

Dragon Tales

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Memos from McNally...

Struggle...something as humans most of us try to avoid. Even the word can have negative meaning. Things like, "I struggle at math (meaning, I'm not good) or I struggle with our relationship (again, not good).

What if we changed our view of struggle? What if, like researcher Carol Dweck from Columbia University, we saw struggle as a necessary part of learning?

I'm not suggesting that as parents or teachers we deliberately stand back and let our children fail. What if instead, we created opportunities for the "supported struggle"? Perhaps we could shift the negative feelings associated with struggle to neutral feelings; feelings that could help us to learn and grow. Struggle that could teach our children to be independent learners.

How many times have you thought, "People who struggle (with math, work, life) aren't smart? If only I were smarter, I wouldn't have to struggle. If only... What message are we giving our children, Dr. Dweck wonders when "an overemphasis on intellect or talent leaves people vulnerable to failure, fearful of challenges and unwilling to remedy their shortcomings?"

One of the skills necessary in the 21st century, according to Thomas Friedman, author of *The World is Flat*, is the "ability to understand the subtleties of human interaction". This certainly includes the ability to take feedback, criticism and make changes. How can we remedy our shortcomings without the struggle? Friedman cautions, "In a world upended by outsourcing, filled with data, and choked with choices, jobs will depend upon artistry, empathy, seeing the big picture". The success of our country depends on the ability of our children to meet the challenges of this new order.

Not too long ago, I heard an interview with Sara Blakely, listed on the October 2012 *Forbes* magazine cover as the newest member of the billionaire club. She is the creator of Spanx.

What struck me in the interview is how she struggled for the first five years of her company.

What gave her, I wondered, such determination? Her answer? That her father asked a question at the dinner table each night, "What did you fail at today?" A childhood of dinner table discussions moved the feeling of failure most of us associate with struggle to a neutral feeling of struggle. Feelings which gave her valuable information and provided her with the "grit" to meet the struggle head on.

Let's embrace the "supported struggle". People do differ in talent and ability. However, success in life most often comes from years of practice, hard work, and yes - struggle!



PTC News

Parents, please join us on Friday, October 26 at 8:15 AM in the cafeteria for Pastries with Pals.

Send in your BOX TOPS now until October 26.

Grandparent\Special Guest Day is Friday, November 9th. Mark your calendar for this fun event.

We are ready to print the student directory. Please turn in your form if you haven't already or contact Cass Connors via email: cassconnors@yahoo.com or by phone 293-6018 if you need another form.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Thurs. Oct. 25 - Picture retakes
- ◆ Fri. Oct. 26 - Pastries with Pals, 8:15 AM
- ◆ Wed. Oct. 31 - REACH Day, ½ day of school. 12:03 dismissal
- ◆ Fri. Nov. 9 - Grandparent/Special Guest Day
- ◆ Mon. & Tues. Nov. 12 & 13 - Mobile DDS visit
- ◆ Tues. Nov. 13 - Conferences 4-9 PM
- ◆ Wed. Nov. 14 - Conferences 1-8 PM
- ◆ Wed.-Fri., Nov. 14-16 - ½ day for students

Discovery Elementary - A place to discover, develop, and dream. We strive to touch the lives of children in a way that prepares them to take their place as citizens with high academic skills and fine moral character.

Free Electronics Recycling with Comprenew®

The Comprenew e-Drop Trailer will be available for all your unwanted electronics at Discovery Elementary, on Monday, Nov. 12th (noon) to Friday, Nov. 19th (noon).

Free recycling of your old computers, audio/visual equipment including televisions, small appliances and miscellaneous electronics. Basic data wipe and/or destruction of all computer hard drives is provided at no charge. Most anything with a cord or a battery is acceptable.

Electronic waste is a growing concern to our environment. When put in landfills, e-waste can leak harmful toxins into our soil and water. **You can help make a difference!**



Parents Wanted

Do you have a special talent or hobby you would like to share with students? We are looking for parents to volunteer for some after school programs. Perhaps you could teach a foreign language or teach students how to knit for example. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be on Thursday, October 25. If you purchased pictures and would like them retaken, please send the entire packet with your student to turn in when their picture is retaken. Any new students or students who missed picture day will be photographed at this time.



“Shine Your Smile” Day

The Mobile Dentists/Smile Program will bring its preventive dental care program to Discovery on November 12 and 13. You can learn more by going to the website: www.mobiledentists.com.

Parking Lot Reminders



To ensure safety of all students, our pick up and drop off procedures must be followed. Please do not pull around cars waiting at the curb. Do not park and leave your car along the curb. Follow the direction signs on roads leading in and out of parking lots. Thank you for helping to make our parking lots safe for kids! Below are some reminders about the parking lot procedures:

- The East parking lot, (UPPER ELEMENTARY) is for student pick-up/drop-off.
- The West parking lot, (LOWER ELEMENTARY) is for buses, childcare, and K-2 pick up if you park and use the crosswalk.
- Students should enter/exit the car on the curb side only.
- Please Do not double park, line up along the curb in single file so students do not run in between cars.
- Please use the cross walks in the parking lots.
- When at the curb, please pull up as far as you can to allow as many cars as possible access to the curb.
- Do not leave your vehicle if you are parked at the curb.
- The entrance along the East (UPPER ELEMENTARY) parking lot curb is a ONE WAY entrance.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival parties and parade for grades K-5 will be held on Wednesday, October 31. The parade will start at 10:00 AM and class parties will begin at 11:00 AM following a 15 minute recess. Parents may set up for the class parties during recess time. **That day will be a half day** for teacher training and students will be dismissed at 12:03 PM.

To keep the focus positive, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

Children’s costumes should be non-violent.

Toy weapons (such as axes, swords, knives and guns) are not allowed.

If you do not want your child to participate in these activities, please call the school office.