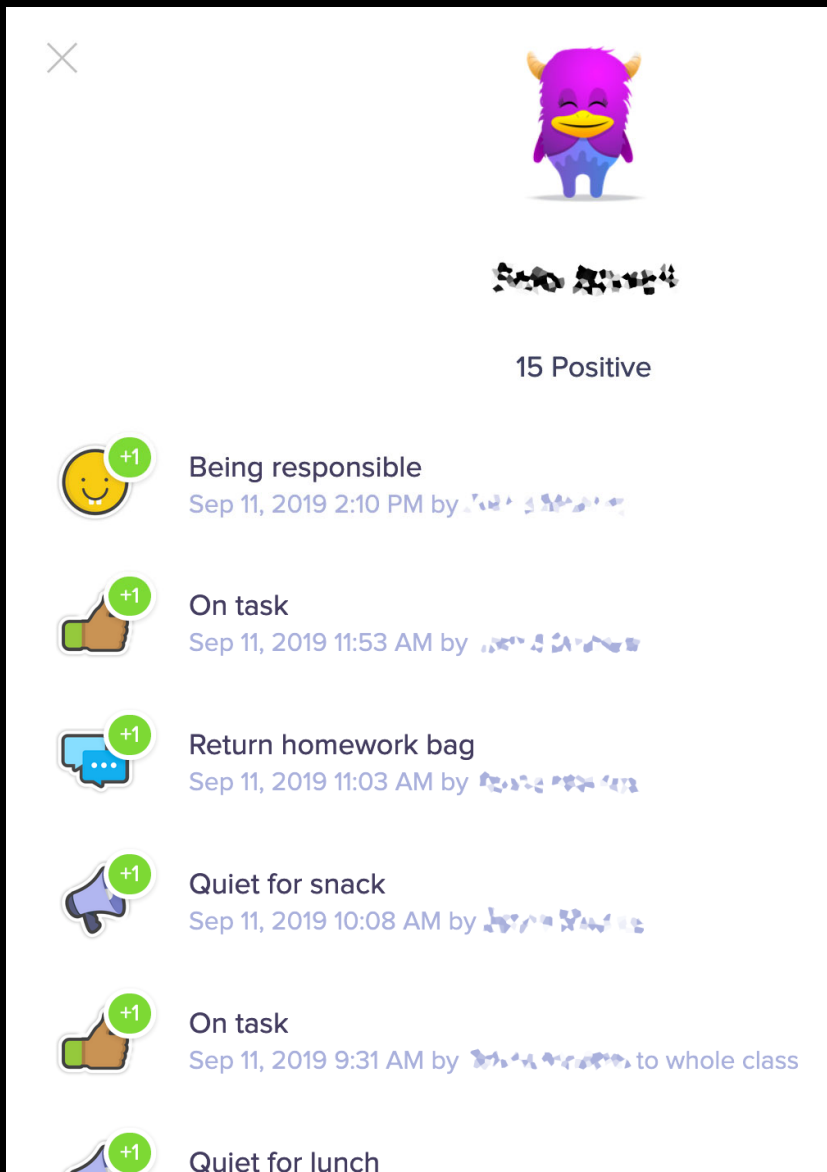


# Class Dojo's Illegal and Inappropriate Use in SD61

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

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- 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?

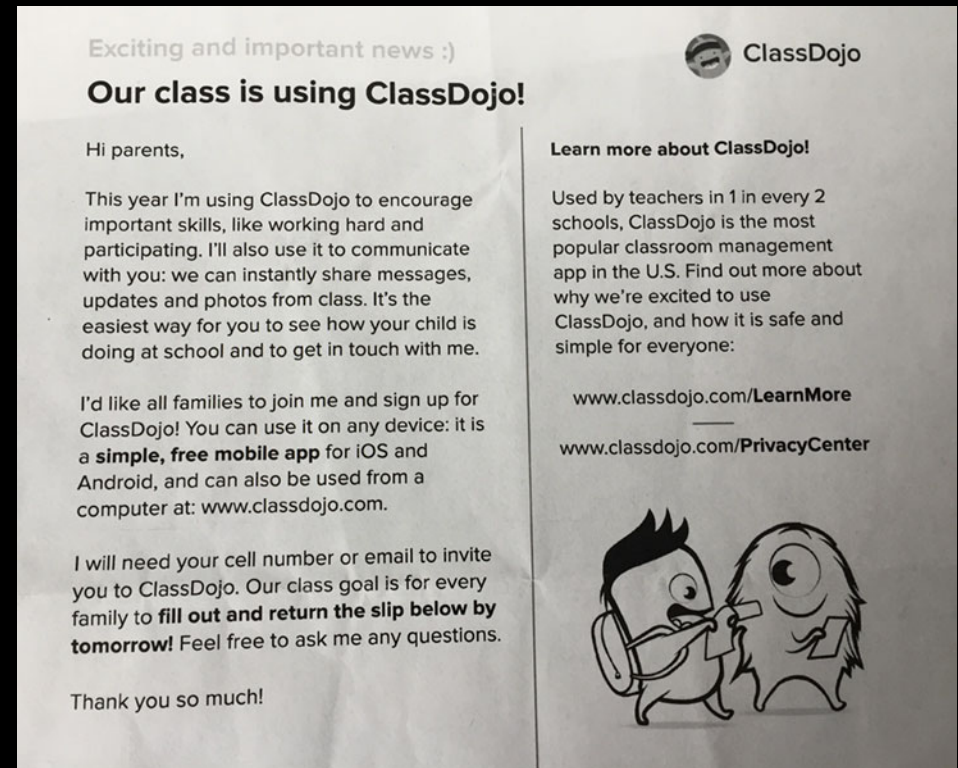


Photo of only consent form that I received. Cara Gibson

## 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.”

Showing the scores

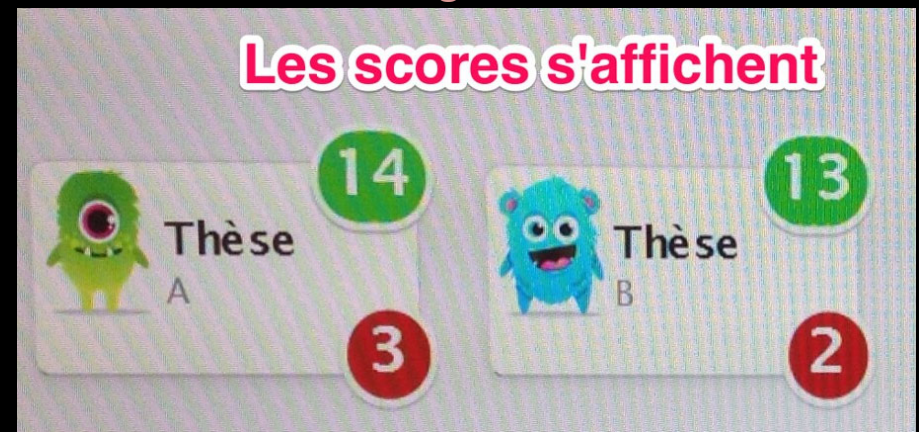


Photo François Jourde (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

(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

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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](http://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

\*Article: ‘Vast amounts of data about our children are being harvested and stored via apps used by schools’  
<https://www.aare.edu.au/blog/?p=3712>

## 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