

March 01, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the past few days, there have been a number of media reports about something called the "Momo Challenge." This "challenge" is found online and allegedly encourages children, through social media messaging apps, to carry out dangerous tasks, such as harming themselves or others. Quite frankly, we are receiving conflicting reports over what this "challenge" truly entails or if it is even real. While we would never want to perpetuate a hoax, given the significant amount of media coverage and the number of questions we are receiving from staff, parents and students, we felt this was an opportunity to remind parents and children about online safety in today's digital world.

In the TDSB, schools have been made aware of these reports and can provide further classroom support and encourage good digital citizenship. School social workers are also available should any mental health supports be needed.

Parental awareness and involvement is an important piece too. Being aware of potentially harmful online trends and explaining them to your child in an age appropriate way is valuable. We encourage parents/guardians to keep the dialogue open with your children about their mental health and emotional well-being. Making your home a safe space for these conversations will help ensure your child feels comfortable bringing their questions and concerns forward.

Additionally, the following list can help you keep your children safe while online:

- Make sure the protection features of websites and software your children use are activated. There are tools available through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to help you manage your children's online experience (i.e. appropriate Websites, amount of time spent online, who can and cannot contact them). It might also include other security features, such as pop-up ad blockers.
- Get to know the online environments your children use and teach them how to deal with inappropriate material.
- Keep an eye on the sites they're visiting by keeping the computer in a common area like the kitchen.
- Talk to them about the implications of posting inappropriate pictures, saying disparaging things about other people and anything else that could damage a reputation or ruin a friendship.
- Remind them that the Internet is a public space. Things they do and say now on social networking sites could have implications down the road when they're looking for summer employment (employers often search personal profiles for information about candidates).
- If your child is using live text and voice chats for online games, warn them not to give personal information to a stranger.

You may find some additional tips at www.cybertip.ca and www.prevnet.ca

Punjabi	ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਇਹੋ ਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੈ ਜਾਓ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਪੜ ਸੱਕਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈ ਜਾਓ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਉਹ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਬਾਰੀਏ ਜਾਂ ਅਨੁਵਾਦਕ ਦਾ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਮ ਕਰ ਸੱਕਣ।
Romanian	Acest document contine informatii importante. Va rugam sa-l aratati cuiva care stie englezeste sau sa veniti cu el la secretariatul scolii. Scoala va face demersuri pentru un interpret sau o traducere a documentului.
Russian	Данный документ содержит важную информацию. Пожалуйста, покажите его кому-либо, кто читает по-английски, или зайдите в секретариат школы, чтобы Вам обеспечили помощь переводчика.
Somali	Warqaddan waxaa ku jira xogwarran muhim ah. Fadlan u geysa ruux luqadda Ingiriisiga yaqaano oo kuu akhriyo ama Xafiiska Iskuulka la socodsii si uu kuugu diyaariyo ruux kuu fasiro xogwarranka warqaddan.
Spanish	Este documento contiene información importante. Por favor lléveselo a alguien que pueda leer inglés o a la oficina de su escuela de manera que ellos puedan hacer los arreglos necesarios para proveerle los servicios de un interprete o de un traductor.
Tagalog	Ang dokumentong ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon. Mangyaring dalhin ito sa isang tao na nakapagbabasa ng Ingles o sa Opisina ng iyong eskwelahan upang makakuha ng isang interpreter o translator.
Tamil	இந்தப் பத்திரம் முக்கியமான தகவலைக் கொண்டுள்ளது. தயவுசெய்து இதனை அங்கிலிஸ் வாசிக்கத் தெரிந்த ஒருவரிடம் அல்லது ஒரு மொழிபெயர்ப்பாளரை ஒழுங்கு செய்வதற்கு உதவியாக உங்கள் பாலசாலை அலுவலகத்திற்கு எடுத்துச் செல்லுங்கள்.
Urdu	اس دستاویز میں اہم معلومات ہیں۔ براہ کرم اسے کسی انگریزی پڑھ سکتے والے شخص کے پاس یا اپنے اسکول کے دفتر میں لے جائیں تاکہ وہ کسی ترجمان یا مترجم کا انتظام کر سکیں۔
Vietnamese	Tài liệu này có các thông tin quan trọng. Hãy mang tài liệu này đến cho một người nào biết đọc tiếng Anh hay đến Văn Phòng Nhà Trường để họ có thể sắp xếp một thông dịch viên hay phiên dịch viên.