CLIQUES

Target: Help students understand friendship and belonging, and how cliques can affect others self-esteem positively and negatively.

Materials: the book The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss/YouTube video of read along or mini-movie

Procedure:

1. Have students make a standing circle. Explain to students that in a moment they will be milling around and when the teacher calls out a number, they will need to form a group that is made up of that number. Student that are left over, will then be out of the game.
2. Do a few practice rounds and make sure students are milling around and not just sticking next to their friends.
3. Now play the game and call out numbers and eliminate students until there are only 2 people left.
4. Play a few times and then reflect with the following questions:
   1. What was hard about this activity?
   2. How did you feel when you were not able to join in a group and were out?
   3. What words can we use to describe these feelings?
   4. How easy was it to keep finding a new group when a new number was called out?
   5. What is a clique? Are they good or bad?
   6. What did this activity show us about cliques?
   7. Does everyone what to be a part of a group?
   8. Do groups get labeled or stereotyped? Are they always true?
5. Next read the book The Sneetches and then reflect:
   1. Which group thought they were best? Why?
   2. Which group though they were less important? Why?
   3. How did the star-bellies treat the plain-bellies?
   4. How did the star-bellies react the Sylvesters plan to give the plain-bellies stars?
   5. What lesson did the sneetches learn?
   6. Are there groups that think they are better than others? Is that good or bad?
   7. What effect does being in the “cool/popular/in” group have on that group and others?
   8. What effect does being in the “not-cool/unpopular/out” group have on that group and others?