

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board 46 Alliance Boulevard Barrie, Ontario, Canada, L4M 5K3 Tel 705.722.3555 Fax 705.722.6534 www.smcdsb.on.ca

February 27, 2019

Dear Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Parents and Guardians:

You may have become aware, through recent news stories, about a new Internet game called "Momo Challenge." This game is in fact cyberbullying and in addition to being frightening and disturbing for children and youth it can also have dangerous repercussions. The Momo Challenge has already caused issues in Europe, the United States and other countries around the world. Unfortunately, it is gaining a presence in Canada and it has come to our attention that it is having an impact on some students in our board.

The safety of our students is always our top priority and as such we would like to take this opportunity to make sure that our families and educators are fully informed about what this challenge is, how it is affecting children and youth, and what you can do to respond to this issue in your household.

Please take time to review the information contained in the attached fact sheet. We have also created a separate resource for staff in our board so that they can respond at the school level. We will continue to monitor this situation at our schools. Our psychology and school counsellor staff is available to consult with schools to assist with any student who experiences emotional upset regarding this game.

As always, if you have individual concerns about your child related to mental health, or need additional resources, please contact your child's school. Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's mental health and well-being.

Thank you,

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Brian Beal Director of Education