



"Our children, our hope, our future"

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

350 Prospect Avenue

Oradell, NJ 07649

(201) 261-1180

www.oradellschool.org

John C. Anzul, Ed.D.
Superintendent

May 23, 2017

Dear Parents:

The Bergen County Executive Superintendent recently informed us of a disturbing trend that is impacting schools around the world. Specifically, the "Blue Whale Challenge" encourages individuals to perform increasingly risky and violent acts through a social media group. Young people have been particularly vulnerable to the peer pressure they experience through this forum. For more information, linked below are two articles that describe the practice.

http://www.wtxl.com/news/the-dangers-behind-the-blue-whale-challenge-app/article_7cf13d3c-3694-11e7-874d-27ae9bd13b55.html

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/3003805/blue-whale-suicide-game-online-victims/>

Please take this matter seriously, as we understand—anecdotally—that some districts may already have evidence of student participation in this activity.

If your child participates in any type of social media discussion forums, please be sure to monitor their activity carefully. Also, please have regular conversations with your child about resisting peer pressure, and about letting an adult know when they may be feeling pressured to do something that doesn't seem right. If you have concerns or questions about helping your child to remain safe on the Internet, please refer to the resources below for further information:

<http://www.oradellschool.org/osnj/PARENTS/Cyber-Safety%20Resources/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

<http://www.net smartz.org/Parents>

Or contact the office of the School Counselor, at: (201) 261-1180, ext. 1129

Sincerely,

John C. Anzul, Ed.D.
Superintendent