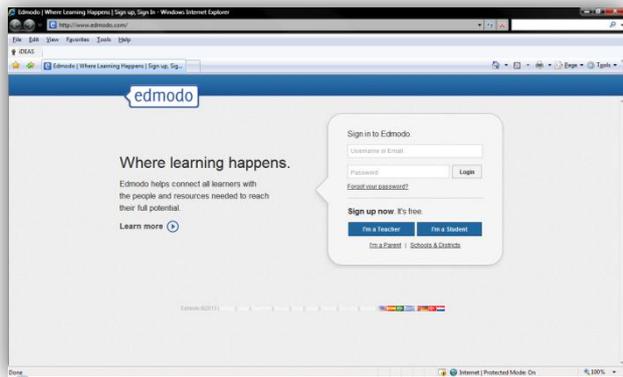


Edmodo - A communication tool for parents and a collaborative learning platform for pupils

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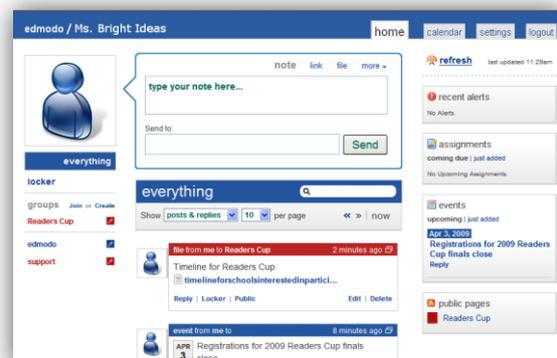


Edmodo, the latest Facebook-like application created by educators for educators provides a safe platform for pupils to communicate with their teachers and peers. Parents can choose to monitor their children's use of Edmodo by joining the class group with a special parents' code unique to each parent. Parents can download Edmodo which is an application from iTunes or Play Store for free. Moreover, Edmodo does not have games or advertisements at its side panel to distract the

younger children. Therefore, it is a very good tool for educators to use to communicate with their pupils and parents.

In West View Primary School, teachers find Edmodo especially useful when it comes to communicating with parents about homework done daily. Younger pupils tend to spend more time copying their homework into notebooks and they often copy the wrong instructions into their books causing a lot of frustration to the teachers and pupils. With Edmodo, all the teachers need to do is to tap on the application on their mobile phone, type the homework which needs to be done today and click 'send post'. Before you know it, parents of that class would have received instant notifications on their mobile phone about the homework even before the child reaches home in the evening! Teachers observed pupils posting questions about homework which they are not clear of and you can expect an answer from a helpful classmate within a few minutes! All thanks to Edmodo, this has helped pupils to learn to be more independent in their learning and has enabled them to realise that they have the ability to look for answers on their own too.

Besides using Edmodo as a platform for communication, teachers of West View Primary School makes use of other features in Edmodo to enhance their lessons. For instance, teachers subscribe to news feed for pupils to encourage pupils to read news daily so as to keep themselves updated about what is happening around them. This helps pupils to improve in their vocabulary and writing skills as they are expected to share a word which they are unsure of, look for its meaning and make a new sentence with it.



Teachers also use Edmodo to sieve out misconceptions in Science for pupils. In a Primary 3 Science class taught by Mdm Chua Pheok Keng, she encourages her pupils to continue their discussions about Science online on Edmodo as there are only 3 Science periods a week for Primary 3 pupils. First, she posts some interesting questions on Edmodo to make pupils think. After that, pupils log on from home and continue the discussion. From the discussion, Mdm Chua learns many things about her pupils. She is able to find out if they have learnt the concepts correctly in class, whether she needs to refine her next lesson or if she should modify her lesson since she knows their responses to the questions posted. Besides that, she realises that the quieter pupils in the class have more opportunities to voice out their opinions on Edmodo as it is a safe and non-threatening environment for them. More often than not, the quieter pupils seem to have the most to ‘talk’ about on Edmodo!

Edmodo can also be used to conduct mental sums and assign class assignments. Such activities tend to interest pupils as they provide a mental challenge for them as well as give them an avenue to revise their work. It is certainly more interesting to do homework online than on pen and paper! Pictures and videos taken during a class outing or a learning journey are often shared among pupils on this platform when in the past, these photos or videos taken are left aside and forgotten.



With the emphasis on ‘Teach Less and Learn More’ in the primary school curriculum, Edmodo offers a possible platform for pupils to take ownership of their own learning and to share information and facts with their peers in a safe and secured environment. Teachers can create a culture of self-directed learning by encouraging their pupils to research on a topic before posting questions or information in Edmodo. The use of Edmodo in West View Primary School has certainly helped teachers to be more effective in their teaching and has enabled them to forge a stronger bond with the pupils and parents of their class.

Some feedback from parents of West View Primary School

“Edmodo is a communication tool between parents and teachers. It is a good way to monitor my child’s progress and also her daily homework. Busy mothers like me have greatly benefitted from this as I can go on Edmodo whenever I am free to check if there are any assignments for my child.” – Irene Lu

“Thank you for using the latest technology, Edmodo, through which parents and teachers can interact more effectively. Edmodo helps us to know the daily updates. I want to thank Mrs Brenda Lee personally for putting in effort to help us parents to know what’s happening in class. The tests which you assign online are very useful too! I appreciate your quick response to queries.” - Bharathy Navin Chandar