

Dear Santa Rita Families,

I couldn't help but think of Oprah this week when the same topic kept coming at me from every possible angle. She refers to it as *whispers*. Those whispers were telling me to focus on failure. Not failure as in my own failure, but the actual topic of FAILURE. It started with a terrific article in the New York Times forwarded to me from several different parents (thanks!), [What if the Secret to Success is Failure?](#) It's a great read that highlights traits needed to be successful students and adults. One of them is **grit** - do students have the grit to deal with the failure in their lives?

Days later, I received a great gift of a fortune cookie fortune from a parent who just knew I would love it (I did!). *Failure is the tuition you pay for success.* I AGREE! What I want for my children and yours is for them to understand that failure is a part of learning. Through failure and challenges our children learn extremely valuable skills in how to cope when things don't go as planned. Throughout my career in education, I have witnessed dozens and dozens of emotional melt-downs when children don't do well on a test, lose a game, don't make a team, or struggle learning a new concept. Instead of persevering, retrying, fixing an error, or asking for help, some kids simply melt. I'm not sure if they know what else to do.

So the question I ask myself as a parent is, *am I allowing opportunities for my boys to fail or struggle or am I trying to fix everything for them so they don't suffer the consequences?* I am certainly guilty of being a fixer at times (I'm sure I'm not alone), but this is a topic we talk about as a family, frequently, at the dinner table - what skills do they have to cope? At school, it is a great topic for conversation in the classroom. As we expand on our Project Cornerstone ABC book program, we will be focusing on specific skills to help our students deal with everyday problems. Please make sure you are reading the Project Cornerstone monthly theme letter that is sent home from your teacher. It focuses on the skills and topics of discussion and provides some great language to use with kids as they learn these important life skills.

Here's to failure and success!

Sandra

Upcoming Dates:

- 9/30 Student Artwork for Directory due
- 10/1 E-Waste Drive at Egan
- 10/4 LASD Minimum Day (K-6), Dismissal 12:15, Jamba Juice Sale
- 10/5 International Walk to School Day! Look for your "Walk to School Bus"
- 10/7 1st Grade Teddy Bear Parade

Have you completed your Back to School packet? The packet includes School Supply payment, PTA membership and direct donation request, and Birthday Book Club. Click here to begin: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/pta/BTS.html>

Are you IN? Any increase in your donation over last year or any donations from new families will be matched \$1-for-\$1 before 11/1 by a group of anonymous donors. Time is running out to take advantage of these generous matching funds, so don't delay. Go online today at www.laefonline.org and set up your payment plan or make your annual tax-deductible donation.

Santa Rita had a great turn out for the Pet Parade! Thanks to all of you who came and showed your Bobcat Spirit!

Spooky Silent Auction Donations STILL Needed! Please contact Kathy Cole, kathyjcole@gmail.com if you would like to donate an item, services or event to the great list of auction items. Deadline is October 3rd! There will be many things to bid on for all members of the family -- NEW this year -- an iPod Touch raffle. Watch for your chance to buy a ticket or two. Stay tuned for more sample auction items in the Tracker each week!

Jamba Juice Smoothie Sale! Next Tuesday (10/4), right after our early dismissal, meet the Jamba Juice crew near the library; serving will begin at 12 noon. 16 oz all fruit (non dairy) smoothies \$4 each - choose Strawberry or Mango while quantities last! Portion of the profits benefit the Santa Rita PTA.

E-waste Drive, October 1, 9am-3pm. Start saving your electronic waste for Egan's annual E-Waste Recycling Event! This event not only raises money for the Egan Science Program, but also provides a huge service to the community by ensuring that toxic e-waste is responsibly recycled! Green Mouse recyclers will be on-site to collect your electronic waste. We accept: computers, monitors, TV's, toner cartridges, VCR/DVD, Stereo equip., phones, cables/wiring, microwaves, and more. Questions: Margie Suozzo at egan_gogreen@eganschool.org

Student artwork for the Santa Rita Student Directory is due Friday, September 30th! Drawings should be in black pen, marker, or dark pencil on a half sheet of paper. Please put the artwork in the Directory Artwork box in the school office. Lots of artwork is needed and every effort will be made to include all that is received, however space is limited. Drawings will not be returned.

Interested in shaping how the district works with **Bullis Charter School**? The district is holding the first of two discussion-based meetings between our district and BCS where the goal is to come up with a working solution as to how both groups can work better together. The first meeting will held on October 11th and we need 2-3 Santa Rita parents to participate - please contact Molly Black for more information at mblack240us@yahoo.com.

The LASD Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance (CACF) is looking for another member! CACF consists of 19 members. Candidate should have a strong interest in district finances and should be able to meet on Wednesday nights from 7 – 9 pm, roughly 6 – 8 times per year. Additional subcommittee work involved. PTA experience or membership not required. To apply, contact: rkenyon@lasdschools.org.

Aqua Cleaners: Bring your dry cleaning to Aqua Cleaners at 325 First Street in Los Altos! Aqua Cleaners will donate 10% of your cleaning bill to Santa Rita. Already using Aqua Cleaners? Make sure they have Santa Rita listed as your school of choice!

International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 5. Join kids and families around the globe to walk and bicycle to school. If you are interested in leading a “walking school bus” on October 5th please contact: Alicecox@melitaisland.com.

Want the inside scoop and up to date info on Santa Rita and our PTA? Join our PTA Facebook page! Go to the PTA page of the website and click “like” on the Facebook feed: http://www.santaritaschool.org/pta/pta_index.html

School and Community News

http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/PDF_Files/Current_School_News.PDF