



HAUPPAUGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
22 Holly Drive Smithtown, New York 11787

Claudine DiMuzio, Ed.D
Principal



“There isn't time, so brief is life, for bickerings, apologies, heartburnings, callings to account. There is only time for loving, and but an instant, so to speak, for that.” Mark Twain

September 2023

Dear Pines Students, Staff, and Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope you and your families had a relaxing and joyful summer! .

I'd like to introduce our September Book of the Month, “[*The Circles All Around Us*](#),” written by Brad Montague and illustrated by Kristi Montague. I believe this may be one of the most special books I have chosen to highlight and celebrate as a Pines ES Book of the Month. With its simple, yet engaging and thought-provoking message, I believe it will captivate the hearts and minds of our entire school community.

"The Circles All Around Us" is a story that transcends the ordinary, weaving a tale that explores the interconnectedness of our lives and the profound impact of our choices. The book invites readers to ponder the intricate circles of relationships, events, and experiences that shape our individual and collective destinies.

*In the circles all around us
everywhere that we go
there's a difference we can make
and the love we can all show.*

This is a story that challenges us to reflect on our own life choices and the ripples they create in the lives of others, reminding us that we are all part of a vast web of humanity, as well as the importance of developing close-knit and strong relationships throughout our lives. This book is the perfect companion piece to one of the world's longest studies of adult life, known as the [Harvard Study of Adult Development](#), where researchers have collected a cornucopia of data on their physical and mental health. *“Close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives, the study revealed. Those ties protect people from life's discontents, help to delay mental and physical decline, and are better predictors of long and happy lives than social class, IQ, or even genes. That finding proved true across the board among both the Harvard men and the inner-city participants, Harvard Study of Adult Development”*

*Yet, there are still so many outside the circle
who are different in all they do!
Though it feels slightly uncomfortable...
we draw a bigger circle
for them too!*

During the following weeks, our school community will embark on a collective reading journey of "*The Circles All Around Us*." We will plan cross grade-level discussions, related art activities, and school events to explore the themes and messages within this story. We believe that it will not only deepen our appreciation for the interconnectedness of our relationships, but it will also spark meaningful conversations and connections among our students, teachers, and parents.

*It doesn't mean the circle is easy.
It can get harder the more we share.
But wonderful things can happen
when love is known and felt everywhere.*

*So let us create bigger circles
All around us for the rest of our days.
Let our caring ripple out
in a million little ways.*

Thank you for your kindness and caring as we grow our circles together, helping our students see the beauty of widening their own unique circles. I hope you find joy and wisdom through the discussions and insights that will surely arise from our collective reading of "*The Circles All Around Us*." ***And remember the first circle started with just the love you hold inside.***

Looking forward to another wonderful year at Pines ES,

Dr. DiMuzio
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