



March 2016

Dear East Hills Families:

Well, March did come in like a lion: with snow flurries salting branches, tree trunks, car roofs and the tips of our children's noses! It is a time to think about spring which is just around the corner. "Spring ahead" is on Sunday, March 13, 2016!

March is also the month that we turn our thoughts to recognize the important contributions that women of all cultural backgrounds have made to history and society. Earlier in the year, we highlighted Esther Morris, who was an influential figure in the women's movement fighting for basic rights to vote.

We are thrilled to share another memorable text that celebrates the amazing accomplishments of the first woman athlete to win three gold medals in a single Olympics. *Wilma Unlimited*, written by Kathleen Krull, is a true story of triumph, determination and drive. Wilma was a poor little girl who was stricken with polio at the age of five and was told by her doctor that she would never walk again. To compound this struggle, because she was African American, there was only one hospital that would treat her. Wilma's mother and she traveled by bus, twice a week, 50 miles each way, to receive the therapy she needed. Her school would not allow her to attend until she was able to walk. Well, Wilma not only walked, she eventually ran and ran and ran all the way through college on a scholarship and right into the winner's circle at the summer Olympics in Rome.

We hope that this inspirational text sparks many conversations with your child centered on following your dreams and never, ever giving up: even when the odds are against you!

Wishing you a spectacular spring!

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