

December 2015

Dear East Hills School Family:

I hope that you have had a most enjoyable and relaxing Thanksgiving. While the weather has turned colder and the trees have lost all of their autumnal leaves, you should continue to be warmed by the knowledge your children continue to acquire within the walls of our home away from home: East Hills School. A stroll down the hallways of our building allows visitors to observe the beautiful artwork that is displayed as well as hear the sounds of strategic planning within the gym as students acquire and demonstrate strong interpersonal skills that allow for deep team building. These skills will come in handy as the National Circus Project works with our students this week. Listen carefully, for you will hear a cacophony of sounds coming from the many instruments that our students are playing: violins, violas, drums, trumpets and saxophones, as well as the songs that are being sung. We look forward to our Annual Winter Concert which will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> for Grade Four and December 18<sup>th</sup> for Grade Five. I know that we are in for two most memorable concerts. Each concert will take place at 9:30 AM.

During a recent "Breakfast with the Principals," we shared the impact that social emotional learning has on our students and the ways in which they interact with one another. Our monthly Book of the Month is a critical piece to completing this healthy puzzle. We look to choose books that help lead our students towards positive decision making. Our theme for December's book is looking at ways in which we are different-not less than or better than others-just different. *Moses Goes to a Concert*, by Isaac Millman is a beautifully written picture book about Moses and his classmates who are all deaf. Their teacher takes them to a concert where the percussionist is also deaf. Through clearly defined pictures and sign language, our children will learn how the students are able to enjoy the concert with the same excitement and enthusiasm as hearing friends. It is our hope that our children will gain a strong sense of self-efficacy so as to continue to reflect on ways in which differences make us unique as well as similar to every other person. We look forward to the conversations that will take place as a result of questions such as, "Think about all the things you know by sound. Is there any other way to know those things? How would you know about them if you could not hear?"

As we enter the holiday season, Nichole and I continue to be privileged to work alongside such a supportive staff that puts the needs of our children first and a parent body who work tirelessly to provide our children with activities and events that are worthwhile and meaningful. It is through this strong partnership that our children profit academically, socially and emotionally. We wish you a most joyous holiday season filled with health and happiness to you and your family.

Fondly,  
**Melissa Krieger**  
Melissa Krieger  
Principal