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May 10th, 2019

Dear Parent Crew,

I know the events of this week are heavy on all of our hearts. It is hard for us as adults to understand, let alone be able to explain to our children. I hope the resources provide by our district have been helpful to you. Our hearts ache for the students, parents, staff, and community of the STEM School. This is truly tragic.

As I have reflected and wept, the importance of ensuring that our students know that they are loved and feel connected to Pine Lane became increasingly important to me. This year we worked through writing our new mission statement and through that process some of our staff crafted the following statement on what it means to be a Crew member, "A PLE Crew member knows they belong, knows their purpose, shows compassion for self and others, and embraces the journey as they develop the skills they need to succeed, today and in the future." This truly encompasses all that we want for our students at Pine Lane. We want each one of them to know and feel how much we love them and that Pine Lane is a place that they belong. It takes intentional effort to ensure that this is communicated and understood by our students. This is what we are striving toward and we have appreciated all of your help.

My charge to all of you is to rest over the weekend, spend time together as a family, and attend to yourselves and those who are close to you. Ensure that those you love, know that you love them. Please know that we are working diligently each day to keep your children safe and move your child forward as overall people and as students.

Also, a special thank you goes out to our first responders (Law Enforcement, Fire Department, EMT's, etc...) for being on the front lines, responding to crises, and proactively working to ensure our safety. We appreciate your service to our community greatly!

Have a wonderful weekend and Happy Mother's Day to all the moms!

Chris Stairs
Principal
Pine Lane Elementary