

Hello First Grade Parents!

We hope that you and your family are doing well. We are so excited to welcome you all and your children to first grade in just a few short months. We know that this year will be unlike any year we have experienced. However, we are confident that your child will look back on this school year with fond memories and you will reflect on their growth. In Kindergarten, your child was given a love of reading. In First Grade, we will give them the gift of Loving to be Readers!

This summer, we request that you and your child take some time to enjoy the book Ishi: Simple Tips from a Solid Friend, by Akiko Yabuki. The transition to first grade will be a thrilling one and may include apprehension. Ishi is an optimistic little rock who takes joy in sharing messages of kindness and compassion, just as we do as teachers, students, and Friends. We invite you to read Ishi at various times throughout the summer, as your child's response to the book's message may evolve as the First Day of School approaches. After reading, we ask you that you help your child read his/her very own letter below and that they complete the activity it describes.

On the First Day of School, students will be asked to share their own Ishi with the class. These rocks will serve as a recurring symbol and theme in our class for the entire year.

We look forward to connecting with you in the coming days as we prepare to welcome your child into a new adventure.

Warmest regards,

The First Grade Teachers



Dear First Grade Friend,

We hope you are having a really great summer! There is more time to play in the sun, but in just a few quick months, we will be back at school. We are so excited for first grade!

The book, Ishi: Simple Tips from a Solid Friend, by Akiko Yabuki, is a present for you from us. You can read and enjoy this over the summer!

During your summer adventures, we ask that you find *one rock* that fits in the palm of your hand. Draw a smiley face on it with a black Sharpie marker to represent your heart full of happiness. Bring it to school on the first day. We will share and use them for a special project!

We can't wait to see you!

Love,

Your First Grade Teachers

