

## *Elementary Carousel of Learning: Teacher Art Blogs*

### NAVIGATING/SEARCHING BLOGS FOR MAXIMUM BENEFIT

#### POSTS

- ◆ **Blog posts** are like a diary, always open to the newest page, which is 'home'. When you click on a blog address, you will always go to the home page. If you click on a link for a specific post, it will take you there instead. If you are on another page in the blog, you can always find a 'home' button somewhere to take you back to the home page.

#### TABS

- ◆ **Tabs** (usually at the top of a blog) are often used to guide readers to other non-changing 'pages' in the blog (different than posts) with info on a specific topic, or for related links.

#### LABELS:

- ◆ **Labels** (also called tags), if used by the blogger, are usually placed at the bottom of each post, and consist of key phrases or words chosen by the blogger that relate to the post.
- ◆ **Labels** using key phrases or words can be clicked on to help readers find more posts on the same topic. These labels will also aid in bringing the blog post up in internet searches on a topic. Savvy use of labels will make internet searches guide readers to the blog.
- ◆ **Labels** can also be seen at the in various formats, depending on the blog design, including a 'cloud' or list placed somewhere on the blog. Use these labels to find various posts related to a single topic. *A label cloud or list is added via an available gadget.*

#### SEARCH BAR:

- ◆ **Search bar** on a blog can be used to find various posts where certain key words or phrases are contained in the text of the post. *The search bar is an available 'gadget' the blogger may choose to add on a blog.*

#### ARCHIVE

- ◆ **A blog archive** can be searched to find posts written over the duration of the blog's life, or discover the origins of a blog. *The archive is a gadget added to a blog.*

## BLOGROLL

- ◆ **A blogroll** is a listing of other blogs the blogger wants to share with readers. Usually, clicking a blog in the blogroll is a direct link to that blog's latest post. *Again, a blogroll is an available gadget.*

## A FEW ADDITIONAL POINTS:

- ◆ There are many other available 'gadgets' that you might find on blogs you read. For example, you might find a gadget that shows you the most popular posts on the blog. Or tells you what part of the world readers are from. Or counts the readers on a blog. Or tells you who else 'follows' the blog. There are many possibilities, but some of them just clog the layout and content. I suggest to bloggers that they use the gadgets that will help readers find content on the blog most easily.
- ◆ If you view blogs on a phone, or other portable media, or through a reader, you might **ONLY** see a truncated version of a blog post, and may never view the entirety of available content on the blog. Viewing a blog through your browser (safari, chrome, firefox) will enable you to see the entire blog content and access all the additional search opportunities outlined here. Reconsider how you do your blog reading!
- ◆ Most blogs posts have a way for you to leave a comment, but even if nobody ever comments, the blogger still knows that people are reading the blog. The blogger is able to view his/her 'stats' and find how many people have been 'visiting' the blog, what part of the world they are from, and how they found their way there. Did they hop over from another blog? From a Pinterest link? From an internet search? Or does the reader 'follow' the blog through a reader such as Bloglovin', or Feedly, for example?
- ◆ Do YOU follow blogs on a reader? If you don't, you might want to reconsider. It makes it much easier to find your way back to blogs that are of interest. For example, Bloglovin' (the reader I use) sends a daily email to subscribers letting them know of new posts on blogs they choose to follow.