

Dear Incoming First Grade Families,

Summer vacation is an extremely important time for students to reinforce their reading skills. It is also a wonderful time of year for students to read books for pleasure and to nurture a love for reading. Thus, in order to enhance students' love of reading and to build their early reading skills and alphabetic knowledge, we have selected three books for students to read this summer to prepare them for first grade. The rising first grade summer reading booklist includes:

- *LMNO Peas*, by Keith Baker - A delightful picture book that highlights a variety of interests, hobbies, and careers—each one themed to a letter of the alphabet—and gives a wonderful sense of the colorful world we live in.
- *Z Got Zapped*, by Chris Van Allsburg - This amazingly illustrated picture book features a dramatic black-and-white presentation of the alphabet in which the three-time Caldecott medalist depicts a mysterious transformation of each letter.
- *Each Peach Pear Plum*, by Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg - This classic children's book emphasizes rhyming skills, while each illustrated page encourages young children to interact with the picture to find the fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters present.

Every rising first grade family is asked to read these three books over the course of the summer, with the goal of promoting a shared reading experience through families reading aloud with their children. Reading aloud is the foundation for literacy development and research shows that it is the single most important activity for reading success. It provides young learners with a model of fluent, phrased reading and exposes children to vocabulary and language patterns not part of everyday speech. Additionally, reading aloud promotes the listener's interest in books and is a source of enjoyment for both students and parents.

Finally, upon returning to school in the fall, students will complete a classroom activity tied to the books in class. Thus, reading these titles over the summer will build upon their early literacy skills and prepare them to participate in the first class project of first grade.

We thank you in advance for your support with this important endeavor and hope that you and your child have a wonderful time enjoying these great books together this summer.

Happy Summer Reading!