



## Building Meaningful Connections

8.30.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? It has been an eventful one here at Ruskin. We had a City of San Jose Walk N Roll Safety Assembly, our first fire drill, our first Coffee With the Principal and the start of 4th and 5th grade music classes. We had to postpone our first Flagpole assembly due to a scheduling conflict. Because **we are off this Monday for the observance of Labor Day**, our first Flagpole will take place on

Monday, September 9th, right after the bell rings. These responsible 5th graders (pictured below), Daniel, Agastya, and Evan will be the Monday morning

Flagpole set up team this year! Thank you for your help! right after the bell rings. Hope to see you there!



**Flagpole Set Up Team**



**Walk N Roll Safety  
Assembly**



**A Student Getting Fitted for a Free Helmet at the Assembly**

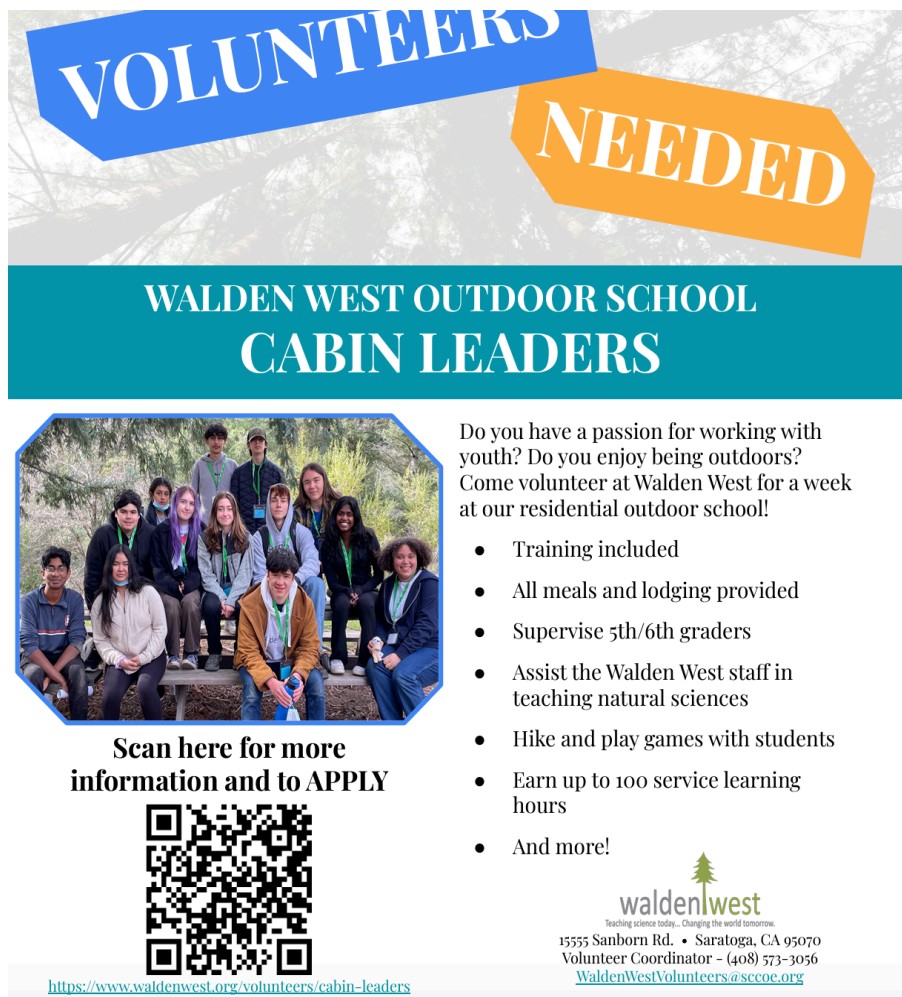
## **Coffee With the Principal / PBIS Focus**

If you missed our first Coffee With the Principal, you missed meeting our ELEVO coordinator, Jessy Orozco, who talked about the socio emotional support and coaching that Elevo provides, along with their after school service. We discussed our PBIS school wide systems of support regarding behavior. We talked about how the decisions made regarding behavior are data driven and created with staff collaboration. **If you would like to see the slide presentation regarding PBIS, please click [here](#).** See our Elevo coaches in the picture gallery below. Our next CWP will be Tuesday, October 29th at 4 PM.




## Walden West Science Camp

Our 5th graders are going to Science Camp at Walden West!!! They are going early this year, on September 30th. In order for Science Camp to occur we need high school or college aged volunteers as cabin leaders. We are currently recruiting high school students (must be at least a sophomore or older) to be a cabin leader for our 5th grade Walden West Science Camp trip the week of September 30 - October 4. I have attached the cabin leader flyer. If you know of an older student who is interested, please let the office staff know asap. Thank you.



**VOLUNTEERS**  
**NEEDED**


**WALDEN WEST OUTDOOR SCHOOL  
CABIN LEADERS**



Do you have a passion for working with youth? Do you enjoy being outdoors? Come volunteer at Walden West for a week at our residential outdoor school!

- Training included
- All meals and lodging provided
- Supervise 5th/6th graders
- Assist the Walden West staff in teaching natural sciences
- Hike and play games with students
- Earn up to 100 service learning hours
- And more!

**Scan here for more information and to APPLY**



<https://www.waldenwest.org/volunteers/cabin-leaders>

**waldenwest**  
Teaching science today... Changing the world tomorrow.  
15555 Sanborn Rd. • Saratoga, CA 95070  
Volunteer Coordinator - (408) 573-3056  
[WaldenWestVolunteers@sccoe.org](mailto:WaldenWestVolunteers@sccoe.org)

## College Monday

In most weekly newsletters, I like to spotlight a different college. I also spotlight a college at our Flagpole assemblies in order to expose students to various schools around our nation. **We encourage the students, parents and staff to wear college apparel on Mondays.** I highlight junior and community colleges, state and UCs, public and private. If you know of any good trade schools or specialty schools, share those with me. I like to include a variety of schools for students and parents to learn about. This week's feature is California State Monterey Bay or CSUMB. It is located a short drive from here in gorgeous Monterey, California. One of our staff members has a daughter attending there this year! Here are a few fun facts:



(Proud CSUMB Mama)

- Founded in 1994
- 53% of students attending CSUMB are among the first generation of their family to go to college
- CSUMB is one of the most affordable universities in California
- 50% of its students receive Pell grants that cover 100% of their tuition
- Their mascot is the Otter
- Located on former military base Fort Ord
- The three most popular majors are Psychology, Business Administration and Computer Science
- The school offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Marine Science



## Art and Music Classes for Kinder through 1st Grade Students

Kindergarten through second grade students are getting some new opportunities this year to add to their classroom experiences. Kindergarten and first grade students will now have 30 minutes of Art class once a week, taught by our new Art teacher, Ms. Le. The class takes place in our Flexible Instructional Space. Second grade students will now have music appreciation once a week for 30 minutes, taught by our music teacher, Mr. Joey.



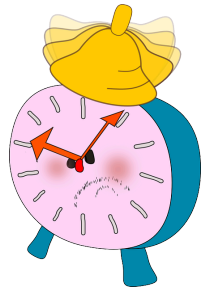
## Second Chance Breakfast

You may have heard that lunch is FREE for all students in California. Did you also know that we provide all students with a light breakfast everyday? It is called Second Chance Breakfast. Students are able to go to the kitchen and choose from a variety of items available that day. They then are able to go sit on a bench or somewhere on the blacktop and enjoy their food. All students have the option to go pick up their breakfast at their recess time.

## REMINDERS

### Attendance, Tardies and Truancies

As you may know, there is a significant connection between consistent student attendance and student success. Research shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve proficiency in core subjects like math and reading. Students with better attendance are more likely to graduate on time compared to their counterparts with lower attendance rates. Please assist us in getting the kids to school on time. Some helpful tips are as follows:



- **Pick out clothing the night before**
- **Put backpacks, lunch, water bottles, instruments, etc by the door**
- **Set your alarms for 10 minutes earlier**
- **Make it a fun game. “Can we get there 5 minutes early? 10 minutes early?”**

If your child will be absent, please call or email our school clerk, Ms. Kimberly at 408-923-1950 or [Kyee@busd.net](mailto:Kyee@busd.net). You can find more detailed information in the attendance section found later in the newsletter.

## School Calendar and Minimum Days

Every Thursday is an early release day for students in Grades K-5. **After the first 4 weeks of school, Kinders are dismissed at 12:50 each Thursday. Dismissal for grades 1-5 is at 1:10.** Throughout the year there are some additional minimum days. The chart below has a list of all the minimum days for the school year. Here is the [link](#) to the district calendar for the year that includes all holidays.



1ST - 5TH GRADE THURSDAY AND OTHER MINIMUM DAYS

# Days	Dates	Description
38	8/15/24-6/13/25	Min. Thursdays for teacher prep, staff meetings, and professional development
1	8/16/2024	Friday after 1st day of school, Friday before Labor Day, and Halloween
5	11/15/24-11/22/24	Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences
5	3/7/25-3/14/25	Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
1	5/23/2025	Friday before Memorial Day
1	6/13/25	Last Day of School
51	Total 1st - 5th Grade Thursday and Other Minimum Days	

KINDERGARTEN THURSDAYS AND OTHER MINIMUM DAYS

# Days	Dates	Description
33	9/16/24-6/15/29	Min. Thursdays for teacher prep, staff meetings, and professional development
5	11/15/24-11/22/24	Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences
5	3/7/25-3/14/25	Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
1	5/23/2025	Friday before Memorial Day
1	6/13/2025	Last Day of School
45	Total Kindergarten Thursday and Other Minimum Days	

## Parent Volunteers

Ruskin cannot run as smoothly as it does without the help of parent volunteers. We love when our parents, grandparents and extended family members help us out on field trips, volunteer in the classroom and assist at school events. In order to become a volunteer please fill out the attached **NEW volunteer forms** using this [link](#). This form is different from last year. A new form must be completed each school year. TB results must be attached when turning the form in. The TB results are valid for 4 years. **Forms must be turned into the school office. DO NOT SCHEDULE A LIVE SCAN APPOINTMENT UNTIL THE DISTRICT PERSONNEL CONTACTS YOU.** Your application must be approved by the Principal first. If you have any questions please contact the school office. Ms. Melani handles the volunteer application process at Ruskin. She can be reached at 408-923-1950 or [mmontez@busd.net](mailto:mmontez@busd.net). Thank you.



## Ruskin PTA

One extremely important way in which you can volunteer and get involved is by joining our amazing Ruskin PTA. Here is a message from the PTA :

Support Ruskin Elem School & your student's classroom!  
Become a Ruskin PTA member. If you can, add each parent/guardian and each student as a MEMBER!

Participation from families and staff creates strong school connections and a strong community that benefits each student. Our school community depends on the time, talent, and funds of caring adults like you to create a successful school experience. So where do you fit in, EVERYWHERE !!



**Support Ruskin Elem School & your student's classroom & Become a Ruskin PTA member.**

*If you can, add each parent/guardian & each student as a MEMBER!*



*Welcome Back to School everyone!  
Let's have a contest!!*

*The class with the most PTA MEMBERS wins a class party later this school year! (more details to come)*

**- Road Runner**  
*p.s. - Students can be paid MEMBERS too.*

Ruskin PTA Membership  
*(Totem website \$10 + \$1 fee)*





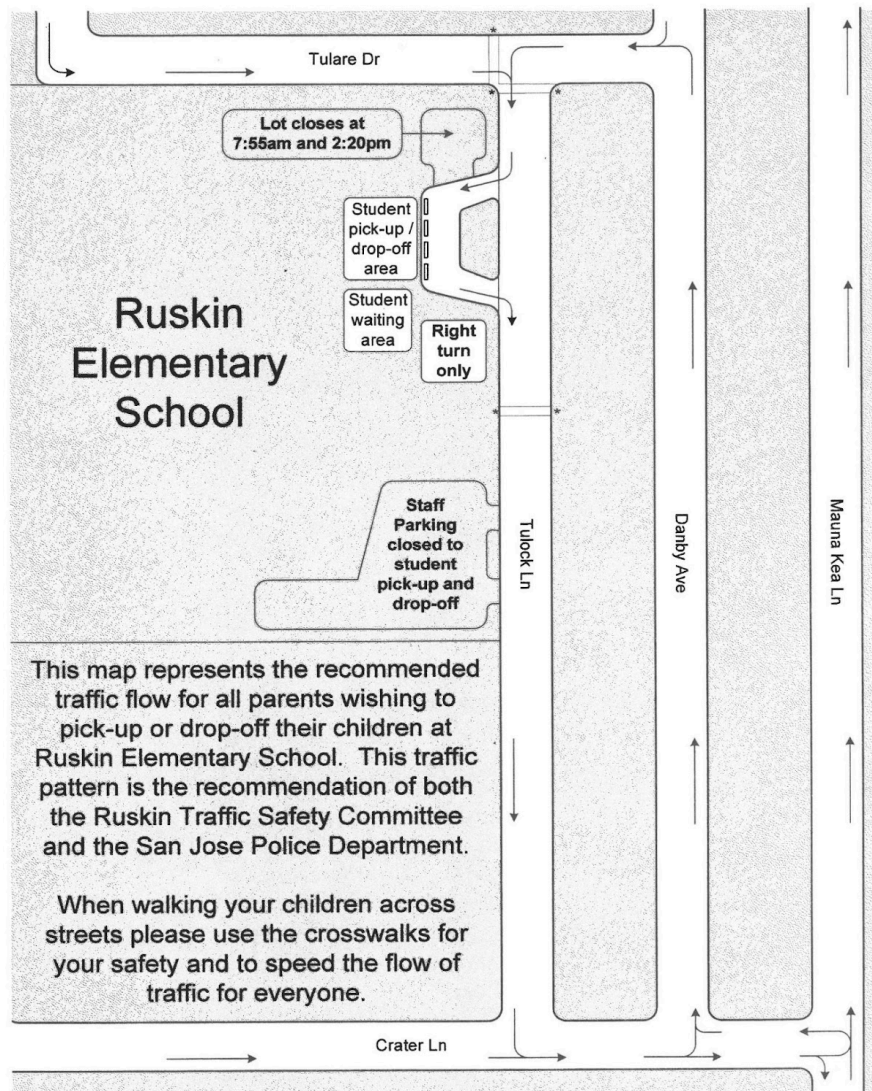
## Traffic Reminders



Parents, please do 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](mailto:Lblackshire@busd.net).

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

- Please do not park in the bus zone OR the emergency 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

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:](#)



## 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 Elevo. They are individually owned and operated. Their information is below:

### Sunshine School

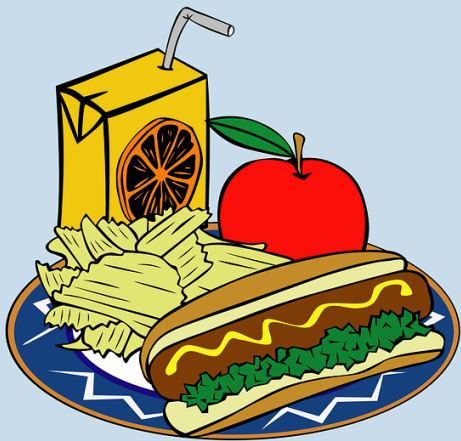
[www.mysunshineschool.com](http://www.mysunshineschool.com)

408-839-8366

### Elevo

858-905-8583

## Student Nutrition Services



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 \$0.75** (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

 [Elementary Breakfast Menu August 2024](#)

 [Elementary Lunch Menu August 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

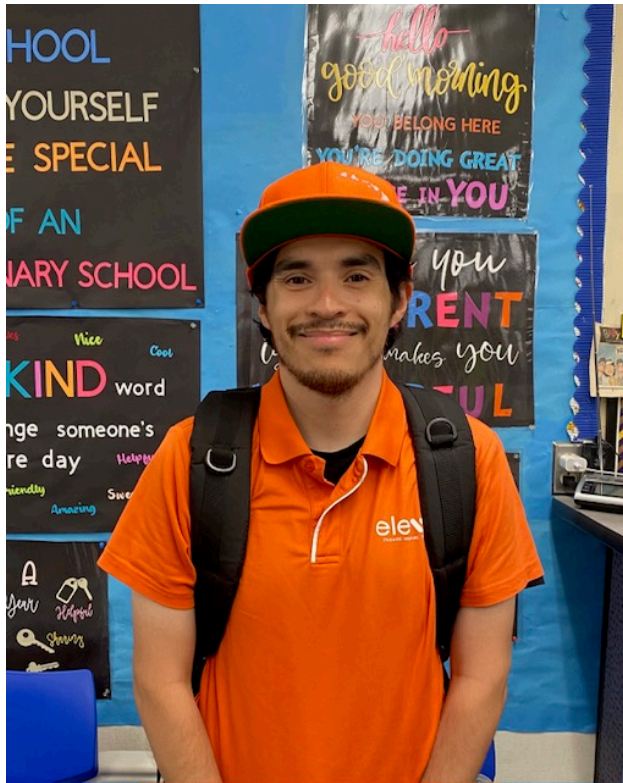


# Picture Gallery

Mrs. Paddock's Class first week of school activities





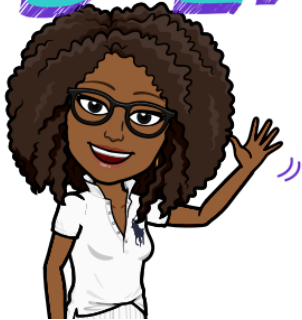


Coach Nate



Coach Immanuel

**BYE!**



Have an amazing 3 day weekend. Enjoy Labor day! See you all back at school on Tuesday, September 3rd!!!

### Office Staff

**Office Hours 7:30-3:30 Office Phone 408-923-1950**

**Principal:** LaKeisha Blackshire [LBlackshire@busd.net](mailto:LBlackshire@busd.net)

**School Secretary:** Melani Montez [MMontez@busd.net](mailto:MMontez@busd.net)

**School Clerk:** Kimberly Yee [KYee@busd.net](mailto:KYee@busd.net)



**Ms. Kimberly**



**Ms. Melani**