



Building Meaningful Connections

9.13.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

I hope you have had an amazing week. We had our first Flag Pole Assembly and our first Spirit Day. I loved seeing all the college shirts on Monday at Flag Pole. Numerous students received Ruskin Beeps where they turned them into the office at recess times and got some really cool prizes. On Thursday, there were so many twins on campus that we thought we were seeing double! Make sure to check out the

picture gallery further down in the newsletter.

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

kinders start full days and are dismissed at **1:50**, except on minimum days/Thursdays which dismissal is at 12:50.

School Site Council Meeting Moved to September 18th

The purpose of a school site council (SSC) is to represent the school community and help improve student achievement. SSCs have many responsibilities, including:

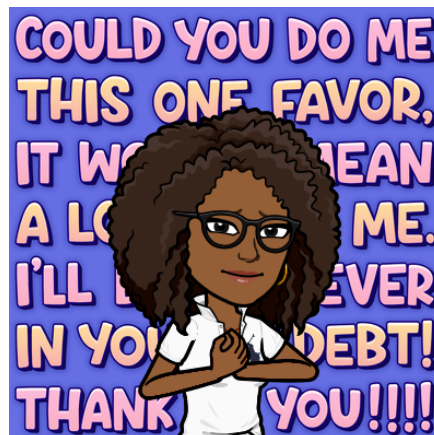
- Developing the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA): The SPSA is a strategic plan that outlines goals to improve student achievement. The SSC helps develop and approve the SPSA, and monitors its implementation.
- Analyzing data: The SSC reviews student data and school information to identify student needs and areas for improvement.
- Gathering community input: The SSC represents parents, community members, and school staff.
- Improving communication: The SSC works to improve communication and develop leadership.
- Setting goals: The SSC sets goals and identifies priorities.

We are in need of parents to become members of our School Site Council. We need at least 5 parents to be a part of SSC but any parents are welcome to attend. All meetings are virtual and are held the same Wednesdays as PTA meetings, back to back. The next meeting will be September 18 at 5:30. Here is the link:

SSC

Wednesday, September 18 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

<https://meet.google.com/kru-ksmq-fuw>



Ruskin PTA



Come join us for our first PTA Meeting next Wednesday at 6:30 PM. It is a virtual meeting and is held right after our School Site Council Meeting. Learn all about our fabulous PTA and all that they do for our school. Here is the link to the meeting:

Times: 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Zoom meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4674624844?pwd=VXQ1Z01Nd3RmbU1JQkd3V1lyTFh3Zz09>

Zoom ID : 467 462 4844
Passcode: 755771

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!



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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)



Ruskin Back to School Night Reminder

Reminder: On Thursday, **September 19th**, Ruskin will be having its Back to School Night event. This is the time for parents to meet their child's teacher, hear about their classroom routines, programs, school behavior expectations and overall school culture. This is **NOT** the time to speak to your child's teacher in depth about your child's progress. You may set up a meeting with the teacher to discuss this or wait until Parent Teacher Conferences in November. Please plan to attend Back to School Night if you are able. The schedule is as follows:

3rd-5th Grade 5:00-5:45

Grades TK-2 6:00-6:45



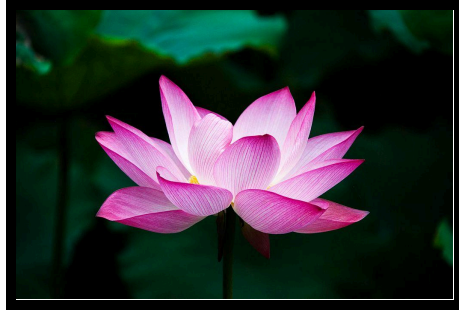


National Hispanic Heritage Month

In celebration of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (September 15 to October 15) we honor **Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor**. She is the third woman, first woman of color, the first Hispanic AND the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court. She is of Puerto Rican descent. She went to two very prestigious schools, Princeton and then Yale Law School. She was nominated to the Supreme Court by then President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009. She began serving on August 8, 2009. Having a Latina on the Supreme Court further helped to diversify the highest court of the land that represents all Americans. When kids can see themselves in powerful positions, it makes it easier to achieve their goals.

Representation matters! Here is a short [video](#) about Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor.





Social Emotional/ PBIS Corner

Socio Emotional Question of the Day

Discussions can be a powerful tool when it comes to learning social emotional skills. With a SEL question of the day, pose a question and chat about it. It's really that easy. This can be a positive start to your morning or an activity you do while waiting for the dismissal at the end of the day.

For example, to start the conversation about diversity, you might ask, "What is something about you that is unique, special, or stands out?" It's just one simple question but helps begin the conversation about how we can all be similar and different at the same time. Because kids and teens will be discussing the questions and interacting with each other, it can be a highly motivating way to integrate SEL skills too.

Some other examples of questions of the day might include:

- Self-control is stopping, thinking, and making a good choice. Why is it important to stop and think about choices?
- Having a growth mindset means knowing you can improve skills with hard work. What does determination mean to you?
- What are some social expectations to follow when playing games or sports?
- Relationship skills are the tools and knowledge we use to build relationships. What skills are important in relationships?
(Pathway2Success.com)

Hope these tips are helpful !!

College Monday

This week's featured school is DeAnza Community College, located locally in Cupertino, CA

Some facts are:

- DeAnza ranked 4th out of best community colleges in California
- The school's average class size is 35 and has approximately 3,000 students
- The Puente Project is a program offered at De Anza that helps underserved students transfer to 4-year institutions
- The Flint Center is De Anza's main theater, seating about 2,400 people, and hosts concerts, Broadway shows, dance and speaking events
- They have a large flea market that operates monthly on the weekend for over 30 years
- Most popular programs are Business Administration and Management, General, Biological and Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences

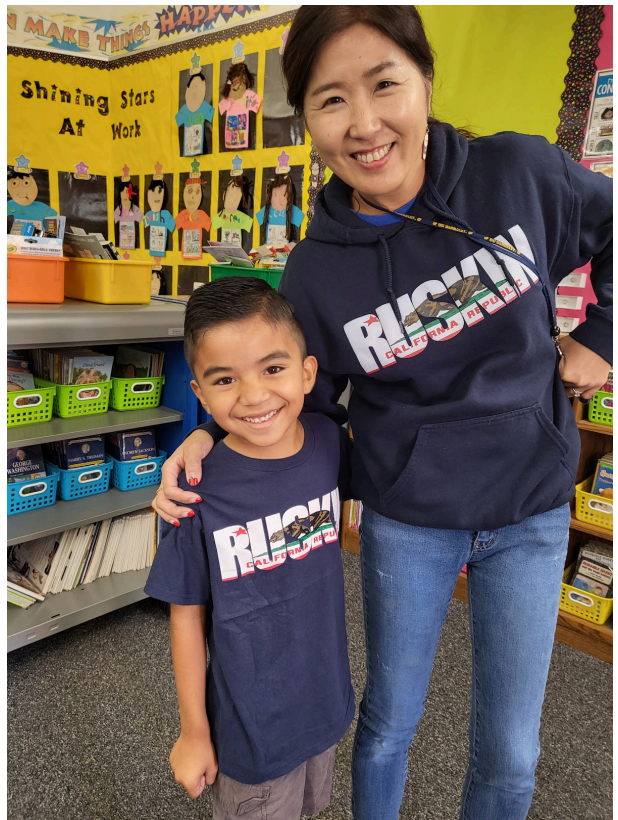


School Consolidation Committee

The next School Consolidation is October 3rd. Although the topic of any of our schools closing can be emotional and stressful, please note **that NO decisions have been made and NO schools have been named yet regarding closures or consolidation.** To learn more about the latest updates, process, timeline, criteria, agendas, FAQs, who to direct questions to and more in regards to School Consolidation, please visit the district website link for [School Consolidation Committee](#). All of the information is included, starting from last school year.













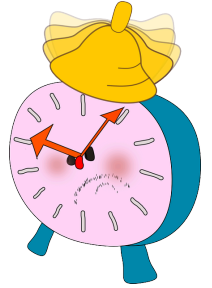






UPDATED REMINDERS

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. 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



Emergency Procedures

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.

City of San Jose Walk N Roll Program

For the Walk N Roll newsletter in 3 languages, please visit their website:
sanjoseca.gov/walknroll



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. 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®

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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.

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

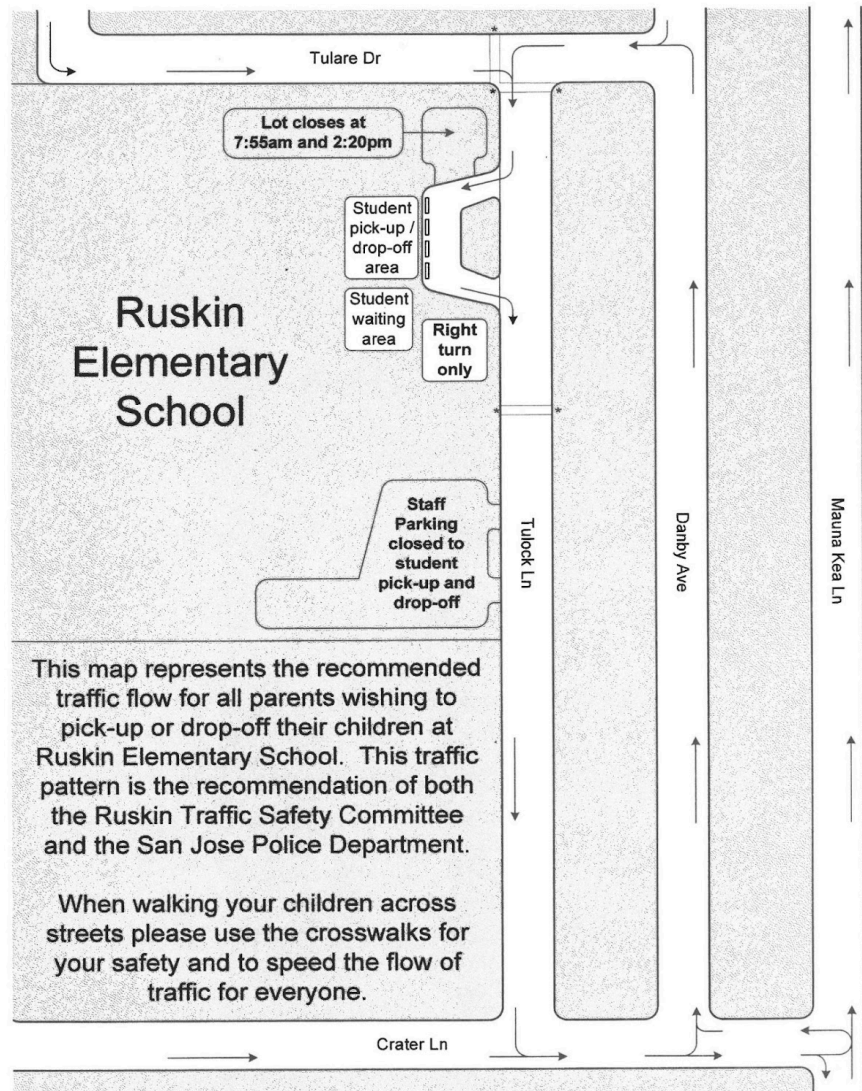
safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at Lblackshire@busd.net.

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

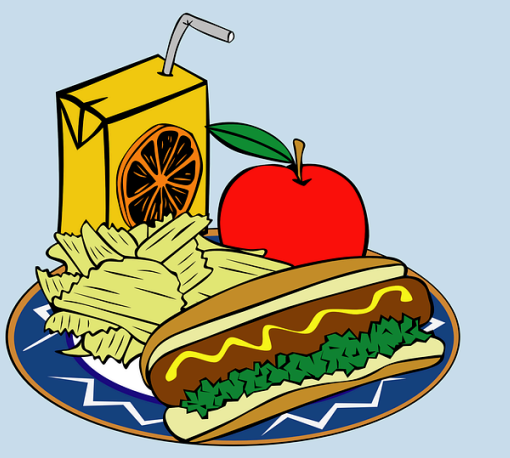
408-839-8366

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





Enjoy your weekend! I hope you do something amazing! See you at Monday flagpole!!!

Respectfully,

LaKeisha Blackshire

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

Ms. Kimberly



Ms. Melani

