



1.26.24

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

I hope you had an amazing week! Can you believe January is almost over? Where has the time gone? We have a little over 5 months of school left and a LOT of material to still cover. The teachers, staff and students have been working hard with curriculum, reviewing old concepts, taking benchmark assessments and getting ready for standardized testing in April for grades 3-5. Never a dull moment at Ruskin.

One of the things that we have done as a district to support students who may be having challenges in literacy is to hire a reading tutor at each elementary site. **I am proud to introduce Ms. Peggy Nguyen as Ruskin's new reading tutor.** Ms. Peggy is a longtime employee, working as a Ruskin Noon Duty Supervisor and working with students after school in the Right At School program. We are so happy to have her in this capacity! All reading tutors will be getting formally trained and will be pulling students in small group; based on assessments and teacher recommendation. Our starting focus groups will be newcomers to the country and 1st and 2nd grade students that need that extra support. Welcome Ms. Peggy!



Parents, please be mindful of your children at pick up and dismissal times. We have had students running around the gates, hopping on slippery pipes and engaging in unsafe

activities. Kids have gotten hurt and had to come inside for ice and bandages. Please closely supervise your little ones so we may keep them safe. Thank you so much!

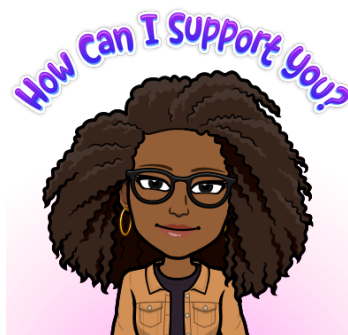
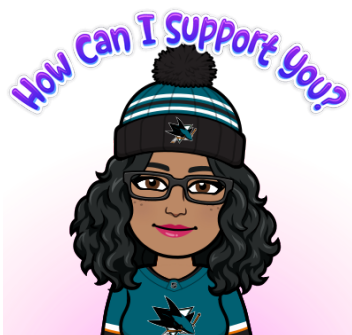
In today's memo we will be covering the following main topics:

- Front office Survey
- Socio Emotional Learning
- College Monday
- Science Lab STEM Night
- Yearbook Poster contest

How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

Parents....we **REALLY** need your help !!! PLEASE fill out this short Parent Survey regarding the front office. We are trying to get your input on how we can best help YOU. Please help us as we continue to provide a welcoming experience for ALL parents. **You can use the QR code below to access.** I have also included a link [here](https://forms.gle/6b3sUWnoWbtZtwTq5). We really appreciate your feedback, suggestions and support. What we really want to know is, "How may we support you today?" <https://forms.gle/6b3sUWnoWbtZtwTq5>



Message from the Yearbook Committee

Hi Ruskin families!

Students are invited to participate in the annual **Ruskin Yearbook Cover contest!**

Here are the rules and directions on how to digitally submit your child's artwork:

- *Yearbook covers must be drawn on a plain, white 8.5 x 11" paper (portrait style)*
- *Make them vibrant and colorful (use markers, crayons, colored pencils) reflecting all of the reasons why you love that Ruskin is your school!*
- *Include "**Ruskin Elementary School 2023-2024**" in the drawing.*
- *All entries must be hand drawn, then scanned. No digital editing, please. If you don't have access to a scanner, you may try to take a picture with your phone.*
- *Please submit the file in JPG or PNG format, not PDF or HEIC.*
- *Submit your child's cover art here: <https://forms.gle/cfSgq3Y3t8SDSMth8>*
- *All grade levels are welcome to participate and can look at previous yearbooks for ideas.*
- *Final due date is coming soon! Get your yearbook cover art submitted today!*

Good luck from the Ruskin Yearbook Committee!





SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

Did you know that this week is the Kindness Challenge Week? Students around the state are encouraged to do acts of kindness for others. Of course, you don't have to wait for a formal challenge to be kind to one another. Kindness could and should happen regularly, just because. Do you know there is a HUGE connection to kindness and Socio emotional learning?

Reading. Writing. Arithmetic. They're the keys to the success of our kids, right? But what about the skills that will help when things get tough?








What about the ability to communicate your feelings and needs? To really listen to others? To keep your emotions in check, and understand other points of view that you may not agree with? To empathize with people who are different?

These skills—all linked to kindness—are just as important as academic skills (randomactsofkindness.org). Below is a calendar of some things you can do in the month of January to show kindness to others.



JANUARY 2024

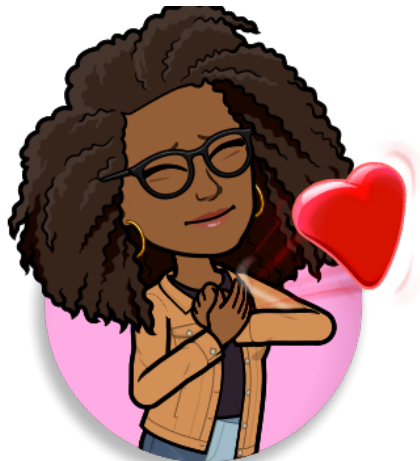
make kindness the norm.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																		
	 <p>1 Create a gratitude jar and fill it with things you are grateful for all month.</p>	 <p>2 Wake up early to appreciate the sunrise.</p>	<p>3 Start a healthy routine at work such as a daily walk. Invite your coworkers.</p>	 <p>4 Participate in a coat drive and put encouraging notes in the coat pockets.</p>	<p>5 Offer free hot chocolate and/or hand warmers to those working in the cold.</p>	<p>6 Take a friend or family member on a spontaneous adventure.</p>																																																																																																		
<p>7 Paint some rocks vibrant colors with positive/inspiring messages and place throughout your community.</p>	 <p>8 Treat yourself to a bubble bath surrounded by candles and relaxing music.</p>	<p>9 Listen to a guided meditation.</p>	 <p>10 Replace your light bulbs with energy efficient ones and hand out a few for friends to use.</p>	<p>11 Sell old items online (Ebay, for example) and donate the profits to a good cause.</p>	<p>12 Resolve to be less judgmental in your day-to-day life.</p>	<p>13 Make a list of goals to accomplish this new year that will help make your dreams come true.</p>																																																																																																		
<p>14 Kick off the new year with a fresh start by organizing and cleaning your home today.</p>	<p>15 Purchase groceries for the person in front of you on the express line.</p>	<p>16 Spend time with your family or friends playing board games, sharing laughs, and creating memories.</p>	<p>17 Self-reflect about how you can be a person of Integrity.</p>	<p>18 Make an appointment for an annual checkup with your doctor and dentist.</p>	 <p>19 Invite some close friends over for a popcorn and movie night.</p>	<p>20 Create a care bag for an unhoused person with some gloves, scarf, treats, hygiene products, and a gift card.</p>																																																																																																		
<p>21 Plan one big new adventure this year: go skydiving, swim with the dolphins, etc.</p>	<p>22 Get Involved! Sign up to join a community-related cause.</p>	<p>23 Plan a brunch with all your best friends.</p>	<p>24 Call a friend or relative and make them laugh out loud.</p>	<p>25 Go outside your comfort zone today.</p>	<p>26 Plan a spontaneous date with your partner doing things you both love.</p>	<p>27 Expand your mind. Sign up for a free class or workshop to learn something new.</p>																																																																																																		
<p>28 Tap into your creative side! Write, paint, sing, or dance.</p>	 <p>29 Host a pizza lunch party at work and invite all your coworkers.</p>	<p>30 Do something that fills you with joy today.</p>	<p>31 Empty and read the gratitude jar you have created throughout the month.</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2023 FEBRUARY</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> </table>			S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Visit www.randomactsofkindness.org for more kindness ideas.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION®

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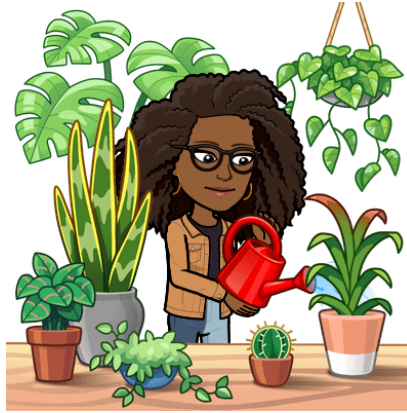
College Monday

This week's featured college is Loyola Marymount University. It is located in west Los Angeles. It is a beautiful campus nestled near Playa Vista Beach. Here are some facts about the school:

- LMU is the product of the first institution of higher learning in Southern California
- It is the parent school of the prestigious Loyola Law School
- LMU offers 55 majors and 59 minor degrees
- The Graduate program offers 47 master's degree programs
- LMU mascots are the Lions and compete at the NCAA Division 1 level

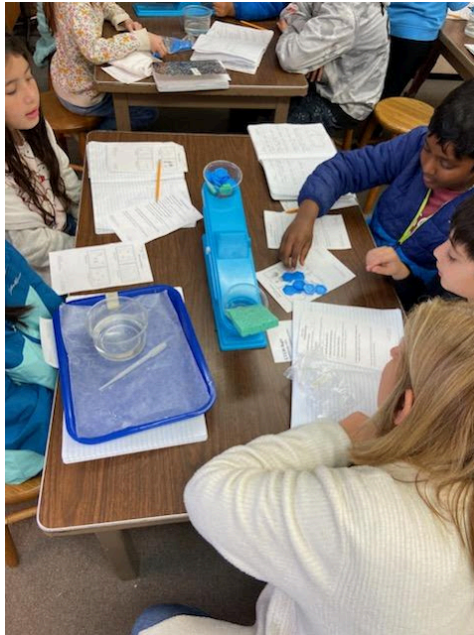


Science Lab



This year's STEM Night will be on Friday, March 1st at 6pm to 7:30pm. This is a night of hands- on activities in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Along with staff, we will also be recruiting parent volunteers (or previous Ruskin students) to run the activities. If you are interested in volunteering please contact our Science teacher Lucrece Tom at Ltom@busd.net . We will aim to have about 4 people at each booth. If any of you would like to do a technology booth of your own, please let Ms.Tom know. We were missing technology activities this year at the event. Thank you so much!

This week, the 5th grade students explored air pressure and how it affects temperature. The 3rd graders explored water and how it acts on different surfaces and slopes. They measured and calculated how much water a sponge can absorb. TK students started Science lab this week with an introductory tour.





Twin Day

Yesterday, the school participated in its monthly Spirit Day. It was twin day so we had a bunch of lookalikes running around the school. Here are some pics of our twinsies!















MEASURE A PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

As part of our obligation to the community to be accountable for the funds we get from the parcel tax, the Board of Trustees would like to invite you to apply for one of the vacant positions on the Measure A Parcel Tax Committee. The committee meets quarterly (four (4) one hour meetings per year) at the BUSD District Office.

Applications and additional information can be obtained at the following district web-site location:

<https://www.berryessa.k12.ca.us/Parents--Community/Community-Resources/Measure-A---Parcel-Tax-Waiver/index.html>

The oversight committee ensures public funds are allocated in accordance with the original ballot terms. The committee evaluates the Parcel Tax impact on students, classrooms, schools, and the district.

VACANT POSITIONS:

Parent Representative for the Piedmont Middle School Family (Noble, Summerdale, Toyon, Vinci Park Elementary Schools, and Piedmont Middle School) – one (1) position

Parent Representative for the Sierramont Middle School Family (Cherrywood, Majestic Way, Ruskin Schools, and Sierramont Middle School) – one (1) position

Community Representative who must reside in the Berryessa Union School District Boundaries – one (1) position

Certificated/CTAB Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position

Classified Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position (Classified or Teamster)

Coffee With the Principal

The next Coffee with the Principal will be on Tuesday, March 26th at 4PM. The main topic will be the explanation of standardized testing, tips and suggestions. Please join us virtually to have a candid discussion. See you then!



REMINDERS

Enrollment Portal is Open

Please note that the enrollment portal is open. This is only for **NEW students or students in TK or Kindergarten attending school for the first time**. You do not need to re-enroll your children currently attending one of our schools. Please see the [enrollment link](#) for more information on the enrollment process. Enrollment is available online. Please do not hesitate to contact the front office if you have any questions.



Parenting Workshops

Update- Workshops are full but there may be a wait list: In January through March, the district will

be offering a 4-week **parenting workshop** series in partnership with SCCOE. One series will be for middle school, one series for elementary school. (Childcare & dinner will be provided.)

- Active Parenting Workshop Series (Middle School): 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14 0 6:00-7:30 pm @ Morrill
- Parent Project Jr. Workshop Series (Elementary): 3/5, 3/12, 3/19. 3/26 - 6:00-7:30 pm. @ Ruskin

Families received an initial email on January 4th. Here are links to flyers that were sent home:

- 📄 Active Parenting of Teens Flyer.2024.pdf (middle school parents)
- 📄 Loving Solutions Parenting Flyer.2024.pdf (elementary school parents)

PTA

PTA Membership
(Totem Website \$10+\$1fee)



Lost and Found



Our Lost and Found cart is overflowing! Our Leadership students have been fast at work collecting and organizing lost items. If you have lost a jacket, sweatshirt, hoodie, or other item of clothing, please come check the Lost and Found cart located in the courtyard in front of the office. It's getting colder, so come and claim your nice, cozy clothing!

Upcoming Calendar Events:

2/16: Minimum Day

2/16: PTA: Lion Dance Assembly- 12:30pm- Blacktop

2/19-2/23: February Break

Walk N Roll

Here are the links to report traffic violations around the school or request enhanced traffic safety around the school (parking enforcement, request crosswalk updates, etc).

- [Parking Compliance](#)
- [Traffic Enforcement Request:](#)



Parents, please remember, NOT to park in the horseshoe. It is made for cars to move in and out of quickly. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at Lblackshire@busd.net.

For the ensured safety of everyone, please remember the following:

- Please do not park in the bus zone
- Please use the crosswalk near the staff parking lot
- Pull **ALL** the way forward in the horseshoe
- Please do not park in the STAFF parking lot



- Thank you for not parking in front of or in the neighbor's driveway
- Please do not double park OR park in the horseshoe
- Try to come early or walk or bike to school if possible
- Staff supervision of students begins at 7:50
- Please leave the premises once the bell rings so we may lock down the school
- Please do not let your children out in the middle of the street or the parking lot

Attendance Matters



Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure

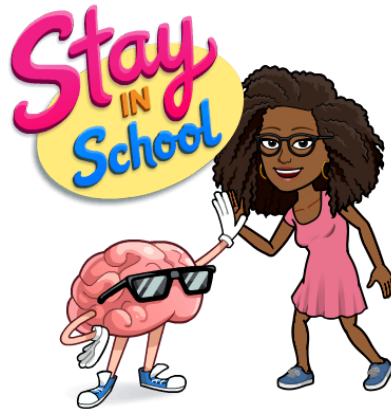
our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[Espanol Truancy Video](#)

- Once you receive 3 unexcused absences or a combination of a "late" tardy (31 minutes or more late) and unexcused absences (3 total), you will receive a truancy notice.
- An additional truancy will require a meeting with the Principal, Social Worker
- Continued truancy may result in a meeting with the district attendance team

Here is a [link](#) with examples of excused vs unexcused absences [based on Ed Code EC Section 48260](#). We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Please be sure to call in your absences or email our attendance clerk, Ms. Kimberly Yee, at kyee@busd.net.



Independent Study Process

Do you need to take a few days off in the middle of the school year? Need to visit a sick family member or go on a family getaway? Did you know that if your child has overall good attendance, you may be eligible to take what's called an Independent Study, which would excuse their absences for a 5-9 day period? It is an **official contract** between the Principal, Teacher, Parent and Student, stating that the parent is acting as the "teacher" for the duration of the contract and will ensure that all work is completed to get credit for the absences. To apply for an Independent Study, here are the steps:

- Apply in the office at least **two weeks in advance**
- The attendance clerk will check the form
- The Principal then approves or denies the request
- Once approved, the teacher then has 2 weeks to get all of the classwork together
- The work is due upon the end date of the contract (if work is not turned in that day, the contract is null and void and the absences will then be unexcused)
- Only ONE Independent Study contract is allowed per year

After School Care

Are you in need of after school care? We have two different child care organizations that service our students. They are Sunshine School and Right at School. They are individually owned and operated. Their information is below:

Sunshine School

www.mysunshineschool.com

408-839-8366

Right At School (Room E1)

www.Rightatschool.com

855-287-2466



Student Nutrition Services

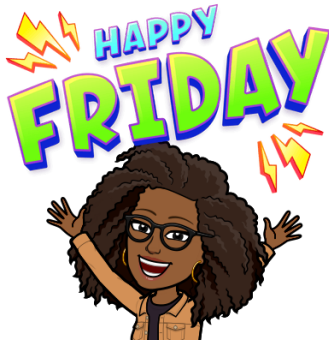
School Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto edjoin.org and look under Berryessa Union School District. School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student may receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch each school day. Meals include fruit, vegetables, and milk. Milk taken separately from a meal costs \$0.50 (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

[Elementary Breakfast Menu January 2024](#)

[Elementary Lunch Menu January 2024](#)

- Families are strongly encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced price meals in order to increase funding for school programs and possibly qualify for other food benefits and discounts, e.g., afterschool programs, utilities and internet.
- Please submit your application ASAP in order for it to be counted toward school funding.
- For more info and to access the Free and Reduced Lunch forms, access the [link](#)
- The application may also be downloaded from the [SNS Meal Applications webpage](#) which also has the lunch menus

Have an amazing weekend!!!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire
Principal

Office Staff

Office Hours 7:30-3:30 **Office Phone** 408-923-1950
Principal: LaKeisha Blackshire LBlackshire@busd.net
School Secretary: Melani Montez MMontez@busd.net
School Clerk: Kimberly Yee KYee@busd.net