

9.29.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

We have made it to Fall break!!! I am sure that everyone is looking forward to this much needed time off. What plans do you have? Anyone traveling to someplace fun? Catching up on sleep? Taking a hike? Binge watching your favorite shows? Whatever you do, have fun and be safe. School will resume on Monday, October 9th. **School picture day is October 10. Please remember today is a minimum release day for Kinder -5th grade.**

Lions, Tigers and Bears...oh my!!! We had so many cuddly creatures on campus yesterday for Animal Day. Take a look below at Mrs. Choi's 2-3 Combo class posing with some of their furry friends.



In today's memo we will be covering the following main topics:

- Message from the District Nurse about Head Lice
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Independent Study explanation
- 3rd Grade Music Elective being offered
- PTA Spell a Thon and Trunk or Treat happening in October
- High 5 Fridays start today

Remember, if you are interested in running for School Site Council, please complete the simple application. Applications are **due by today, Friday, September 29th**. You can print the application or give the information in an email to me (Lblackshire@busd.net).

Once I receive the application, I will send out digital ballots and ask that everyone please vote.

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](#)

Message from the District Nurse about Head Lice



Berryessa Union School District--Health Services

What to know about Head Lice

Head lice are often unwelcome visitors at day care centers and schools. Head lice are tiny parasites that live in hair and feed on blood from our scalp. They mostly lay their eggs near the roots of the hair, close to the scalp which usually hatches within one week. The eggs laid by head lice are called nits. They multiply and spread quickly.

However they are fairly harmless and don't carry any diseases. Having head lice also isn't a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean living environment. They don't carry bacterial or viral diseases. By understanding more about how to treat & prevent head lice, you can be a part of promoting a comfortable and healthy place to learn.

Head lice are tiny, grayish-white 6-legged insects about this long (-). If they are filled with blood, they will look red. They do not have wings, so they cannot fly. They do not jump but they can move very fast. This makes it hard to find them in the hair. Nits are the eggs of the lice. They look like bits of dandruff in the hair but do not flake off when touched. They are stuck to the hair. They are about this size (').

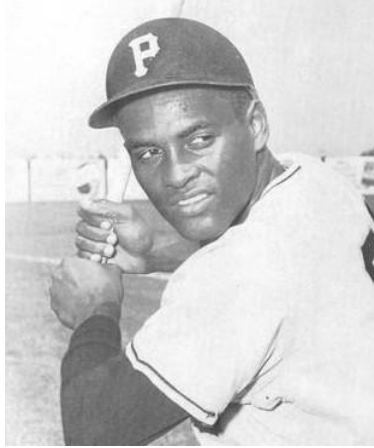
Lice are usually spread from child to child when sharing clothing, hats, scarves, combs, brushes, hair trims or helmets that have strands of hair with nits. Lice can also be passed when playing contact sports.

The SINGLE most important thing to prevent lice is to "Never Share What Touches the Hair." Teach every child to not share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, hair accessories, "scrunchies," helmets, headphones, or pillows. Additionally, parents could inform other parents of their child's closest

friends to check their children for lice since the children play together. Please check your child's hair often during the school year, especially if you have been informed of a lice concern or receive an exposure notice from school.



In this week's memo, we honor baseball great Roberto Clemente. He was a Puerto Rican baseball player who played 18 seasons in Major League Baseball. He was a right fielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was the first Caribbean and the first Latin-American player to be honored in the Hall of Fame. He was an All-Star for 13 seasons. In 1966, he was the most valuable player. He was also a two-time World Series champion. Learn more about this famous All-Star by clicking the video link [here](#).



Independent Study

Do you need to take a few days off in the middle of the school year? Need to visit a sick family member or go on a family getaway? Did you know that if your child has overall good attendance, you may be eligible to take what's called an Independent Study, which would excuse their absences for a 5-9 day period? It is an **official contract** between the Principal, Teacher, Parent and Student, stating that the parent is acting as the "teacher" for the duration of the contract and will ensure that all work is completed to get credit for the absences. To apply for an Independent Study, here are the steps:

- Apply in the office at least **two weeks in advance**
- The attendance clerk will check the form
- The Principal then approves or denies the request
- Once approved, the teacher then has 2 weeks to get all of the classwork together
- The work is due upon the end date of the contract (if work is not turned in that day, the contract is null and void and the absences will then be unexcused)
- Only ONE Independent Study contract is allowed per year



3rd Grade Music

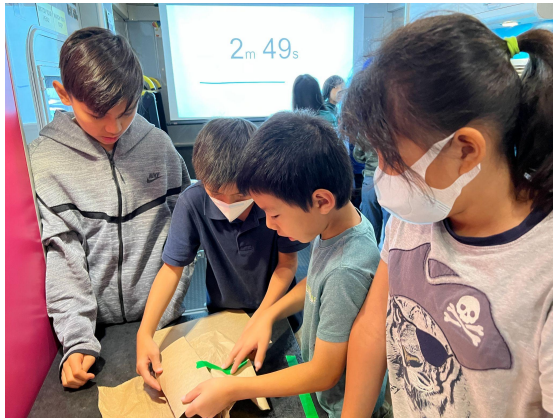
This year, 3rd graders will be offered the opportunity to take music classes. It is different this year, in that our music teachers will be offering Music Appreciation classes at the beginning of the year as opposed to starting with violins. They will learn the fundamentals, which also includes singing. They will then be introduced to all sorts of instruments, later in the year. The music teachers will be visiting the 3rd grade classrooms and speaking with the students, trying to encourage them to come to music class. Music classes are electives, they are not mandatory for students to attend. Classes will begin after Fall break.



Maker's Bus

Here are more pictures from the Maker's Bus that was here last week. Here are Mrs. Paddock's students enjoying the Maker's Bus.

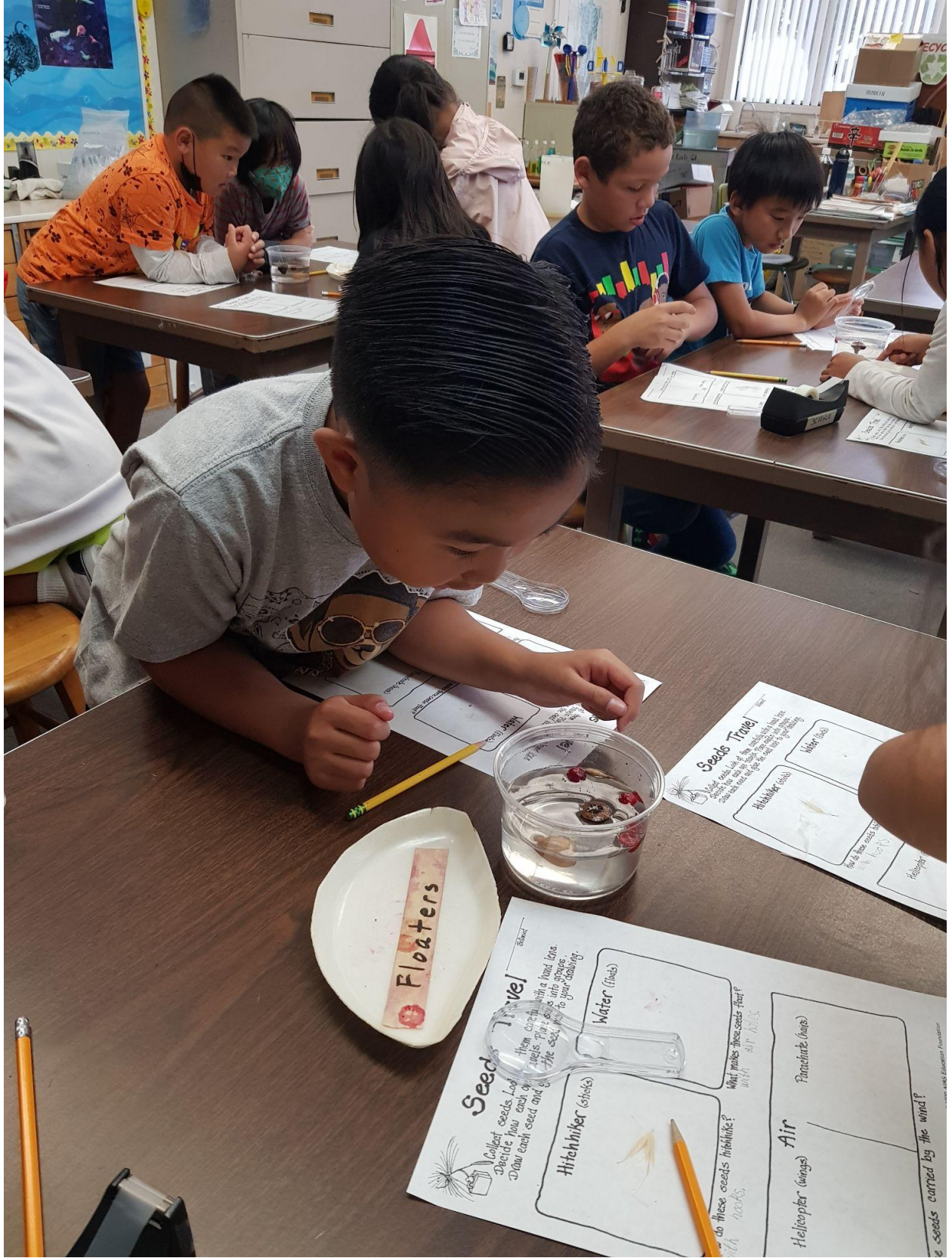




Science Lab

This week, the 5th graders modeled a food web and explored how plants and animals are connected. The 3rd graders tested how seeds can travel. First grade learned about spuds and planted potatoes.







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



PTA

Save the date!! The **Spell-a-thon** is happening in October! This is PTA's biggest fundraiser to raise funds for our school. Donation prizes include limited edition Ruskin swag and fun events! Flyers will be sent home in October, the spelling test will be held on October 27th, and all pledge donations are due by November 16th. More info to follow in October. Also, see below for a fun PTA sponsored Halloween event coming next month.

COME JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT



**Please come dressed in your best costume!
(NO GORE OR WEAPONS)
TEACHER PARKING LOT
Ruskin PTA Presents Trunk or Treat!
Go trick or treating out of trunks**

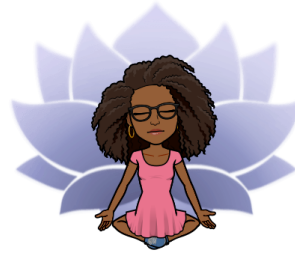
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
5:30-7:00 PM**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!
TO RESERVE A TRUNK SPOT
PLEASE EMAIL
BOARD@RUSKINPTA.ORG
CAN'T VOLUNTEER?
CANDY DONATIONS APPRECIATED.
THIS WILL BE A NUT FREE EVENT.**

**Enter our Pumpkin
Decorating Contest!
Admission is free!**

Click on the [link](#) for the flier





SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Happy High 5 Friday!! Hopefully you gave or received some High 5's at school today. If not, it's not too late. Come make some High 5 connections at pick up time! A great by-product of #SEL is that it not only creates the foundation for life-long learning but also stimulates the development of our most critical interpersonal skills; the ability to work collaboratively, show empathy for others, and communicate respectfully with diverse people (SEL Learning EDU).

Plus, social emotional learning impacts academic outcomes **for students of all backgrounds!**

A 2011 [meta-analysis](#) on the effectiveness of social emotional learning found students in schools with high-quality social emotional learning programs showed an average gain of 11% in academic achievements.

For every dollar schools invest in social emotional learning, they see an average [long-term return of 11 dollars](#) in their school and the wider community.

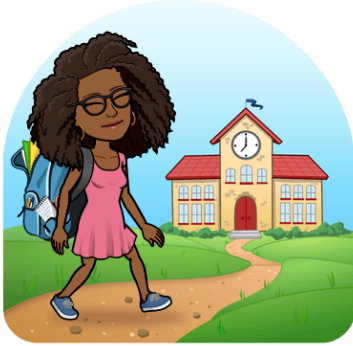
The earlier social emotional learning skills are developed, the better

According to [a study commissioned by the OECD](#) , teaching kindergarteners basic social and emotional skills “[can] have long-term academic benefits on students’ reading and vocabulary, including in high poverty schools, suggesting that SEL may assist in closing achievement gaps.”

Overall, students with strong social and emotional skills are:

- More engaged in learning
- Less likely to drop out of school
- Less likely to have behavior issues

- More confident and have higher self-esteem (Prodigy)



College Monday

This week's featured college is University of California, Riverside or UCR. Some fun facts about the school are:

- Our very own attendance clerk's son, Kasey, just started this week as a freshman. Congrats Ms. Kimberly!
- Average GPA is 3.83
- Acceptance rate is 65%
- First UC campus to offer a PhD in Native American history
- UCR offers 81 majors, 52 minors, 48 master's degrees and 42 PhD programs
- It is only one of 3 UCs to offer an undergraduate degree in Business Administration





REMINDERS

Upcoming Dates to remember:

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!!

10/10: School Picture Day

10/11: School Site Council, PTA meetings



Parents, please remember, 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
- 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

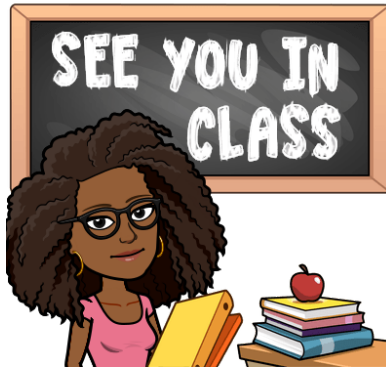


- Thank you for not parking in front of or in the neighbor's driveway
- Please do not double park OR park in the horseshoe
- Try to come early or walk or bike to school if possible
- Staff supervision of students begins at 7:50
- Please leave the premises once the bell rings so we may lock down the school
- Please do not let your children out in the middle of the street or the parking lots



Attendance Matters

Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, if you can contact the at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.



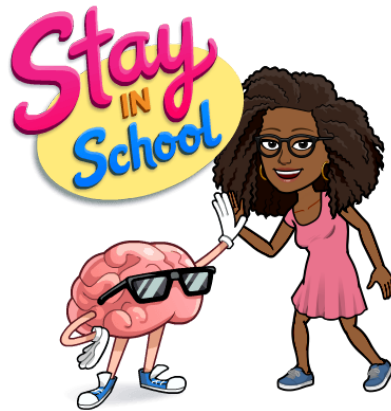
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[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[Espanol Truancy Video](#)

- Once you receive 3 unexcused absences or a combination of a "late" tardy (31 minutes or more late) and unexcused absences (3 total), you will receive a truancy notice.
- An additional truancy will require a meeting with the Principal, Social Worker

- Continued truancy may result in a meeting with the district attendance team. Here is a [link](#) with examples of excused vs unexcused absences. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Please be sure to call in your absences or email our attendance clerk, Miss Kimberly Yee, at kyee@busd.net.



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 School

 [Elementary Breakfast October 2023](#)

 [Elementary Lunch Menu October 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

Enjoy your week off !!!!!



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