THE HARE AND TORTOISE

Once upon a time, there was a hare who loved to boast of his speed in front of the other animals. “I have never yet been beaten when I put forth my full speed. I challenge anyone here to race with me.” The tortoise said quietly, “I accept your challenge.”

All the animals were surprised that the tortoise took up the challenge. He was known to be a very slow animal. “That is a good joke,” said the hare. “I could dance around you all the way.” “Refrain from boasting until you have beaten me,” confidently answered the tortoise. “Shall we race?”

So a course was fixed and a start was made. The hare darted almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the tortoise, lay down to have a nap. The tortoise plodded on and plodded on. He had a goal, he had a focus and he never looked back. When the hare awoke from his nap, he saw the tortoise near the finish line and could not run up in time to save the race. That day, all the animals learned a very important lesson from the tortoise:

LIFE LESSON: Slow but steady progress wins the race.

As you go through school, there will be many things that may seem very difficult to achieve, if not impossible. Whether it’s studying for a test, writing a research paper, preparing for AP exams and the SAT, performing in the school play, or training for the state championship, these are things that require commitment, diligence, and perseverance to achieve successfully.

The moral of Aesop’s fable is that if you keep plugging away at something, like the tortoise, you will eventually get there. Similarly, whatever school task you take on or career path you undertake, proceed steadily and laboriously with it, and you will eventually get there.

In contrast with slow and steady progress, procrastination is surely to lead to failure. If you delay or postpone doing something, like the hare, you may not get to the finish line on time. So avoid idleness, and do not neglect what needs to be done. Unlike the hare, finish the course without deviating and loitering.

Action is the business of life. Every delay is destructive; it causes irreparable lost time. You cannot complete a task or get to the end of your journey on time if you constantly fall asleep on the way. Effort, hard work, and determination will get you punctually to the end.

Remember, when confronting the impossible, success is achieved through slow but steady progress. Your commitment, diligence, and perseverance will be rewarded. If you put in the effort, you will get the reward. If not, you won’t.