

December 2018

Dear East Hills Families:


I hope you enjoyed a joyous Thanksgiving holiday with your beautiful children and family. It's hard to believe that December is already here with its rainy damp winds, fluctuating temperatures and shortened days. The aged, brittle fall leaves have all bid farewell and the squirrels have stockpiled their acorns for the long winter months ahead. While it's rare to see the sunset due to the early hour, I have been in awe of the incredible sunrises that have painted a beautiful mosaic of possibilities for each day. Have you?

We have completed our fall parent teacher conferences and I am confident in knowing that you have received a comprehensive update on your child's progress from his/her teacher. It warms my heart to know that your children continue to come to school with smiles on their faces and that extra special bounce to their step. They continue to develop a positive growth mindset as they take risks, celebrate failure and work with greater degrees of grit in order to achieve the many varied goals that they have set for themselves as well as those that have been developed in collaboration with their teachers and you, their parents.

#EHcommUNITY continues to symbolize our never-ending commitment to be inclusive: celebrating our unique qualities in myriad activities, events and conversations. During the month of November, our school participated in #start with hello. During the first week of the month, students and staff created class wide handshakes, met new friends and increased their awareness of the importance of saying a simple hello while passing in the hallway, on the bus, on the playground and of course within their classroom. A special video will be blasted out shortly to highlight this event. Please be on the lookout for our December Kindness Countdown to 2019!

As you may know, my two daughters live in Manhattan so it is quite evident that my husband and I spend a lot of time crossing bridges, driving through tunnels and catching trains as we observe the many landmarks and icons along the way. As you make plans for the holiday season, you may find yourself venturing into New York City and the two Books of the Month will help you gain a deeper perspective of appreciating small details and how powerful they are!

Our two December Books of the Month focus on two landmarks: one in New York and one in California. You may wonder, why landmarks? Well, here is what I know ... Each and every day we get up and probably complete the same routines often times on auto pilot and don't frequently stop to take note of what is right in front of us. These two books do just that and might I add, compliment the nonfiction writing units of study that many grades are in the process of writing. *This Bridge Will Not Be Gray*, written by Dave Eggers, symbolizes the importance of standing up for what you think is best, even if it is



only a color! This nonfiction text teaches our students about one of the most famous landmarks in the world, the Golden Gate Bridge.

As always, our goal is to help our children look around, look down and look up for in all of these directions, there is something new to learn. We have combined the first book with another one of Dave Eggers' nonfiction books about the Statue of Liberty entitled, *Her Right Foot*. We all know that the statue welcomed waves of immigrants for many years. However, did you know that the statue's right foot is raised? Yep...it is. My question to you is why? Please be sure to ask your child about these two beautifully written and uniquely illustrated texts.

As we step into winter with its cold air whispering in our ears, our fourth and fifth grade chorus and fifth grade band and orchestra will whisper as well: high spirited and melodious sounds echoing the joys of the season. We look forward to both concerts which will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> (Fourth Grade Concert) and December 14<sup>th</sup> (Fifth Grade Concert).

Wishing you warm wishes for a joyous new year!

Fondly,  
**Melissa Krieger**  
Melissa Krieger  
Principal