



September 2019

Theme: Starting a New School Year: Making New Friends/Following the Rules/Kindness Counts

Books: *The Invisible Boy*, by Trudy Ludwig
Kindness Starts with You, by Jacquelyn Stagg
Making Friends is an Art, by Julia Cook
Know and Follow Rules, by Cheri Meiners

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents,

The start of a new school year always means new beginnings. New classes, new teachers and new friends. Each teacher might do things a little differently. Maybe the rules of your class will be a little different this year than they were last year. But overall, the rules of the school are generally the same. Maybe you will be in class with friends and acquaintances, but you will also have the opportunity to meet new friends. Maybe you will connect with someone who you have known forever but have never really been friends with before. Whether your class is full of other children you know, or those you don't, everyone wants to feel seen, heard and included.

This month, we are sharing four books, all important to the start of a new school year. These books touch on important topics, such as: school rules, kindness and making new friends. In *The Invisible Boy*, by Trudy Ludwig, the main character, a little boy named Brian, is part of a class and school community, and yet feels invisible. As he went through the motions each and every school day, those around him never realized how much he struggled, how lonely he was, and how their actions made him feel. It is not until a new student arrives that Brian truly feels like he is a part of his school community. This is an important reminder that we all have the power to change the lives of those around us for the better. One simple act of kindness truly can change the world, or at least change the life of another person. This year, strive to be that person for someone else. Let's ensure that everyone has a healthy, happy and safe school year, and that everyone feels seen and heard!