

## Santa Rita Bobcat Tracker

8.26.10

Dear Santa Rita Families,

I've told several people this week that I have the greatest job in the world. I really do mean it! I love working with students, staff, and parents to help grow the learning at school.

At our first staff meeting this week, we discussed how teaching was like a ship navigating the ocean waters. Great learning requires that teachers and students take **risks** in the classroom. This could be in the form of trying a new activity or a new technology, or asking a great burning question and taking time to discuss it. Great learning should also focus on the **journey**, not just the destination. Learning is a process, as well as a product. Can students work together collaboratively? Can they communicate clearly in many different modes? Can they apply their learning? We also discussed the **doldrums** - the time when a ship has no wind to push it along its course. Sometimes we see this in a classroom. Maybe we are not seeing the progress we would like or a student loses motivation to work hard. This is the time to push forward! Eventually the wind will come back, and we do not want to have strayed too far off course. Finally, there is **discovery**. This is the most exciting part of taking a great journey.

I hope that you will encourage your child throughout the year to take risks, focus on the journey, weather the doldrums, and discover great things about themselves and the world around them.

Here's to a great school year!  
Sandra

### Upcoming Dates:

- 8/27 Last Day to order Hot Lunch to start on Monday, August 30
- 8/28 Bobcat Chase and Pancake Breakfast, 8am
- 8/31 Back to School Night, 6:30-7:15 (K-3), 7:15-8:00 (4-6)
- 8/31 Early Dismissal for grades 1-6 at 12:15**, Kinders have a regular schedule
- 9/1 Yoga, 8:30am in the Multi
- 9/2 School Picture Day
- 9/6 Labor Day, no school

### Back to School Night

Please join us for Back to School Night on August 31st. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to hear about the grade level curriculum, meet the classroom teacher, and understand grade level expectations. Thank you in advance for making child care arrangements. This evening is for parents only. **6:30-7:15 (K-3), 7:15-8:00 (4-6)**

**Register Now for The Fourth Annual Back-to-School Pancake Breakfast & Bobcat Chase Fun Run this Saturday, August 28, 2010, 8:00 am-12:00.** Pre-registration ends Friday, 8/27 at 4pm. Register now at <http://www.santaritaschool.org/events/bobcatchase.html>. For more information on the event, contact [jj@jenniferdarren.com](mailto:jj@jenniferdarren.com).

**Sign up to Volunteer at the Bobcat Chase at:**

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Av-goQqldJmMdEIScTVNYkpWNkhvalVTTkhscnNUUEE&hl=en#gid=0> For more information, contact [nirametcalf@gmail.com](mailto:nirametcalf@gmail.com) .

**Hot Lunch Starts Monday, August 30** - Sign up today by going to <http://www.tastenutrition.com> and entering school registration code: **rita**

**Hot Lunch Volunteers are needed** - Sign up at the hot lunch volunteer google doc at:<http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Au2lwG2yp7EidHc0NVZ2ZDhzUTFhREVS VW5jVzdfRnc&hl=en>

**Have you done your Back-To- School Packet?** You can sign up to be a PTA member, register for Birthday Book and Bobcat Chase, and make your Direct Donation to Santa Rita all in one place! Go to <http://fs6.formsite.com/santarita/Back-to-School/index.html> to complete your packet.

**IMPORTANT!! Traffic Safety** <http://www.santaritaschool.org/about/traffic.html>

**Santa Rita Parents Community Yoga** starts this coming Wednesday, September 1 - in the multi from 8:30 until 9:45. Classes are on a (tax deductible) donation basis and all proceeds go to the Santa Rita PTA . Questions? Contact [cstark@thestarks.org](mailto:cstark@thestarks.org) or [lynn@marrin.com](mailto:lynn@marrin.com).

**Volunteer to teach in LASD's Living Classrooms!** Santa Rita's Garden Based Science Program is look for docents. For more information, visit: [http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/garden/Living\\_Classroom\\_Website/index.html](http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/garden/Living_Classroom_Website/index.html) or contact: [msanderson@lasdschools.org](mailto:msanderson@lasdschools.org)

**New Students, Sign up for Boltage!** Bikers, scooters and walkers can start counting their trips beginning September 7, 2010. Visit: <http://www.santaritaschool.org/parent/boltage.html>

**Reminder:** Religious holidays are considered excused absences as long as the absence has been *“requested in advance in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or designee”* (E.C. 48205, B.P. 5113).

**School and Community News**

[http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/PDF\\_Files/Current\\_School\\_News.PDF](http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/PDF_Files/Current_School_News.PDF)