

# The First Day

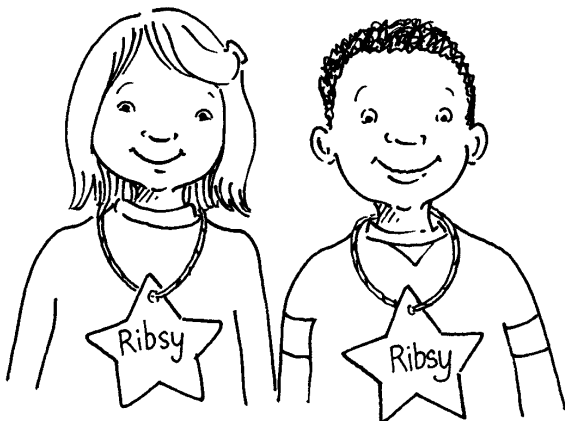
Build community and establish routines with activities that will make the first day of school a stunning success.

## Alumni Visits

To give your new students an idea of what the coming year will bring, invite a few of last year's students to visit your classroom and talk to the new class. Former students can tell about projects and activities they especially enjoyed, and provide some helpful hints.

Before the alumni arrive, ask the members of this year's class to prepare questions for their guests. For example: Did you think last year was hard? Why or why not? What did you most like doing all year? How did your class celebrate holidays? What advice would you give us for having fun this year?

After the former students have spoken to the class, open up the session for questions and answers.



## “Good Morning” Match

Each child's cubby holds a welcoming surprise with an activity that makes it easy for new classmates to meet one another or get reacquainted and share a favorite book.

1. Cut construction paper in fun shapes. Stars are easy and appealing. Hand shapes are fun, too. Make one for each child.
2. On each cutout, write the name of a book that is part of your classroom collection. Write the same title on two cutouts to make pairs.
3. Punch a hole at the top of each cutout and string yarn to make a necklace.
4. Before the morning of the first day of school, place a necklace in each child's cubby.
5. Let children find their cubbies and put on the necklaces. Invite them to mingle with their classmates to find the person wearing a matching necklace. Have children say “good morning” to their partners, then find the book and look at it together.