



# Harbor Hill School

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Dear Students, Teachers and Parents:

Welcome back to school! As we begin this school year together it is important for all of us to recognize the importance of reading in every child's life. This year I will share my love of literacy at the Harbor Hill School by reading wonderful books to your students every month. Books inspire us to imagine possibilities, take us on wonderful adventures, and touch our hearts.

Each month I will present every class with a new book. Each book will be accompanied by a letter from me introducing the book and explaining why I chose it. This is a wonderful way to bring the school together. I will often choose books that lift our spirits, remind us to treat each other with kindness and respect, and instill a lifelong love of learning. These books will become part of the classroom libraries to be treasured throughout the year and for years to come.

As we entered Harbor Hill on the first day of school it was so wonderful to see all of you welcome each other back to school and to hear about your summer activities. This made me think about how each school year is a new experience for everyone. This is a time when all of us feel excited and nervous at the same time, including me. With this in mind, I chose The Brand New Kid, by Katie Couric as the September book of the month.

This book is a heartwarming story about tolerance and the need to give others a chance. In the story Ellie begins to wonder what it must be like to be a new kid, feeling so "different and strange," and she decides to take steps to get to know the brand new kid, Lazlo, even at the risk of facing her friends' ridicule. The message of this story is that it sometimes takes courage to reach out and make someone feel a little less scared and a little less lonely. I hope this book inspires all of you to reach out to one another so that everyone feels part of our Harbor Hill family!

I hope you enjoy reading and discussing this month's book and the books that will follow. Please feel free to share your comments with me, as I would love to hear them.

With love,  
*Maureen T. Berman*  
Maureen T. Berman

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