

Parents,

We made it through a snowy and cold February! Thank you for your patience and flexibility with school cancellations, late starts, and rescheduled conferences.

Parents who visit Big Woods beyond the office or who pick their children up early need to bring government issued picture IDs. The office staff will scan IDs and print visitor badges with pictures. We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to increase safety for students.

Please read through the March dates, the adjusted school calendar, and the information about the Momo Challenge. A spring newsletter will be emailed to families in late March.

MARCH DATES

Thursday, March 7th: Trimester 2 concludes

Spring pictures

Only students who bring picture packets on March 7th will be photographed. Order packets were sent home in Friday Folders. Photographers will also take a 4th grade large group picture and some group pictures for the yearbook.

NOTE: The date in the district calendar is incorrect.

Friday, March 8th: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - Teacher Workshop

Friday, March 15th: Yearbook orders due (Click [here](#) to order. Yearbook orders are on-line for \$16.)

Monday, March 18th: PTO @ 6 PM, School Board @ 7 PM

March 18-22nd: Food Shelf Drive

ADJUSTED SCHOOL CALENDAR

The last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 4th. See the attached school calendar.

MOMO CHALLENGE – A VIRAL MEDIA TREND

As partners in your child's education, we are sharing information about this challenge with you. We are not sharing this information with your children but may address student conversations.

The *Momo Challenge* is a potentially dangerous viral social media trend that encourages children to contact an unknown person called Momo via WhatsApp, YouTube, Minecraft, or social media networks like Facebook. Users receive anonymous threatening messages tied to pictures of Momo, a sculpture of a grinning figure with dark hair and bulging eyes. Recipients are sent bizarre and dangerous tasks. This is similar to *Slender Man* and *The Blue Whale* challenges.

We encourage all parents to educate themselves about Momo. Some students are talking about this, and we want parents to be knowledgeable and prepared for their children's questions and concerns. Mental health experts caution that this challenge may cause children to experience fear, stress, or anxiety.

Click on the link for information about [Momo](#).

As a staff, we focus on school and will limit and discourage discussions about Momo. If students access Momo at school, their technology use will be monitored and limited.

If students do not discuss Momo, we will not address it. If students discuss Momo, we plan to use the following talking points as they are developmentally appropriate:

1. You are safe at school. It is our job to keep you safe.

2. If you hear things that scare you, share them with a trusted adult like a parent or teacher.
3. When something unexpected appears on technology, always tell an adult right away.
4. While we are at school, our job is to learn. We will focus on school.
5. Momo is NOT appropriate for school, like Fortnite.
6. At school, we have approved technology sites. They are the only sites you are allowed to use while you are here.

We encourage parents to have regular conversations with their children about Internet safety, monitor Internet use, and stress the importance of not accepting communications or invitations from people they do not know. The following resources may be useful in helping children navigate the Internet:

- [Family Online Safety Institute](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [Creating a Family Media Plan](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- [Teaching Kids About Internet Safety](#)
- [Talking with Kids About Being Online](#) (Federal Trade Commission)

As always, your children's safety is our priority. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully, Lee Brown
Big Woods Principal