

November 25, 2019



Dear Parent of a Pine Tree Reader,

Over thirty-five years ago, we inaugurated the District-Wide Pine Tree reading incentive program. Pine Tree is designed to encourage reading!!! This year we have selected 24 titles for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Students are invited to check out the Pine Tree books from the West Bloomfield Township Public Library or the school iCenter.

Students are encouraged to choose books based on their interest, not their level. The Pine Tree Reading Incentive program is *not* designed to provide “just right books” for individual students. According to Fountas and Pinnell, “It is detrimental to a student’s self-esteem and to their love of reading when they are encouraged to measure their own progress by ‘moving up levels’” (2017). Research also confirms that reading aloud to children is just as valuable as having students read silently and independently. If any of the selected books are too difficult for your child to read independently we would recommend the following:

- Read the book aloud to your child.
- Enlist a willing volunteer to read to or with your child (grandparent, sibling, babysitter, tutor, etc.)
- Ask your iCenter Specialist or WBTPPL librarian if the book is available in an audio version.

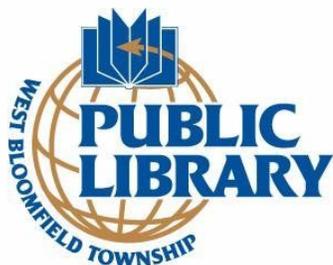
This year, the Pine Tree Program includes 30 titles. While it is a lofty and admirable goal, ***we don’t expect students to read all 30 books***. We hope students will look at the options and find books that peak their interest. Prizes will be awarded for the following levels:

- Level 1 (three books): Choose a prize from our iCenter Prize Box
- Level 2 (six books): Receive a Restaurant Coupon for a free Kids Meal at a local Restaurant
- Level 3 (nine books): Choose a book from our iCenter prize books **or** get a \$5 coupon to use at our next iCenter bookfair!

In conjunction with the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, one unique feature of the Pine Tree program is the opportunity for students to meet an author. Details about the author receptions are on an attached sheet. Your child will attend the Pine Tree Kick-Off Assembly the week of December 2nd, 2019. Students will also be told of the incentives for achieving each of the four levels of success: Please keep in mind, the goal is to READ, READ, and READ some more! This program will run from November 25th, 2019 through March 6th, 2020.

Our top priority is to get students excited about reading. It is our goal to make this program successful and enjoyable for all students. Thank you for supporting the long standing tradition of Pine Tree and encouraging your child in this valuable program.

Sincerely,
WBSD Information and Technology Specialists
West Bloomfield Township Public Library Librarians



Pine Tree Author Receptions



An exciting part of the Pine Tree Program is our Author Receptions. This year, we are fortunate to be having presentations by Jarrett Krossockzka, author of The Lunch Lacy series and many of the Star Wars Jedi Academy series books. With the support of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, we are able to offer two different types of receptions.

In March, *every* child will attend a school assembly with our author.

The second and more intimate reception will also be held in March. Each classroom teacher will send two students to this reception. Students will be chosen by a raffle held in each classroom. The reception invitation is for the specified student and one parent/guardian only. Due to limited space, siblings may not attend. Raffle tickets will be earned by:

1. Reading a Pine Tree Book
2. Filling out the Pine Tree Credit Google Form

This procedure will mean that some students will earn more tickets than others. It also means that anyone who has read at least one book will have a chance at winning the raffle. During the Pine Tree period, each classroom teacher will read one of Linda Urban's books aloud. Students will only need to fill out the Google Form to earn at least one entry into the raffle. In the event that one of the students drawn cannot attend, the teacher will pull a new name from the raffle box.