

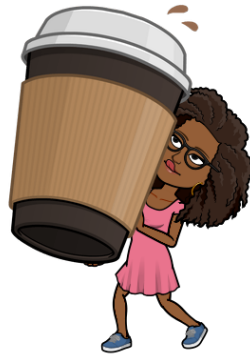
9.08.23

Happy Friday Ruskin Families,

It was a busy short week! The weather was beautiful this past weekend! I hope you got out and were able to enjoy your long weekend. Did you get to do anything fun? How about binge watching your favorite shows or reading a good book? Ooh.. how about catching up on your sleep? Hopefully it was a satisfying weekend.

Next Monday, September 11th, our 5th grade students will be attending Walden West Science Camp. **Expect more car traffic at school that morning.** There will be no flagpole that day. It is an overnight camp and they will be joined by students of another school in our district as well. Attending Walden West is considered a right of passage for 5th grade students in the district. They are away for 4 and ½ days and experience many adventures such as day and night hikes, hands on activities holding animals, sleeping in

a cabin with their classmates, bonding with their teams, only being called by their science nickname for a week, taking super fast showers, eating communally, learning how to waste as little food as possible, singing camp songs, having daily jobs (such as dining room duty), journaling in their Science notebooks, and performing skits. It is a great opportunity for 5th graders to exercise their independence. The memories they make at Walden West will stay with them for a lifetime!!! My own kids are 23 and 25 and **STILL** talk about their Walden West experience and camp leaders. I will go up to visit our students at camp next week. I will make sure to share pictures from camp in the following newsletter.



Coffee With

the Principal

Our next Coffee
September 26th

with the Principal will be held on
at 4 PM. The link is

<https://meet.google.com/dhr-egoi-gwz> and

will be shared again the week prior. At that meeting, we will discuss our district and site academic and Socio Emotional goals, standardized test performance, as well as other agenda items. Please let me know, at least three days in advance, if there are any agenda items you would like me to add. Hope to see you there!

Back to School Night



Reminder!!! **Back to School Night** will be held next week, on **Thursday, September 14th.** **TK-2nd grades** will have their classroom presentations from **5:00-5:45.** **Grades 3-4** will have their classroom presentations from **6:00-6:45.** This evening is for adults. This is the time that the teachers will share with you their daily schedule, curriculum, how their classroom operates, discipline systems, expectations, etc.

This is **NOT** the time to ask individual questions about your child's progress or challenges. **Parent teacher conferences are the place to speak about your individual child and their goals and successes. They will take place in November.** Back to School Night is an overview of the classroom system. We hope you are able to attend. **5th Grade Back To School Night will be held September 20, 2023 from 6:00-6:30.**

Parent Meetings

Are you looking for a way to learn how our school operates? Do you want to be a part of the decisions made regarding the School Plan? If so, we need you. Are you a parent of a child who is multilingual? Do you want to learn more about the support we give to our multilingual students? Want to advocate for them? Consider joining our School Site Council team and District English Language Advisory Committee.. **Our first School Site Council meeting (SSC)/DELAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th, from 5:30-6:30. It is virtual. Here is the link:** meet.google.com/akm-kwks-zrk

It is followed by our first **Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting at 6:30.** Consider becoming a member and see how this organization made up of Parents, Teachers and other stakeholders work together to fund our classrooms, provide assemblies, provide volunteer opportunities, hold fun family social events and much more. The meeting will be held virtually. Here is the Zoom information: ZOOM ID: 467 462 4844 PASSCODE: 755771

PTA Membership

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



Speaking of fun family events, PTA is holding their first social event of the year. Come join us for their annual Ice Cream Social. It will be held on Thursday, September 21st from 5-7. This is a **FREE** event!!! Mix, mingle and enjoy a sweet treat!!! See the flyer below.

RUSKIN
ELEMENTARY
PTA PRESENTS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

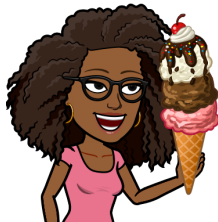
THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

AT THE
BLACKTOP

5-7PM

FREE!

The poster features a large pink ice cream cone graphic with a yellow and teal base. The text is arranged within and around the cone. At the bottom left, there is a smaller illustration of a pink ice cream truck with a large ice cream cone on top. The background is light pink with colorful confetti and a pink frosting border at the top.





Traffic Reminders

Parents, I need your help. This week there were at least **two very close calls in the parking lot**. One involving a student on a bike and another involving students running across the parking lot. Parents, PLEASE keep your little ones safe by abiding by the safety rules. I don't think my heart could take it if one of our babies was injured, especially by adult carelessness. This is another reminder of the Ruskin traffic rules that we desperately need you to abide by to keep all our students, staff and parents safe. Once again, If you would like to volunteer to help with traffic safety, please contact the front at 408-923-1950 or email me at Lblackshire@busd.net. Our signs have been over multiple times (with tire marks to show) we will be replacing them as we are able. safe out there!



of
out
office
run
so
Stay

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
- Try to come early or walk 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 lots



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

Multitasking and busy schedules can be demanding on your brain and leave you in a fog.

Here is a Mindfulness activity useful for both children and adults. It is important to take a brief break and clear your head before diving back into business as usual. This can help with anger or stress as well. You don't need a visual aid, but it can give you something on which to concentrate while you learn a new way to deep breathe.

Here is the practice:

1. Inhale for a count of 4
2. Hold for a count of 4
3. Exhale for a count of 4
4. Hold for a count of 4

While breathing and counting, imagine a square. If you're using a visual aid, follow the four sides of a square. Each step is a corner of the square; as you count to four, move along one side of the square at a time. You can use anything square-shaped around you – a post-it note, a mouse pad, etc. Another way to visualize while square breathing is to imagine you're running bases in a baseball diamond in slow motion.

Inhale and run to first base... two... three... four...

Hold and run to second base... two... three... four...





College Monday

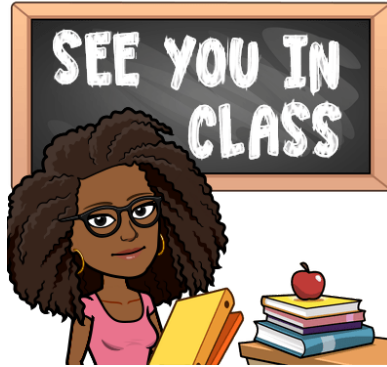
This week's featured college is College of San Mateo, a Community College located in the San Mateo hills. The college serves about 10, 000 students and offers both Associates of Arts and Associates of Science degrees. It was founded in the early 1920's as a low cost alternative to 4 year colleges. Currently, California community colleges offer free tuition for qualifying residents. The college also offers 75 certificate programs and over 100 areas and majors for students to transfer to 4 year colleges. CSM offers transfer admission guarantees with seven of the nine UC campuses, nearly all of the CSU campuses and many private colleges in California. It is a great economical way to end up graduating with a degree from a 4 year university. They have an amazing football program as well!



REMINDERS

Attendance Matters

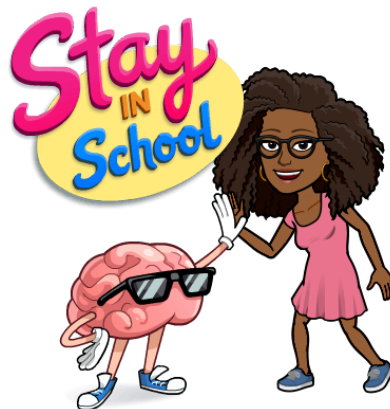
Please keep your child home communicate with the front reached at 408-923-1950 or School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, will be addressing chronic truancy throughout this together to ensure our benefit of attending school each day.



if they are ill and office. We can be you can contact the at Kyee@busd.net. I absenteeism and school year. Let's work students get the full

[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[Espanol Truancy Video](#)



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



COVID Updates

Although COVID guidelines have lessened, we will continue to follow the public health guidance required by the [state](#) and [local](#) public health departments. These are the current recommendations and subject to change:


- **When symptomatic, please stay home.** Please reference our "[Reminder from the School Nurse](#)" on how to return your student post illness to school and if COVID-19 testing is required.
- **Testing** – Home antigen testing will be the primary strategy for COVID mitigation at school. We have at home tests available in the front office if needed or please visit <https://bit.ly/BUSDC19TestingResources> for more resources. Please use this link <https://bit.ly/BUSDOTC> to upload test results. Although some

of the test kits may have dates of expiration, here is a Link: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-of-covid-19-diagnostic-tests> that shows most expiration dates have been extended. It is at the bottom of the article. Find your test and click the “extended expiration date” link.

- *Ventilation* – Maintain high quality air ventilation systems for reducing virus aerosols.
- *Hand Hygiene* – Continue to reinforce the importance of frequent hand washing.
- *COVID-19 Reporting* – Please visit <https://bit.ly/BUSDStudentEvent> to report your student’s event (positive case)
- *Vaccination* – COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for all those eligible. Please visit Santa Clara County Public Health’s [website](#) to find a location near you.

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 \$0.50 (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

-  [Elementary Breakfast September 2023](#)
-  [Elementary Lunch Menu September 2023](#)

- 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 yourself a phenomenal 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