



# WYANDANCH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central Administration Building  
1445 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., Boulevard  
Wyandanch, New York 11798-3997

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## SCHOOLS

Wyandanch Memorial High School  
54 South 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Paul Sibbles, Principal  
631 870-0450  
Fax 631 491-8525

Milton L. Olive Middle School  
140 Garden City Avenue  
Kenya Vanterpool, Principal  
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Martin L. King Jr.  
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Monique Habersham, Ed.D.  
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Fax 631 491-8573

Lafrancis Hardiman  
Elementary School  
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Shamika Simpson, Principal  
631 870-0580  
Fax 631 491-8572

Lafrancis Hardiman Annex  
30 Deforest Road  
Dix Hills, NY 11746  
Shamika Simpson, Principal  
631 870-0505  
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February 28, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians/Community:

It has been brought to our attention that there is a challenge that is spreading across social media called the "Momo Challenge". Momo is a social media account that can be found on Facebook, YouTube and Whatsapp. When a person interacts with the account, they begin to receive pictures of Momo, a terrifying image of a bug-eyed toothless woman. Momo responds almost immediately with threatening messages and violent images to the user. "She" says that she knows personal things about the user and uses fear and threats to challenge the user.

Momo starts with simple challenges like waking up at odd hours of the night or overcoming a fear; then the challenges take a dangerous turn, such as asking you to post photos or videos of cutting your arms or legs, jumping off of a roof, or other risky activities.

As the challenges intensify, the last thing Momo pressures you to do is to commit suicide. If the user fails to accept or pass any of the challenges, Momo sends even more threatening and violent images and texts until the user is coerced into doing the challenge. If none of these pressuring tactics work, Momo threatens to visit you in person, or while you're sleeping and curse you. This can be terrifying to young kids and teens.

Children may be targeted by others to interact with the Momo account as a form of cyberbullying and they do not possess the coping skills to deal with the pressure—both from the challenges and from the bullies.

We recommend that you talk to your child about the Momo Challenge. Ask them if they know what it is. Have they heard of it? Have they tried it? If they don't know about it, share the dangers associated with the challenge. Discuss a plan that includes what they can do if they receive a message with the Momo Challenge.

Also, check your child's phone and/or computer regularly. The Momo Challenge is not the first challenge to encourage kids to participate in dangerous activities (the Slenderman and the Bluewhale challenge are similar challenges that were popular several years ago). If your child is engaging in the Momo Challenge, or any other similar challenge, they will probably not volunteer that information to you.

In the district, the word "Momo" has been blocked so students will not be able to access it on their chromebooks or other computers.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at any time. We want to make sure we keep the line of communication open with our families ensuring the safety of all our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Jones  
Superintendent of Schools

c Board of Education Trustees



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28 de febrero de 2019

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Estimados padres/guardianes/comunidad:

Ha sido traído a nuestra atención que hay un desafío que se está extendiendo a través de redes sociales llamadas "Desafío de Momo". Momo es una cuenta de redes sociales que se puede encontrar en Facebook, YouTube y Whatsapp. Cuando una persona interactúa con la cuenta, empiezan a recibir imágenes de Momo, una imagen aterradora de una mujer hada de los dientes. Momo responde casi de inmediato con amenaza de mensajes e imágenes violentas al usuario. "" Dice que ella sabe cosas personales sobre el usuario y utiliza el miedo y las amenazas para el usuario. Momo inicia con retos sencillos como despertarse a horas intempestivas de la noche o superar un miedo; luego los desafíos toman un giro peligroso, tales como pedir publicar fotos o videos de corte de los brazos o piernas, saltar de una azotea, u otras actividades riesgosas.

Como intensifican los desafíos, las presiones de Momo lo último que haga es suicidarse. Si el usuario no aceptar o pasar cualquiera de los desafíos, Momo envía textos e imágenes violentas y amenazando aún más hasta que el usuario es obligado a hacer el reto. Si ninguna de estas tácticas ejerciendo presión sobre trabajo, Momo amenaza con visitar en persona, o mientras está durmiendo y os maldicen. Esto puede ser aterrador para los niños y adolescentes. Los niños pueden ser objetivo de otros para interactuar con la cuenta de Momo como una forma de ciberbullying y no poseen las habilidades de afrontamiento para tratar con la presión, tanto de los desafíos y de los matones. Recomendamos que usted hable con su hijo sobre la pregunta de desafío de Momo les si saben lo que es. ¿Ellos han escuchado de él? ¿Han probado? Si no sabe sobre él, compartir los peligros asociados con el reto. Discutir un plan que incluya lo que pueden hacer si reciben un mensaje con el reto de Momo.

También, compruebe su hijo teléfono o computadora regularmente. El reto de Momo no es el primer reto para animar a los niños a participar en actividades peligrosas (el Slenderman y el desafío de Bluewhale son retos similares que fueron populares hace varios años). Si su hijo está participando en el reto de Momo, o cualquier otro reto similar, probablemente no será ser voluntario esa información a usted. En el barrio, la palabra "Momo" ha sido bloqueada por lo que los estudiantes no podrán acceder a él en sus chromebooks u otros equipos.

Como siempre, si usted tiene alguna pregunta, póngase en contacto con nosotros en cualquier momento. Nos quiere asegurarse de que mantener la línea de comunicación abierta con nuestras familias la seguridad de todos nuestros niños.

Atentamente,

Dr. Mary Jones  
Superintendent of Schools

c Board of Education Trustees



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February 28, 2019

Paran nou yo /Gadyen/Kominote:

Yo attire atansyon nou sou yon defi ki gaye atravè medya sosyal yo ki rele "Momo defi a". Momo se yon kont medya sosyal ki ka jwenn sou Facebook, YouTube ak Whatsapp. Lè yon moun intèaji ak kont lan, yo kòmanse resevwa foto Momo, yon imaj tèt chaje yon fanm ak je yon mons epi san dan. Momo reponn prèske menm lè a avèk mesaj ki gen vyolans ladan yo pou itilizatè a. "Li" di ke li konnen bagay pèsònèl sou itilizatè a epi li sèvi ak laperèz ak menas pou defye itilizatè a.

Momo kòmanse ak defi ki senp tankou reveye nan lè ki dròl nan mitan lannwit lan oswa simonte yon laperèz ; Lè sa a, defi yo pran yon viraj ki danjere tankou mande ou poste foto oswa videyo kote y ap koupe bra ou oswa janm ou, sote depi tèt yon kay, oswa lòt aktivite ki riske.

Pandan ke defi yo entansifye, dènye bagay Momo pwal ba w presyon pou w fè se komèt swisid. Si itilizatè a pa aksepte oswa pase sou nenpòt nan defi yo, Momo voye tèks ak imaj ki pi menasan epi vyolan jiskaske itilizatè a fòse nan fè defi a. Si okenn nan taktik pou fòse w yo mache, Momo menase vizite ou an pèsòn, oswa pandan w ap dòmi epi ba w madichon. Sa a se yon bagay ki ka fè yon timoun ak yon adolesan pè.

Lòt timoun ka vize timoun ou yo pou yo kapab ale sou kont Momo an tankou yon fòm entimidasyon sou entènèt epi yo pa kon kijan pou yo fè fas ak presyon sa yo – na men defi yo ansanm ak moun kap entimide yo an.

Nou rekòmande pou ou pale ak pitit ou sou defi Momo an. Mande yo si yo konnen ki sa li ye. Èske yo te tande pale de li? Eske yo te eseye li? Si yo pa konnen anyen sou li, pataje danje ki asosye avèk defi a. Diskite sou yon plan ki gen ladan sa ke yo ka fè si yo resevwa yon mesaj ak defi Momo an.

Epitou, tcheke telefòn pitit ou an ak / oswa òdinatè li regilyèman. Momo defi a se pa premye defi pou ankouraje timoun yo patisipe nan aktivite danjere (Slenderman ak defi Bluewhale se menm kalite defi ki te popilè plizyè ane de sa). Si pitit ou deja angaje nan defi Momo, oswa nenpòt ki lòt defi ki sanble li, yo gen dwa pa pa vle ba w enfòmasyon sa a. Nan distri a, nou bloke mo "Momo" an pou okenn nan elèv yo pa kapab jwenn aksè a li nan chromebooks yo oswa lòt òdinatè.

Jan nou toujou konnen li, si ou gen nenpòt kesyon, pa ezite kontakte nou nan nenpòt ki lè. Nou vle asire nou ke nou kenbe yon liy kominikasyon ki ouvriavèk fanmi nou yo pou asire sekirite tout timoun nou yo.

Sensèman,

Dr. Mary Jones  
Superintendent of Schools

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