



# North Elementary School

**Preparing Students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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NE Parents and families:

By now, you may have heard about the internet “Momo Challenge” that is circulating the news and social media. Earlier this week, we were made aware that some of our students have heard about the challenge. There are several media outlets reporting on this and there is a great deal of widespread information regarding it. I encourage you to research it in order to educate yourself and your family. I do not know the history of this challenge, but it does concern me for several reasons, which is why I am sending this information.

The well-being of our students is our top priority at NE. We want each child to feel safe and secure at all times, especially while they are at school. Things of this nature could cause children to feel frightened. For this reason, I am asking you to talk with your child at home, and ask that they do NOT discuss this challenge at school.

Another concern is when young children are focused on something such as this challenge, they are not able to focus on schoolwork. We want children doing their best while at school; able to concentrate on important learning. Distractions like this bring nothing positive to the school day.

Please know that we are doing all we can here at school to guide the students in positive and healthy learning. Online access and the internet is a part of the world in which these children live, so we must teach them how to properly use this resource. We do provide the students with internet safety lessons at the beginning of each school year, and teachers revisit online safety throughout the year. Just this morning in our weekly Rise and Shine assembly, we addressed general internet safety with the entire student body. We expressed the importance of telling an adult immediately if they ever see something online that frightens them, or that they don't understand. If something pops up on their screen that should not be there, they should not click on it. Please follow up with your child about this important procedure.

Finally, I have a big request of you, parents. I would ask that you closely monitor your child's online activity at home. There are many things online, not only this challenge, that could be harmful to a young child's mind. YouTube videos, online games (on ipad, phone, xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, computer), social media sources, TV etc. can all be extremely dangerous to children. I am aware that there are many wonderful, educational things online, too, but I ask that you please be sure the things your child views or plays are appropriate for his/her young, impressionable mind.

I am a firm believer in allowing children to hold onto their innocence as long as possible. Young children are so very vulnerable and it is our job as adults to protect them from all types of danger, including that found online.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Kelly Mears, principal