



CLEARPOINT ELEMENTARY IB WORLD SCHOOL

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Friday, September 28, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The police from station 5 in Pointe Claire have asked us to circulate the attached message in our school community.

The memo refers to an on-line issue that you may have heard about in the news called the “Momo Challenge”. This is an on-line game connected with the messaging service “WhatsApp”. Players are invited to take part in the challenge that consists of increasingly dangerous tasks that involve self-harm. This is of concern because there have been possible links between the Momo Challenge and several teen suicides in South America.

Although there is no indication that this is of immediate concern in our school community, it is important for parents to be aware of this issue. This can also be an opportunity to review your child’s on-line behaviour and discuss safety issues related to the use of any on-line games, apps, social media platforms, websites, etc. Here are a few reminders:

- Children should not share personal information (address, date of birth, phone number, etc.) on line without parents’ knowledge and permission.
- Children should not respond to strangers on-line, especially an invitation to chat from someone not known to them.
- If someone contacts your child and invites them to do the Momo Challenge – or engage in any risky behaviour, your child should not respond, take a screen shot of what appears, and let parents know immediately. Police should also be contacted.

In this context, I have found the website Common Sense Media to be very helpful in determining what games, websites, apps etc. are appropriate for kids. There are reviews and ratings of many aspects of on-line technology that you may find useful. Have a look: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

David Estok
Principal



**Neighbourhood Police
Station**

5

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Momo Challenge: Cyberbullying via Social Media

Montréal, September 27th, 2018. The SPVM wishes to call on the vigilance of teachers and parents about a worrying phenomenon: the Momo Challenge. This challenge, which is in fact cyberbullying, is spreading through social media and is primarily targeting young people.

The user is first invited on a chat platform to contact Momo on WhatsApp. The initial message is similar to the following: *"Hi, I'm Momo. I know everything about you"* and is accompanied by a frightening character and personal information (name, email, address) that probably come from various social media platforms used and powered by the user.

Once the conversation begins, the Momo character will incite the young person to perform certain tasks or challenges under threat of reprisal. The first challenge usually takes the form of a chain of messages in which threats are formulated.

A few tips for young people

- Restrict your profile (private mode) to keep your information more confidential.
- Do not communicate or respond to messages from strangers.
- Do not open the link from Momo or links from unknown sources.
- Disable geolocation.
- Turn off your microphone and cover your computer's camera when not in use.

Practical tip

- Pay special attention to signs of concern in young people such as risky behaviour, physical injury, unusual fatigue, changes in Internet use patterns, anxiety, etc.

What to do if you are a victim of the Momo Challenge?

- Do not try to meet the challenge.
- Take a screenshot of the message and contact the police.

For any additional information, do not hesitate to contact the socio-community officer at your neighbourhood police station at 514-280-0405

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Source:

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