Dear Teachers and Support Staff,

This month our ABC volunteers will be reading the book *The Invisible Boy*by Trudy Ludwig. This book discusses the importance of making everyone *feel welcome and* *included*. It helps students develop the ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with a variety of people. Moreover, it allows them to see the perspective of others even if their views, experiences, or culture is different. This story provides an opportunity for children to get to know themselves better in order to empathize with others whose behavior, needs, and self-expression are different than their own.

Help students practice inclusive and empathetic behaviors in class and on the playground.

* Design a class friendship plan to create new ways to build relationships.
* Notice and reward acts of *bucket filling* and kindness.
* Practice the role plays of how to *invite and include* others.
* Give students opportunity to share things that are different about them (family traditions, foods, talents, etc.). Celebrate their differences.
* Notice body language to assess how someone is feeling.
* Encourage students to celebrate the achievements of others.
* Create opportunities for students to express empathy through drawing or writing.
* Encourage students to offer words of encouragement and support to classmates who are facing challenges.

You are role models for empathy, caring, and inclusiveness. These key components define what it means to be human and are characteristics we want to inspire in our children. Thank you for modeling kindness and inclusiveness.

**21st Century Skills**: Creative Thinking & Communication

**Common Core Standards**: The following standards are taught through the reading and activities of *The Invisible Boy.* Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

R. 1, 2., 3., 9 & SL 1.