

February Superintendent Message

For many of our families, watching the Winter Olympics is a fun and exciting time. I can vividly recall watching Peggy Fleming soar across the ice and so wanting to be her. And then there was Dorothy Hamill with her sporty hair and sassy style on the ice. I remember going to the Marengo Public Library and checking out every book on ice skating to try and learn everything about the process to be an Olympic skater. For one Christmas, my parents bought me new figure skates and told me to go practice. This was probably a defense mechanism for them because I was rather insistent that I was Olympic bound. So every Saturday and Sunday I walked to the back pond on the farm and scrapped off the snow and skated to the music of Tchaikovsky in my head. Sadly, I never became an Olympic skater but I did learn a great lesson about the value of hard work and tenacity and those values were nurtured by simply watching some of the world's greatest skaters.

So as the Winter Olympics begin on February 9, carve out some family time to sit together and watch these tremendous athletes compete. As a family you could each choose a country and keep track of the medals they win. Or maybe have a fun competition as to which athlete will win the gold, silver and bronze and keep a chart as to which family member predicts the best. Somewhere in those evenings, one could carve out an "educational" moment and talk about the training each of these tremendously gifted athletes endure to reach their dreams and how that relates to always working their hardest in school.

When thinking about this superintendent's message, I came across some books that may be great family reads. I always advocate to reading with and to our children. Some of the titles are: *A Kids Guide to the 2018 Winter Olympics*, *Z is for Zamboni*, *A is for Axel*, *Freeze Frame*, *Kristi Yamaguchi-Always Dream*, *Wally Raccoon's Farmyard Olympics*, *The Triumphant Story of an Underdog Olympig*, *Snowman Paul and the Winter Olympics*, and *Lindsey Vonn*. We know that making it to the Olympics is pretty rare, but the family memories that you share will last a lifetime. **GO TEAM USA!**

