

Memo

To: Horizon School Division Administrators, Parents & Caregivers
Cc: Horizon Senior Leadership Team
From: Kevin Garinger, Director of Education/CEO
Date: June 26, 2017
Re: "The Blue Whale Challenge"

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Our partners in the RCMP have brought to our attention the need to be aware of an online game called "Blue Whale" or "The Blue Whale Challenge". Participants in this "game" are being encouraged to complete a series of challenges, escalating in danger over the course of 50 days, with the final challenge daring participants to commit suicide. There are indications that this may have originated in Eastern Europe. There are no known reports of Canadian suicides directly linked to the "Blue Whale Challenge", and there are no indications that any Horizon student has engaged in this activity. However, we are aware that some of our Horizon students are aware of this dangerous activity.

Indicators of participation can include the use of social media hashtags including "blue whale", "sea of whales", "I'm in the game", "wake me up at 420", "i_am_whale" and "F57". Participants are also tasked with carving or tattooing a picture of a blue whale on their arm.

RCMP have asked that you contact your local detachment immediately with any concerns or indications of local involvement.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Garinger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin C. Garinger
Director of Education/CEO
Horizon School Division #205
"A Community of Learning and Achieving"

KG/lh