



## Welcome to Santa Rita!

We are very happy that you are here! Maybe you are not only new to Santa Rita, but also to Los Altos or the country as well! By sending your child to Santa Rita Elementary School, you are joining a diverse and active community. However, starting a new school and moving to a new neighborhood can be an overwhelming experience. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions by new families.

### **1) What are the school hours?**

Morning Kindergarten- 8:15 am - 11:35 am

Afternoon Kindergarten 11:55am - 3:15pm

1st-3rd grade 8:30 am – 2:20pm

4th-6th grade 8:30am – 2:45pm

We have staggered pick up and drop off times to minimize traffic on campus. The safety of our children is very important, and all parents/caregivers need to be aware of the traffic rules. Please view the Traffic procedures for Santa Rita at: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/about/traffic.html>

### **2) How do I get to school?**

We are lucky to have a school located in a fantastic residential neighborhood. Many of the children and their parents walk, bike or scooter to school every day. We even have a “Boltage” program and that encourages kids to help the environment by not driving to school. If you are driving to school, please park in the Santa Rita parking lot or, if there are no parking spots, on Los Altos Avenue in front of the school. Do not park in the Nurses, Witches Delight Auction parking spot or handicapped spot (unless you have the appropriate placard).

### **3) How do I get involved?**

The best way to start getting involved at school is in your child’s classroom. Teachers are always in need of parent help during the year. This is a great way for parents to see their child in the learning environment, get to know the teacher and just become better acquainted with how things work at the school.

Another way to get involved is to join the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The PTA is responsible for

providing volunteers, organizing events, and funding many important programs at Santa Rita. Textbooks and supplies, technology, music and art, and library books are just some of the programs funded by the PTA. Bobcat Chase, Witches' Delight and Spellathon are all run by PTA parent volunteers. In addition, the Hot Lunch, Enrichment programs are also run by the PTA. So be sure to join the PTA and give generously to all PTA fundraisers and help us keep the wonderful programs that make Santa Rita a top school.

#### **4) What activities are available to my child?**

While school takes up most of the day for the kids, families are still interested in getting their children involved in extra curricular activities. Here are just a few:

- 1) During and after-school enrichment programs – Classes like chess, art, math, science, drama, chorus and more are led by outside vendors before, during and after school. Visit the enrichment page at: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/parent/enrichment.html>
- 2) Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. There are active troops in every grade.
- 3) Los Altos and Mountain View sports teams like baseball, flag football, soccer and t-ball are available through outside organizations.
- 4) The Los Altos Recreation center can be a good resource for fun things to do! <http://www.losaltosca.gov/recreation/index.html>

#### **5) How do I stay informed of school news and events?**

The Santa Rita website, <http://www.santaritaschool.org/> is the best source of information about the school. News and events are updated on the home page every week. A weekly newsletter called "The Bobcat Tracker" is e-mailed to Santa Rita families every Thursday. This newsletter highlights the current events happening at the school. Display cases in front of the school also highlight current events and programs. In addition, Santa Rita has a Facebook page – search for Santa Rita PTA. Our very hip principal also has a Twitter account, follow her at SRBobcats.

Another great way to find out what is happening is join us at our all school Assembly every Friday at 8:30 am on the blacktop (at the back of the school). School announcements are made and children are recognized as "student of the week" at this time. It's a fun way to see everyone at the school together in one place! Monthly PTA meetings provide an update on all PTA activities and expenditures. Visit [http://www.santaritaschool.org/pta/pta\\_index.html](http://www.santaritaschool.org/pta/pta_index.html) for the meeting schedule.

#### **6) What is the New Family Committee?**

The New Family Committee recently launched a Buddy Family Program. The program is designed to help families that are new to Santa Rita. New and existing families are paired up so the new family has someone they can go to when they have questions about Santa Rita. The existing family is asked to "show them the ropes," help introduce the family, and check in with them to be sure their transition to Santa Rita is as easy as possible. The effort will be made to match families whose children are in the same grade to allow for a play date or two throughout summer so the new children will already have a friend come September!

In the beginning of every school year, the New Family Committee also hosts "Meet and Greet at the

Sweet”, a get-together for new families at the Sweet Shop on Los Altos Avenue. It is a great opportunity for new families at Santa Rita to meet and get to know each other!

### **7) What should my child eat during the day?**

Healthy food choices are encouraged at Santa Rita. 1st -6th graders are welcome to bring their own lunches from home. We ask that kids bring no-waste lunches to cut down on the impact on the environment. In addition, Santa Rita uses Taste Nutrition, a hot lunch vendor that offers healthy choices for lunch every day of the week. Hot lunch is purchased by parents on line and is ordered ahead of time. In addition, free lunch is available through the school district for families who qualify. To view the hot lunch information, visit: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/parent/hotlunch.html>.

Kindergartners do not have lunch during school, but do take a small snack to class every day. *Nuts or nut items are not allowed in the Kindergarten classrooms or play ground!*

### **8) Is there before or after school care on-site?**

Santa Rita is lucky to have Creative Children’s Learning Center (CCLC) on our campus. Childcare is available before and after school. CCLC is not affiliated with Santa Rita, so please contact them directly for more information about cost and availability. For more information about on and off campus childcare, visit: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/parent/afterschool.html>.

### **9) What is LAEF?**

LAEF stands for the Los Altos Education Foundation. LAEF works to raise funds and to provide financial support as a supplement to the resources of the Los Altos School District for the purpose of funding academic and enrichment programs, and improving the overall education of students in the schools of the Los Altos School District. LAEF is district-wide and evenly spreads its support to all the schools. We ask all Santa Rita parents to donate generously to LAEF as its funding keeps our class sizes low and ensures that we have music, art, and physical education programs for all grade levels.

Public education in California is not really free. Los Altos parents have been making up the shortfall in state funding for more than a quarter of a century. The education our children are receiving rivals that of other top-notch schools but it takes many people coming together to fund this endeavor. Los Altos Educational Fund pays for science specialists, computer lab staff, physical education specialists, the art docent program and Fine Arts Block, not to mention class size reduction in core classes. The PTA pays for all school supplies, copy fees, and other “stuff” that the school requires. These groups together make up about 10% of the money spent on our children. You may receive a call from LAEF when they do their annual phone-a-thon. Both groups are important to the success that we have come to expect from the Los Altos schools. Get more information about LAEF at: <http://www.laefonline.org/>.

### International/Specialty Grocery Stores

For those of you are far from home and may want access to familiar products and foods, here is a list of local specialty grocery stores.

<p><b><i>Asian</i></b>  <b>Nijiya Japanese Market</b>            143 E El Camino Real            Mountain View, CA 94040            (650) 691-1600  <a href="http://www.nijiya.com">http://www.nijiya.com</a></p>	<p><b><i>European</i></b>  <b>Dittmer's Wursthau</b>            400 San Antonio Road            Mountain View, CA            (650) 941 – 3800  <a href="http://www.dittmers.com/">http://www.dittmers.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Esther's German Bakery</b>            987 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA            (650) 941-4463  <a href="http://www.esthersbakery.com">http://www.esthersbakery.com</a></p>
<p><b>Ranch 99 Market</b>            1350 Grant Rd            Mountain View, CA 94040-3228            (650) 966-8899  <a href="http://www.99ranch.com">http://www.99ranch.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cost Plus World Market</b>            1910 W El Camino Real            Mountain View, CA 94040-2076            (650) 961-6066  <a href="http://www.worldmarket.com">http://www.worldmarket.com</a></p>	<p><b>IKEA</b>            1700 E. Bayshore Rd.            East Palo Alto, CA 94303  <a href="http://www.ikea.com">http://www.ikea.com</a></p>
<p><b>Hankook Deli</b>            1092 E El Camino Real            Sunnyvale, CA 94087            408-244-0871  <a href="http://www.hankooksupermarket.com/">http://www.hankooksupermarket.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Trader Joe's</b>            590 Showers Dr, Mountain View, CA            (650) 917-1013  <a href="http://www.traderjoes.com">http://www.traderjoes.com</a></p>	<p><b><i>Russian</i></b>  <b>Samovar</b>            1077 Independence Ave,            Mountain View, CA            (650) 969-5327  <a href="http://www.bestrussianfood.com">http://www.bestrussianfood.com</a></p>
<p><b><i>Hispanic</i></b>  <b>Mi Pueblo</b>            40 S Rengstorff Ave            Mountain View, CA 94040            (650) 967-3630  <a href="http://www.mipueblofoods.com">http://www.mipueblofoods.com</a></p>	<p><b>Crossroads World Market</b>            720 San Antonio Rd            Palo Alto, CA 94303            (650) 858-6910</p>	
<p><b>La Costena Grocery Store</b>            Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, California            (650) 967-0507  <a href="http://www.costena.com">http://www.costena.com</a></p>	<p><b>Milk Pail Market</b>            2585 California St, Mountain View, CA            (650) 941-2505  <a href="http://www.milkpail.com/">http://www.milkpail.com/</a></p>	

We are so happy you are at Santa Rita! Please feel to contact any of us if you have any questions.

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