

## Internet Safety

I am sure most of you have heard about the recent safety issues concerning YouTube, YouTube Kids, Fortnite, and other popular kids' apps. If not, a disturbing fictional character named "MoMo" has been said to pop up in children's games and videos threatening harm and telling them to do harmful things to themselves and others.

Many times, in class, when students share stories with their teachers, they often begin with "I saw a YouTube video where...." Because so many of the students are familiar with YouTube, I just want to be sure they are being safe. Thankfully, the story about this character seems to be more of a big game of telephone but the scary image has people sharing the story at a rapid pace. However, I can't imagine something happening because of horrible people trying to convince young children to do such terrible things. Please check the apps your children are using and discuss being safe on apps with them. Even if they have not seen this character, it is being talked about by peers and older siblings and I want to make sure that information the students hear about it comes from their parents.

I am attaching an article & quick tip sheet about the concerning challenge. If your child plays online games or watches videos online, I hope you will read it. It has some great tips for keeping your children safe online.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andyrobertson/2019/02/27/dont-panic-what-parents-really-need-to-know-about-momo-challenge/#1fbc558b3a4b>

The Teachers and Staff of Rivercrest Elementary