

## **Creating Parent Connections**

Not only are we trying to meet the needs of our students, but we are striving to better communicate with their parents as well. Sometimes, checking backpacks, reading agendas, or dinnertime conversations don't reveal the whole picture. Isn't there a better way?

Below are six different online communication tools. Investigate each one through navigation of the websites, watching tutorials, and by trying to use the resources. The first three are interactive, the fourth one can be, and the last two are for dispensing information. Which ones best meet the needs of your class in terms of communicating with parents?

<http://www.Pollev Everywhere.Com/> – Poll Everywhere says, “It is the best way to create stylish real-time experiences for events using mobile devices.”

<http://Celly.Education> – “Celly is an easy way for teachers, coaches and administrators to communicate with students and parents.”

<http://answergarden.ch/> – “AnswerGarden is a new minimalist feedback tool. Use it as a tool for online brainstorming or embed it on your website or blog as a poll or guestbook.”

<http://PabLet.Com/> – PabLet can be used to make noticeboards, teach, discuss, brainstorm, plan events, collect feedback and more.

<https://www.Remind101.Com/> – Remind 101 is “a safe, free way for teachers to text message students and stay in touch with parents”.

<https://www.ClassPager.Com/> – With Class Pager, you can broadcast information and updates to parents and students, or you can engage your classroom with polls, exit tickets, after-class reminders, and more.

### **Assignment:**

**Pick the two resources you find to be most useful and put them to use! Embed AnswerGarden on your WeeBly site so that your students' parents can leave notes, send messages out through Remind 101 about upcoming events in your classroom, or create a poll with Poll Everywhere to survey the parents' ability to attend conferences or a literacy night. It's up to you how you want to use these tools because each of you has different needs to meet with the parents of your students.**

**After you do that, take a screenshot of the resource in action. Use the "Print Screen" key on your keyboard and then paste it into PowerPoint. Add a text box below the screenshot and explain why you think this resource is the most beneficial for creating parent connections. You can create a slide for each resource or put them on separate slides.**

**When you finish, save the file as a JPEG. Then, go to Schoology and click on "Albums". Click on the "Creating Parent Connections" album and "Add Media". Attach the JPEG you just saved. I have placed my example in the album for reference.**

### **Scoring:**

**This assignment is worth 8 points.**

**5 Points – These resources have been used by the parents of your students or as a way to dispense information to the parents of your students.**

**2 Point – Explanation of why you chose each resource**

**1 Point – Actual screenshot of each resource you used**