

Ladies and gentlemen, teachers and friends,

Picture this: a tiny first grader with gigantic shoes and a backpack so big, it's like they're preparing for a month-long expedition. That was us, just a few years ago!

Today, as we get ready to move on from elementary school, I've got to say: we did it! We managed to survive without tying our shoes together for too long and without forgetting our lunchboxes more than... um, 15 times?

Our teachers have taught us so many important things. Like how to multiply numbers, why we shouldn't eat glue, and the fact that the "silent" in silent reading means you really shouldn't sing the whole time. Who knew?

To our parents, thanks for making sure our socks mostly matched and for not laughing too hard when we insisted that 10 minutes of homework feels like climbing Mount Everest.

As we grow older, I know we'll keep these lessons close. Mostly, we'll remember how important it is to support one another, to be kind, and to laugh at the silly things, like someone walking into the wrong classroom and pretending they're totally meant to be there.

So here's to new adventures ahead and to never losing our sense of humor along the way. Congratulations, everyone, we've graduated from snack time to the big leagues!

Thank you!