



# Building Meaningful Connections

9.6.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

It is already Friday! I hope your Labor Day weekend was awesome! Did you take a short trip? Did you relax at home? Whatever you did, I hope I hope you enjoyed it!

Please join us this Monday, September 9th, for our first flagpole assembly for the year. We will meet on the blacktop right after the bell rings. This is a time for the entire school to gather to build meaningful connections, honor our students, discuss upcoming school events, create school culture and more. We love to see our parents at these weekly assemblies to assist us in

building community. Don't forget to wear your college gear, students and parents both. Hope to see you all there!

Next Thursday, **September 12th** is our first school Spirit Day. **It's Twin Day!** Have your kid come dressed like a friend and celebrate twin day with us.

Wednesday, September 18 is a Pupil Free Day. There will be **no classes for students**. Staff will have Professional Development that day.

You may have heard about the unfortunate incident that happened at an Atlanta school this week. It hurts my heart to hear incidents such as these. On Thursday, the staff had our first emergency training provided by ICS4Schools. It is a company that does all of the emergency training for each school in our district. We learn the logistics on what to do in case of a school emergency, of various sorts.



The company is made up of retired emergency personnel that provide unique support for Ruskin's Emergency Preparedness Plan. **In the event of an emergency, please know that you will need to have an ID in order for us to release a student to you or anyone on their Student Verification Form. It is CRUCIAL that you have completed the Student Verification Form that you received in the mail before school started. BY LAW WE WILL NOT RELEASE THE STUDENTS TO ANYONE THAT IS NOT ON THAT FORM.** Our release area will be situated in front of the school on Turlock Ln. I will continue to share more Parent information regarding our Emergency Preparedness Plan.

## School Consolidation and Closure Process

The School Consolidation Committee had their sixth meeting last night in order to gather more information to bring their recommendation to the board as to which schools may possibly be closed and the plan for students and families moving forward. Please note that **NO decisions have been made** and **NO schools have been chosen at this time**. To learn more about the process, timeline, criteria, agendas, FAQs, who to direct



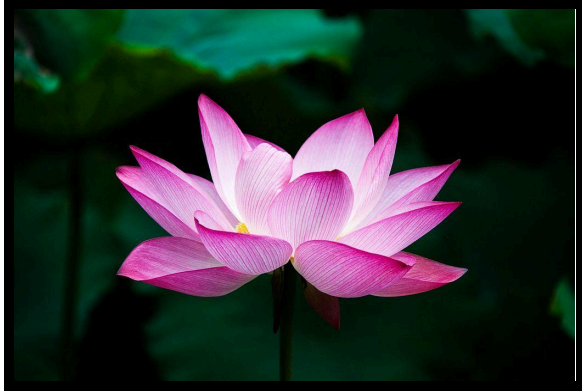


## National Hispanic Heritage Month

We celebrate [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (September 15 to October 15) to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. The observation began in 1968 as [Hispanic Heritage Week](#) under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The theme for 2024 is "[Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together](#)". Click the link for more information. (National Archives)

Here is a [fun video](#) that highlights some contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country. It features artists and icons such as Frida Kahlo, Celia Cruz and Messi.





## Social Emotional/ PBIS Corner

While we are teaching students to **Be Safe, Respectful and Be Responsible**, we are also doing what we can to take care of their socio emotional well being. In order to have emotionally healthy children, we need for their parents to be healthy emotionally as well. Have you ever been on an airplane? If so, you have heard the flight attendant to direct you to put on your oxygen mask **FIRST** before assisting your child. In order to take care of your child, you must first take care of yourself. Here are some tips to help with stress management:

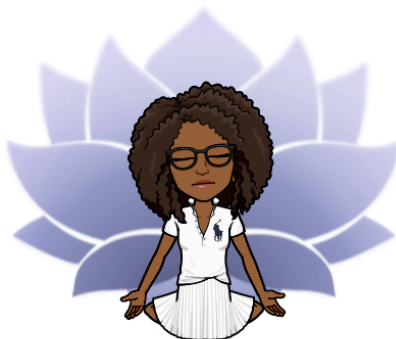
### 1. **Creating a Joy Jar**

- **Action Step:** Keep a "Joy Jar" in your workspace or at home. Whenever something positive happens, write it down and place it in the jar. Review these notes whenever you need a pick-me-up.
- **Why It Helps:** A Joy Jar serves as a tangible reminder of good moments, helping to boost morale and provide comfort during tough times.

### 2. **Simplified Meal Planning**

- **Action Step:** Plan simple, healthy meals for the week ahead. Use meal prep techniques like batch cooking or preparing ingredients in advance to save time during busy weekdays.
- **Why It Helps:** Having meals prepared reduces daily decision-making stress and ensures you and your family eat nutritious foods, supporting overall health and energy levels.

Hope these tips are helpful !!



## City of San Jose Walk N Roll Program

Ruskin Elementary partners with the City of San Jose's Walk N Roll program to bring many different resources to the school surrounding safety. They are the program that put on the Safety assembly recently and fitted some of our students with new helmets. They also offer many events and resources for families. Here is a message from them below:

We are thrilled to share the September 2024 edition of the Walk n' Roll Newsletter, now available on our website! This month's newsletter is filled with crucial information and updates to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety within our school community.

In this issue, you'll find:

.

**Back-to-School Safety Tips:** Key advice for students and parents to ensure safe walking and biking practices as the new school year begins.

.

**Exciting Events and Programs:** Details about upcoming events and initiatives designed to encourage active transportation and safety.

.

**New Resources:** Information about new resources and tools available to support schools in promoting safe travel habits.

For full details, please visit our website:

[sanjoseca.gov/walknroll](http://sanjoseca.gov/walknroll)

where you can find the **newsletter in 3 languages!**



## College Monday

This week's featured school is California State University Fullerton or (CSUF), located in Fullerton, CA. It was founded in 1957 and classes began in 1959. It has around 41,000 students, making it the largest CSU student body. Some more facts are:

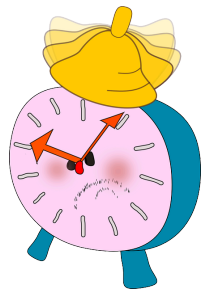
- It's Mascot is an elephant names Tuffy Titan
- The school's newspaper is the Daily Titan
- It offers 163 degrees, 54 undergrad degrees and 49 graduate degrees
- They were ranked in the Top 10 public schools in 2011
- They are a Hispanic serving university and designated to becoming an Asian American Native Pacific Islander university (this means they enroll a specific percentage of students from certain minority groups)
- They are a Division 1 NCAA school
- Most popular degrees are teaching, engineering, economics and nursing

# Cal State Fullerton™

## 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.

# Days	Dates	Description
21	8/15/23-9/13/23	1st four weeks of school
21	Total Kindergarten 1st Four Weeks of School	

### 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	

### 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
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





## 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. **If you need a TB Risk Assessment form, please come into the office. All 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 !!

**Ruskin PTA®**

**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).



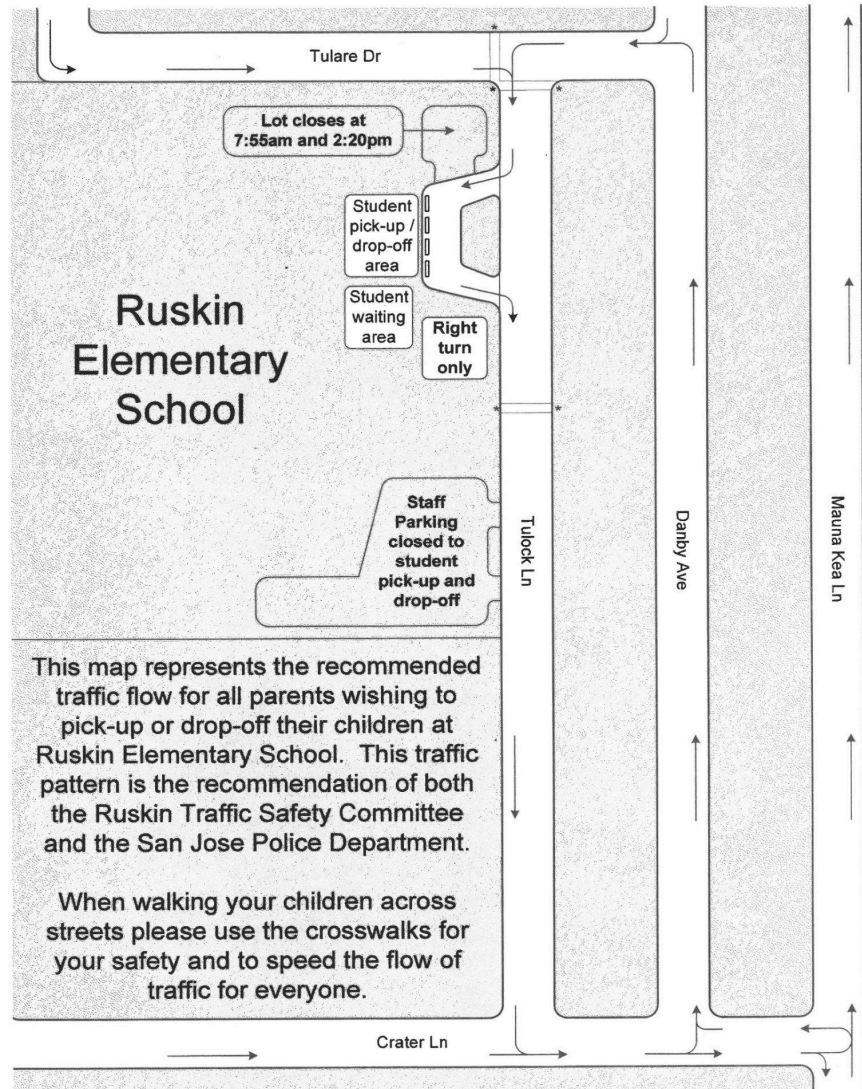
For the ensured safety of everyone, please remember the following:

- 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

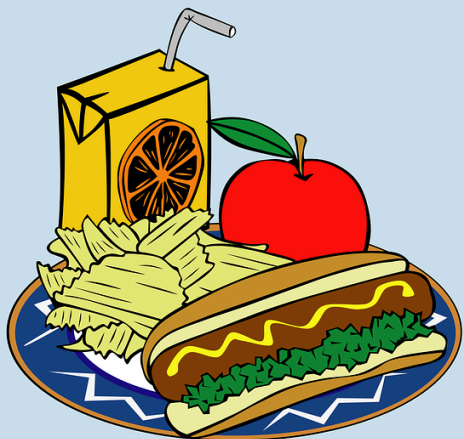
[www.mysunshineschool.com](http://www.mysunshineschool.com)

408-839-8366

### Elevo

858-905-8583

## Student Nutrition Services

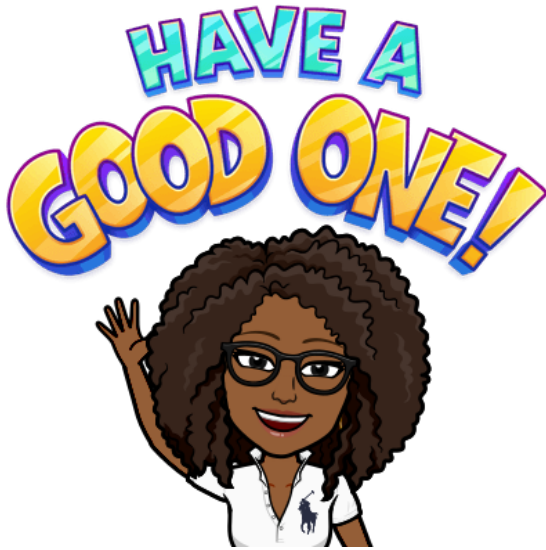


School meals will continue to be **FREE** for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student may receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch each school day. Meals include fruit, vegetables, and milk. **Milk taken separately from a meal costs \$0.75** (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

[Elementary Lunch Menu September 2024](#)  
[Elementary School Breakfast September 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





I hope you have an amazing weekend with family and friends. We will see you on Monday at the flagpole!

### 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**

