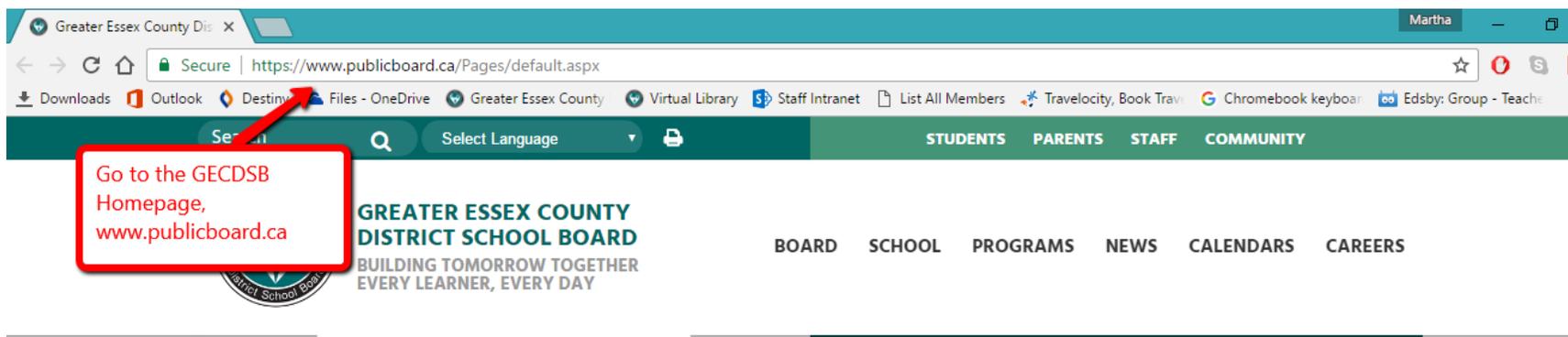


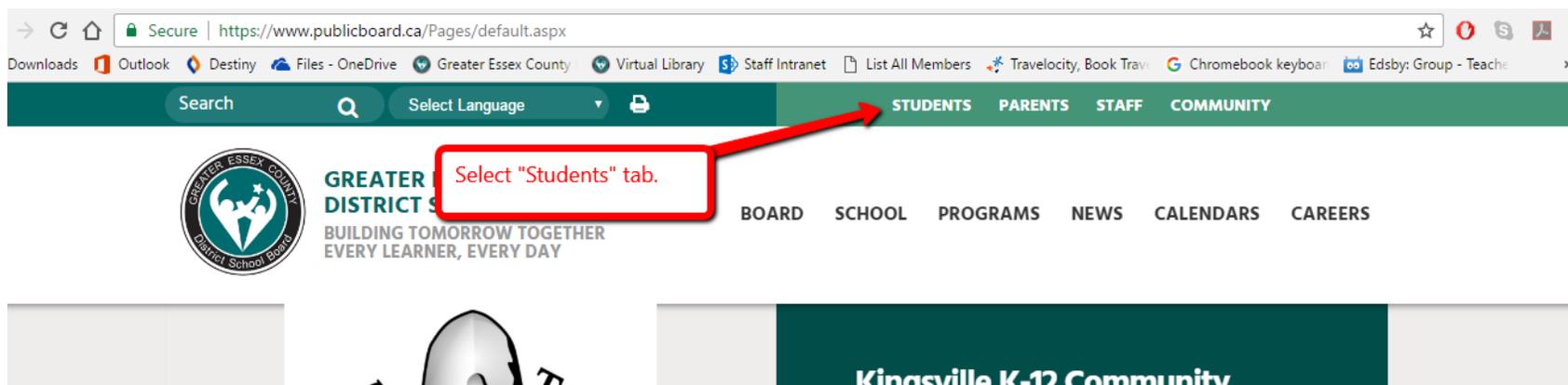
## How to Get Onto GECSDB Databases

The GECSDB has purchased the rights to a number of databases that allow for our students to safely research on the Internet from home and school. Once students are registered with the GECSDB, they will receive passwords and logins from their Teacher Librarian or teacher. These passwords and logins can't ever be posted electronically, but are often shared on bookmarks or in student agendas. Here are some visuals to help you navigate the databases and other useful things in the GECSDB's Virtual Library.

1. First, go to the board website ([www.publicboard.ca](http://www.publicboard.ca))



2. Select the "Students" tab.



3. From the scroll down window under Students, select "Virtual Library" which is the first choice. You will then see this screen:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.publicboard.ca/Students/VirtualLibrary/Pages/default.aspx>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. Below the browser, there is a navigation bar with a search field, a language selection dropdown, and a menu with options: STUDENTS, PARENTS, STAFF, and COMMUNITY. The main header features the Greater Essex County District School Board logo and the text "GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER EVERY LEARNER, EVERY DAY". To the right of the logo is a secondary navigation menu with options: BOARD, SCHOOL, PROGRAMS, NEWS, CALENDARS, and CAREERS. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads "GECDSB > Students > Virtual Library". The main content area is titled "GECDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS". On the left side, there is a "Students" section with a "Virtual Library" link. Under "Virtual Library", there are several categories: "Just Research" (with sub-items: Apprentice Researcher, Expert Researcher, Rookie Researcher), "Elementary Virtual Library Commons" (with sub-items: Online Databases, Encyclopedia, Web 2.0, eBooks), and "Destiny" (with a sub-item: Microsoft Office 365). The central banner image features the text "VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS" in a stylized font, with "VIRTUAL" in orange and "LIBRARY COMMONS" in green. The banner also includes the Greater Essex County District School Board logo and a bright light effect in the center.

4. Although there are many great things here, let's check out the "Elementary Virtual Library Commons" first. There are two places you can select to jump to the Elementary Virtual Library Commons. See the arrows?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.publicboard.ca/Students/VirtualLibrary/Pages/default.aspx>. The page title is "GECDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS". On the left side, there is a "Students" menu with the following items: "Virtual Library", "Just Research", "Apprentice Researcher", "Expert Researcher", "Rookie Researcher", "Elementary Virtual Library Commons", "Online Databases", "Encyclopedia", "Web 2.0", "eBooks", "Secondary Virtual Library Commons", "Online Databases - Ask your Teacher Librarian for logins and passwords", "Encyclopedia", and "Web 2.0". Two red arrows point to "Elementary Virtual Library Commons" in the menu and "Elementary VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS" button. The main content area features a large banner with "VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS" and the GECDSB logo. Below the banner are buttons for "Destiny Library Catalogue", "Microsoft Office 365 Login", "Elementary VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS", and "Secondary VIRTUAL LIBRARY COMMONS".

Pick either one of these to check out what we have for elementary students!

5. Select the button for the type of resource you need. For the online subscription databases, select the blue buttoned labeled as such. For encyclopedias, select the beige button.

The screenshot shows the website for the Greater Essex County District School Board. The header includes the board's logo and name, along with navigation links for Board, School, Programs, News, Calendars, and Careers. The breadcrumb trail indicates the user is in the 'Elementary Virtual Library Commons' section. The main content area is a grid of resource buttons: 'Destiny Library Catalogue', 'Online DATABASES', 'Encyclopedia', 'Just Research', 'Web 2.0', 'eBooks', 'Newspapers', 'Images & media', and 'Concussion Information for Students'. Two red callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'Online DATABASES' button, stating that a username and password are needed at home; the other points to the 'Encyclopedia' button, stating that board-provided credentials are required at home.

Make note of the other great options here before you leave! You may even want to bookmark this page on your computer or tablet, to save time revisiting!

Let's look specifically at the online databases...

- 6. There are amazing resources under these buttons, and we pay a lot of money for the rights to use them. Some are better for certain audiences and/or certain purposes. The online databases listed at the top are the best ones for our younger students:

Virtual Library

Just Research

Elementary Virtual Library  
Commons

Online Databases

Encyclopedia

Web 2.0

eBooks

Secondary Virtual Library  
Commons

Teacher Virtual Library Commons

## ONLINE DATABASES

The screenshot shows a section titled "ONLINE DATABASES" with a green horizontal line. Below the line, there are three database options, each in a white box with a red border. Red arrows point from red-bordered text boxes above each option to the option itself. The text boxes contain the following descriptions:

- Kids InfoBits:** "This is good to research all subjects." Below the box, the text "school's to use at home." is partially visible.
- BookFLIX:** "This lets you research topics with fiction and nonfiction text options."
- Pebble Go:** "This is great for researching science topics."

The database options are:

- Kids InfoBits:** For Grades 3-6
- BookFLIX:** (Logo featuring a blue book and a laptop)
- Pebble Go:** For Grades K-3

- 7. As you scroll farther down the pages, you can see there are databases for certain subjects (e.g. history and science) and certain languages (like ones that have their content in French for our French Immersion students).
- 8. Once you select one of the specific databases, you will need the login and password information to access it from home. In many cases, however, once you've put in the login and password information on your own devices, you won't need to type them in again. Bookmark the databases you like the best, or save them to your tablet as a shortcut.

Note: **it is against the GECD SB board policy for students in school to “surf the ‘Net” or just “google” without teacher supervision.** Using the databases is a safe alternative, and all sites are vetted and appropriate for students.