



East Hills School

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Principal

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Dear Students, Teachers and Parents,

Happy New Year! The New Year is the perfect opportunity for new beginnings, hopefulness and optimism. Let's make 2009 the best year ever!

This month, my literary gift to you is *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day* written by Dr. Seuss with the help from Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith. This book written in rhyme is about students who attend Diffendoofer School, a school where creativity and critical thinking are nurtured just like here at East Hills! Bursting with energy, this story is a joyous ode to individuality. It stars an unsinkable teacher named Miss Bonkers and quirky, little Diffendoofer School which must prove it has taught its students how to think! Then trouble threatens: the students must take a standardized test to prove Diffendoofer's worth, lest the school be closed and everyone sent to boring Flobbertown. The students at Diffendoofer School had to take a "test" just like we do this month!

During this month of January all our students in grade 3-5 will be taking the ELA exams. Our students have worked very hard. You are ready and able to rise to this challenge. I know each and every one of you will do your personal best.

If you love vintage Dr. Seuss, you'll also enjoy reading the special section at the end of the story, *How This Book Came to Be*. After Dr. Seuss passed away in 1991, Jack Prelutsky and Lane Smith took the initiative to turn his manuscripts and drafts into this wonderful, published book.

Stay focused and confident! Remember what the valiant Miss Bonkers proudly states:

We've taught you that the earth is round. That red and white make pink. And something else that matters more...we've taught you how to think.

Best wishes,

Ms. Brown
Principal

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