Class Dojo's Illegal and Inappropriate Use in SD61

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Class Dojo (CD) Background





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15 Positive



Being responsible



On task

Sep 11, 2019 11:53 AM by A A A



Return homework bag

Sep 11, 2019 11:03 AM by 12:03



Quiet for snack

Sep 11, 2019 10:08 AM by



On task

Sep 11, 2019 9:31 AM by *** to whole class



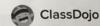
Quiet for lunch

- Free app that uses generic monster avatars for children to award/deduct points based on preselected 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?

Exciting and important news:



Our class is using ClassDojo!

Hi parents,

This year I'm using ClassDojo to encourage important skills, like working hard and participating. I'll also use it to communicate with you: we can instantly share messages, updates and photos from class. It's the easiest way for you to see how your child is doing at school and to get in touch with me.

I'd like all families to join me and sign up for ClassDojo! You can use it on any device: it is a **simple, free mobile app** for iOS and Android, and can also be used from a computer at: www.classdojo.com.

I will need your cell number or email to invite you to ClassDojo. Our class goal is for every family to fill out and return the slip below by tomorrow! Feel free to ask me any questions.

Thank you so much!

Learn more about ClassDojo!

Used by teachers in 1 in every 2 schools, ClassDojo is the most popular classroom management app in the U.S. Find out more about why we're excited to use ClassDojo, and how it is safe and simple for everyone:

www.classdojo.com/LearnMore

www.classdojo.com/PrivacyCenter



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-11103

Issue 3: Misaligned with BC Curriculum Core Competencies



Silhouettes Public Domain (CCO 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

^{*}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