

The Munsey Park *Community Read*

November 2014

*"Since there is nothing so well worth having as friends,
never lose a chance to make them."*

Francesco Guicciardini

Dear Munsey Park Families,

This month, our text selection for the *Community Read*, Enemy Pie, by Derek Munson, offers opportunities to discuss relationships, building friendships, getting along with others, cooperation, and learning not to judge someone until we really get to know them well. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and interpersonal skills to help understand and respect themselves and others. They will explore how to make and keep friends and learn about conflict resolution.

Enemy Pie also provides an opportunity for students to learn about interpersonal skills and coping with angry feelings. Children will explore the idea that friendships can fluctuate and change, that spending time with someone is the best way to get to know them, and to be open-minded; sometimes we can be surprised when we spend time with someone we previously thought we would not like and find this person to be very likable and a great friend.

Enemy Pie begins with a child having the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became Enemy Number One. Luckily, Dad has a surefire way to get rid of enemies - Enemy Pie. But one of the secret ingredients is spending an entire day with the enemy!

As you discuss Enemy Pie with your child this month, focus on the meaning of friendship and the importance of learning how to be a friend and how to make new friends. Discuss what the word "enemy" means, why a child would have an enemy, and what the boy learned from spending the entire day with his "number one enemy." Ask your child how the boy managed to turn his enemy into a friend and what other solutions are possible.

Warmest regards,
Jean C. Kendall, Ed.D.
Principal