

# Canalta Elementary School

Principal - Mrs. Wanda McIntyre



School District 59 Peace River South

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Momo Challenge: Canalta Parents

Students' safety is always a concern for us, especially when it comes to their interactions on social media. Recently, a viral hoax known as the Momo Challenge has been making headlines and upsetting people.

News of the challenge has been making the rounds, purporting to be an online phenomenon where people, mainly children, are sent disturbing images on social media and are then told to do things — often violent and dangerous — and if they don't comply, a woman, a sculpture with a stretched-out face and bulging eyes will hurt them or their loved ones. Online challenges such as the Momo Challenge unfortunately do circulate quite regularly.

Parents should not overreact; however, it is important that you speak with your children regarding all aspects of their online activity and explain potential risks of using certain streaming platforms so that they can recognize dangerous online behaviour. If you have concerns about your children accessing Youtube, please be aware that you are able to block Youtube from your internet router <https://www.wikihow.com/Block-Unwanted-Site-From-Your-Router>.

Students should be encouraged to report concerning online behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable to a trusted adult or through the anonymous erase|Report It tool at <https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/add/report-it>

Additional way to support your child:

- Get to know what your child does online and teach them to be safe — they need to know how to deal with inappropriate material and how to protect themselves from predators.
- Keep the computer in a common area, have them use personal devices in your company.
- Warn your child not to give personal information to a stranger online.
- Contact local law enforcement if you believe your child is being blackmailed or extorted online.
- Tell your child to ignore messages from people they don't recognize and not to visit someone in person that they meet online or via text.

If you have any question or concerns, please contact me at the school 250-782-8403

Sincerely,

Wanda McIntyre  
Principal