



9.15.23

Happy Friday Ruskin Families,

What a week! It's been exciting to say the least! We sent our 5th graders off to Science Camp and boy....are they having a ball!! I went up to visit them Wednesday and they were all smiles. I went on a hike with one of the field groups and we learned about what tannic acid is, and why oak trees and some other trees make this. We then went to the lab and the students were able to watch a snake being fed mice and even got to hold the snake. The teachers got in on the fun and held some snakes too! They went on a night hike and saw some scorpions!! The students will return today and I am sure there will be some tears from some that are sad the experience has come to an end. I heard that Superintendent Fuentes made a guest appearance and hiked with some of the students. Fun!! I've added some cool pics from camp, below.

In order to continue enhancing the Science learning of ALL of our students, we will be asking for donations to keep our Science Lab up and running. There will be an envelope sent home in the next week or two asking for you to give as you can. We are unique in the fact that Ruskin is the ONLY school in the entire district with a Science Lab, complete with Science teachers. It is a hands-on experience and the students get to do things like hold pig hearts and learn how the heart works and build a contraption that mimics how the lungs operate. ALL students, TK- 5th visit the Science lab and work with our amazing teachers, Ms. Lucrece and Ms. Tiffany. Because of the generous donations of parents, Ruskin has been able to keep the lab running for many years. THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

We have a new calendar feature under the “Reminders” section, located at the bottom, with upcoming dates to remember. Thank you to the parent who suggested this. .

Did you know that today is the first day of National Hispanic Heritage Month? “Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The observation started 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 starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.” (United States Census Bureau) Look at this short [video](#) to learn more about why we celebrate this rich culture!!







Above: Students on a hike. Mrs. Wilson holding Sandstorm, the Pecos Rat Snake.
Mrs. Paddock and kids holding Cornelius the Corn Snake



Banana slugs



Superintendent Fuentes visits Walden West. Scorpion seen on the night hike

Field Closed for Next Two Months

I would like to make you aware that starting Monday 9/18/23, the district will be re-doing Ruskin's turf and field. The first step is to bring in temporary fencing to prevent access to the field. This temporary fencing will be delivered and installed Monday after 2:30. Next, the contractor will be bringing out the necessary equipment to start preparing the field, including a tractor. During the rehab process they will be using a lot of water to germinate the new seed, which cannot be avoided. All contracted employees who work

on this project will check in with the office prior to starting any work daily. During this time, there will be no access to the turf for the next two months. We will also be keeping all exterior gates that lead to the field locked during this time. We will be installing signage around the perimeter of the field letting the community know of the field closure. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we look forward to how beautiful our grass and field will be, once the project is completed.

Back to School Night

We hope you were able to attend your child's classroom presentation at Back to School Night Last night. We had a great turnout! There was lots of useful information shared and thoughtful questions asked. Parents seemed to walk away with a better understanding of the curriculum and how their child's classroom operates. We even had some special guests stop by...Superintendent Fuentes and Board Member Jaug. If you were unable to attend, check in with your child's teacher to get the gist of what you may have missed.



School Site Council Elections

This year, I need to elect a new School Site Council (SSC). For those who are not familiar with SSC, it is made up of 5 parents, 3 teachers, 1 classified staff, and the Principal. All members must be elected to the council and some of the responsibilities include approving the school plan and the school budget. There is more information on the application that I am attaching and they are due by Friday, September 29th.

My first action is to see who is interested in serving. Please fill out the application if you would like to add your name to the ballot. You can print the application or give the information in an email to me (Lblackshire@busd.net).

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. I'm excited to be working with a new council this year and am looking forward to a successful year.

[School Site Council Application](#)

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



Remember, 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 on the blacktop. This is a **FREE** event!!! Mix, mingle and enjoy a sweet treat!!! See the flier below.





Traffic Reminders

Parents, I once again, need your help. This week I have had neighbors complaining that parents are double parking and making U-turns in the middle of the street. They asked me to educate parents and I let them know I send out safety reminders, via this memo, every Friday. I encouraged them to file a complaint by calling 311. Parking compliance came by on Thursday and also suggested neighbors do the same.

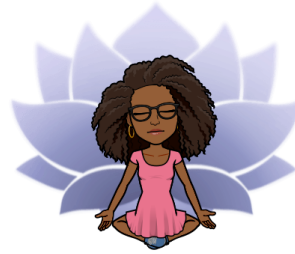
As a reminder, please **DO NOT** park in the horseshoe and leave your car unattended. Please plan to leave earlier and find street parking or better yet walk or bike to school, if possible. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 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
- 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 lots

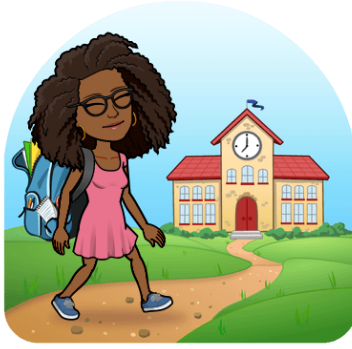
SEL Corner
(Social Emotional Learning)



SHARPEN YOUR FOCUS

1. Before beginning work, focus your mind on this breathing shape.
2. Breath in and out to match the movement of the shape.
3. If you become distracted, focus your mind back to the shape.





College Monday

This week's featured college is University of California, San Diego, or UCSD. It is the southernmost of the ten UC campuses, located in gorgeous San Diego, near the coast of the Pacific Ocean. It offers over 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. Its biological sciences and Computer Science programs rank among the top 10 in the world in many publications. It has 34,000 undergrad students and 10,000 grad students. It is considered one of the best universities in the world. It has the nickname "Public Ivy" meaning it is the Ivy League of public universities.



Mrs. Kawasaki in her UCSD shirt

REMINDERS

Upcoming Dates to remember:

9/20: 5th grade BTSN- 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

9/21: PTA Ice cream Social - 5-7pm

9/22: 3rd grade Field Trip (Burn's Class) to Berryessa Library

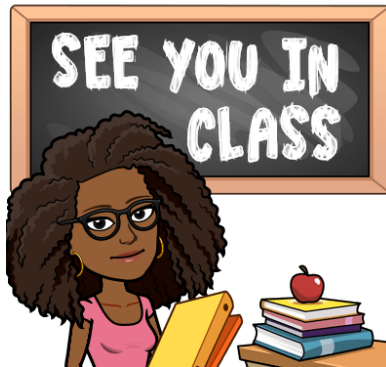
9/29: 3rd grade Field Trip (Pham and Choi's Class) to Berryessa Library

9/29: Early Dismissal Day- 1pm

10/2-10/6: Fall Break!!

Attendance Matters

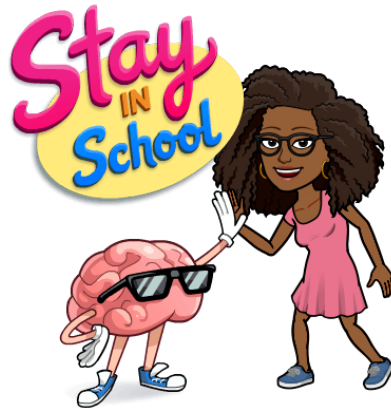
Please keep your child home communicate with the front reached at 408-923-1950 or School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, will be addressing chronic truancy throughout this together to ensure our benefit of attending school each day.



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-ot-c-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 superb weekend!!!!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire and Mrs. Kawasaki, 4th grade teacher
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