



Bernie Wolfe Community School

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February 28, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are writing to you today to inform you of a potentially dangerous and disturbing online “challenge” that has recently come to our attention. You may have seen a story on the news about a self-harm video popping up in the middle of popular children’s online searches and communication tools. It’s called the “Momo Challenge”. This avatar is a piece of art that has been modified to look ghoulish and is referred to as “Momo” who threatens and cyberbullies victims and instructs children how to self-harm or perform other dangerous and potentially violent acts. This challenge has been linked to suicides in other countries.

Please be vigilant in monitoring your child’s online activity and continue to have conversations with your child about online safety. If you see the Momo image, which is alarming, you should submit a complaint to the platform website that it is appearing on. The companies are aware of the problem and are making efforts to shut it down.

Our teachers are also aware of the issue and will continue to be vigilant in the classroom when students are doing online work.

Some students are aware and may have shared images or information with their peers. As parents, please watch for any signs that your son or daughter may be feeling signs of distress. Some examples may include: not sleeping, overly expressing concerns, a change of behaviour or an increase in emotions. If you notice any of these signs, please let the school know so we can help you access further supports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Linton".

Elizabeth Linton

Principal