use of monster characters that “erase individual differences, including race, religion, physical abilities [and] gender identities” is a violation of SD61's Regulation 4303 regarding discrimination

“Schools shall encourage and support activities promoting respect for human rights and the celebration of diversity.”

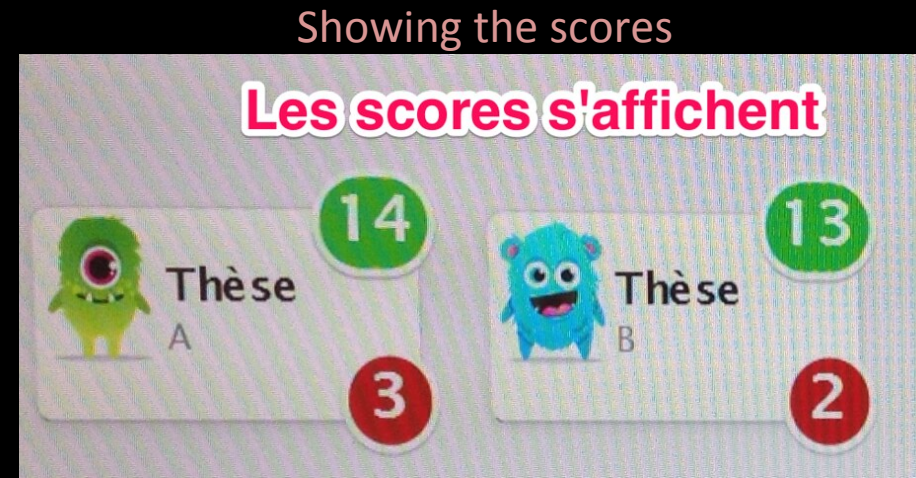


Photo François Jourde (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

(Children can customize monsters with an additional student account, but at expense of submitting additional personal data)

*Article: 'ClassDojo raises concerns about children's rights'

<https://theconversation.com/classdojo-raises-concerns-about-childrens-rights-111033>

Issue 3:

Misaligned with BC Curriculum Core Competencies



Silhouettes Public Domain (CC0 1.0)

- “A major problem with creating [Class Dojo] reports like this is that they only judge students on a small number of behaviours that ‘count’. They ignore, and even deter, diversity. ... The selected behaviours end up being the ones that count, others are ignored, thus promoting conformity.”
- CD’s use does not foster creative, critical + reflective thinking, nor collaboration as outlined: curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies
- Reports of increased anxiety (public humiliation), tattling (pointing out classmates’ misconduct to get ahead), increased tit-for-tat/transactional behaviour with siblings/guardians

Next Step:

Office of the Information & Privacy
Commissioner for BC can assess CD Issue 1

Recommendation:

Only electronic apps that have been carefully vetted, approved & have appropriate policies and procedures in place (particularly as pertain to informed consent) should be allowed in SD61 classrooms