

Dear Parents/Family Members,

As you may have heard, there are a number of concerning and downright frightening videos that are popping up at random on YouTube and YouTubeKids, as well as certain children's programming and video games. Given the nature of both, we believe it's important to make our families aware of what is being circulated:

- The "Momo Challenge" is said to encourage kids to complete dangerous tasks to avoid being "cursed." Some of the tasks include self-harm, which Momo (a scary-looking character) asks them to do in order to continue the game. The game supposedly ends with Momo telling the participant to take their own life and record it for social media. Momo also warns kids not to tell their parents or they'll bring harm to themselves and their families.
- Other stories have been surfacing about a man appearing on the screen during clips of various children's video games and shows offering instructions on how to commit suicide.

While accounts of these videos are scarce, there is a significant amount of coverage about them right now, so there's a good chance your child knows about them and may be worried or too scared to talk about them with you.

We want you to be educated on both the content and intent of these videos, but more importantly, we recommend you have a conversation with your child about their online viewing habits and, if appropriate, proactively discuss these videos.

- Emphasize that characters like Momo are not real, and the things being said aren't true and cannot hurt them.
- Encourage them to come to you about anything they see or hear that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- Remind them that if something they see upsets them, they should switch off the screen and tell an adult. For older children and adults, save it, block it, report it.
- Pay careful attention to what your children are watching when they are online, and if they are going to watch videos on any device, we strongly suggest you monitor their screen time and consider parental controls.

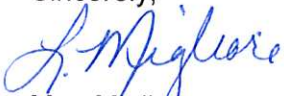
Here are some helpful and informative links for your reference:

[Momo Challenge – what parents should know about online crazes](#)

[Wired Magazine: Parents, Here's How to Make YouTube Kids Safer](#)

[Consumer's Advocate: 10 Best Parental Control Apps of 2019](#)

Sincerely,



Mrs. Migliore

Principal

Roy Allen Elementary