

# **CENTERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**693 Stockett Road**

**PO Box 100**

**Sand Coulee, MT 59472**

**Phone (406) 736-5167 / Fax (406) 736-5210**

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**Home of the Centerville Miners**

March 7, 2019

Parents need to be made aware of a dangerous social media trend that has popped up out of nowhere and could have a possible deadly result. The social media trend is called the “Momo Challenge”. People are placing scary imagery and language into YouTube videos, Facebook or on-line gaming content that are supposed to be child-friendly. The “Challenge” has also been reported on the social media site WhatsApp.

The “Momo Challenge” has created an image of a ghoulish doll with long black hair, bulging eyes and chicken legs with claws. The message accompanying the image are said to encourage children to do destructive things, like harm to loved ones, harm to self and creating dangerous situations for friends, family and self.

The Centerville School has been made aware of this disgusting content. We have taken the proactive step to include this in our internet safety computer lessons instructions to students on what to do if they encounter a scary or negative pop-up on their I-pad or computer. The school district has also taken the step to list the word “Momo” on our computer network filtering software as restricted content. This will disable students from doing searches that include this word. The network will also block any pop-up or push notifications that use the word “Momo”.

Parents are asked to pay close attention and know what your kids are watching and how they are watching it. If your child is exposed to negative content make sure to have them report it immediately to you. Finally, checking in on browser history and monitoring your child’s internet activity is good parenting.

If you would like more information on how to teach your child how to use the internet safely, please take a look at the school’s website. We have placed some helpful tools on our site to assist you with teaching your child on how to use social media safely.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

## **Our Mission**

NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) that provides age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safer on- and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. With resources such as videos, games, activity cards, and presentations, NetSmartz entertains while it educates.

## **Our Goals**

- **Educate** children on how to recognize potential Internet risks
- **Engage** children and adults in a two-way conversation about on- and offline risks
- **Empower** children to help prevent themselves from being exploited and to report victimization to a trusted adult

<https://www.netsmartz.org>