



Parental Wisdom Emails

Sorry If I've Caused You Any Grief

Apologies can be sorry things as we've learned over the past few years as 'celebrities' such as Spitzer, Madoff, ARod, Blagolveich, Michael Phelps, Chris Brown, etc. fall from grace.

Even in my local town of Nutley, NJ, the former treasurer of an elementary school Mother's Club was recently sentenced to four years in prison for stealing approximately \$136,000 of school proceeds during a five year period.

You don't have to be a victim to feel victimized. We find ourselves waiting for the next news story to break as we build protective walls of distrust.

What do our children think? What can we tell them and teach them about these blunders?

Do what you've always done - teach by your example and don't expect celebrities to be role models - that is your job. Be the kind of role model that does your personal best, and doesn't look for a silver bullet to meet unrealistic goals. But at the same time, don't set unrealistic expectations for your children.

- Don't fight to have them in the honors class if they really don't belong there
- Don't argue that the high school coach should give them more playing time if they aren't the best players
- Don't challenge the director of the play if the lead went to another child

It's about putting the right person in the right job.

Which brings me to a person who said he was "simply doing his job" when he miraculously landed his 100,000 pound jetliner in the Hudson without losing a single life. Capt. Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger said he trained his whole life for that landing, as he shared the credit with his crew.

Imagine if Sully hadn't earned his wings, and was put in the job without the right skill set - the story would have had a different ending. Instead, he did it the old fashioned way; he did the work.

The people your kids look up to should be real, make real mistakes, and most importantly recover from them. The best lesson to teach your kids is that you don't drown by falling in water, but by staying there.

I don't have to know you to know that you, like me, have made more than your fair share of mistakes. Let's enter a new era of responsibility and accountability, and sing that old classic to our kids - - "just pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again."