



10.13.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

It's Friday the 13th!! What spooky fun are you getting into this weekend? Did you know that little is known about the origins of Friday, the 13th? While some believe 13 is an unlucky number, with some buildings not even having a 13th floor, there is very little evidence to support that unlucky theory. Did you know that there can not be more than 3 Friday the 13ths in any given calendar year, even in a leap year? Alfred Hitchcock, the Master of Suspense, was actually born on Friday the 13th. In Finland, Friday the 13th is observed as National Accident Awareness Day. Whatever you do this Friday the 13th, have fun and be safe.

Hope you enjoyed our **High 5 Friday**, right before the break. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Paddock for helping to greet students and families and hand out High 5's in the horseshoe area. We hope to recruit even more staff and special guests to help hand out High 5's on Fridays. It is a way for us to appreciate students, parents and staff, build community and welcome the weeknd.

This coming Thursday, October 19th, Ruskin will be joining over 3 million schools that will participate in the Great ShakeOut Earthquake drill. The students will Duck and Cover and then evacuate the building to their safety area outside. Hopefully you can practice with your family at home as well. This [video](#) gives some tips on how to prepare for an earthquake. Make sure you're ready !!

Parents, we are once again asking for your help with traffic safety. Parents are double parking, speeding, running across the parking lot with children and even leaving babies alone inside parked cars. Please do your part to keep EVERYONE safe. If you see something, report it. Take a picture of the license plate, call 311. Unfortunately the office is unable to manage all traffic situations and have even less authority over adults. But if we all do our part, we can ensure the safety of our community. Thank you.

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

- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Filipino American History Month
- PTA Spell a Thon and Trunk or Treat
- Book Fair
- Field Trips



This week brings National Hispanic Heritage Month to an end. We have only touched on a small fraction of the amazing accomplishments of Hispanics and Latinos to our country. There is so much more to explore with all of the rich creativity and diversity that the Hispanic and Latino cultures have to offer. Here is a [video](#) that shares some of what makes the culture so vibrant and rich. We celebrate the culture this month and everyday.



October also marks Filipino American History Month. In this month, we honor and highlight the invaluable contributions that Filipino Americans have given to our country. Filipino Americans are the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the U.S. and the first documented Asian people to arrive in the country. In October, celebrate the rich cultural legacy of Filipino Americans during Filipino American History Month.

The Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1992, but it was not until 2009 that the U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the U.S. Formal recognition followed years of campaigning and advocacy by numerous individuals and organizations.

Various states, counties, and cities in the U.S. have established proclamations and resolutions declaring observance of Filipino American History Month.

October 18, 1587 marks the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental U.S., in Morro Bay, California – a state that continues to be home to a large subpopulation of Filipino Americans.

In fact, Southern California has historically had the largest concentration of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the U.S. – with a storied and complicated history of marginalization in the state's economic, political and cultural realms.

October is also the birth month of Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong. Itliong partnered with Cesar Chavez to create the United Farm Workers (UFW) of America labor union. ([University of Washington website](#)) See this [video](#) discussing why recognition is important. As I often say, representation matters.



Field Trips

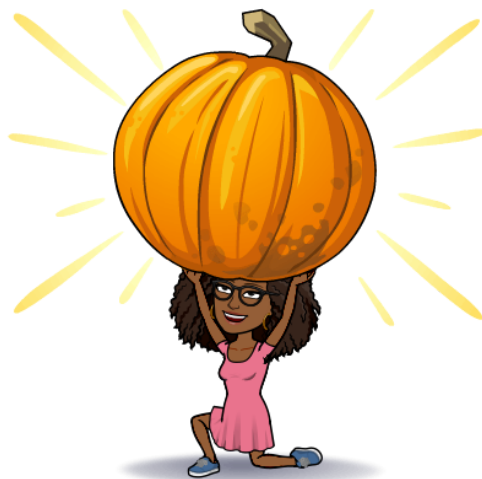
This week, three of our grade levels went on field trips. Fourth grade went to Levi's Stadium on Wednesday. At the stadium the kids got to explore hands-on activities in a technological environment.

The 2nd grade classes got to visit Spina Farms Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday. They got to ride the hay ride and train ride, play in the hay maze, and each pick out pumpkins to take home! It was also a fun day of learning about pumpkins and the pumpkin life cycle!

Here are a few fun facts about pumpkins the 2nd graders learned:

1. The bottom of the pumpkin is called the "belly button."
2. You can eat all parts of a pumpkin (although some parts may taste better than others!)
3. A pumpkin can have up to 500 seeds inside.
4. Bees are nature's helpers because they are responsible for pollinating the flowers on the pumpkin plant that eventually grow into pumpkins.

First Grade is going to a turtle farm today. They will be learning about the life cycle and habitats of turtles.









Mrs. Wilson and her class at Levi's Stadium





Mrs. Ouyang's 2nd grade class at the pumpkin patch



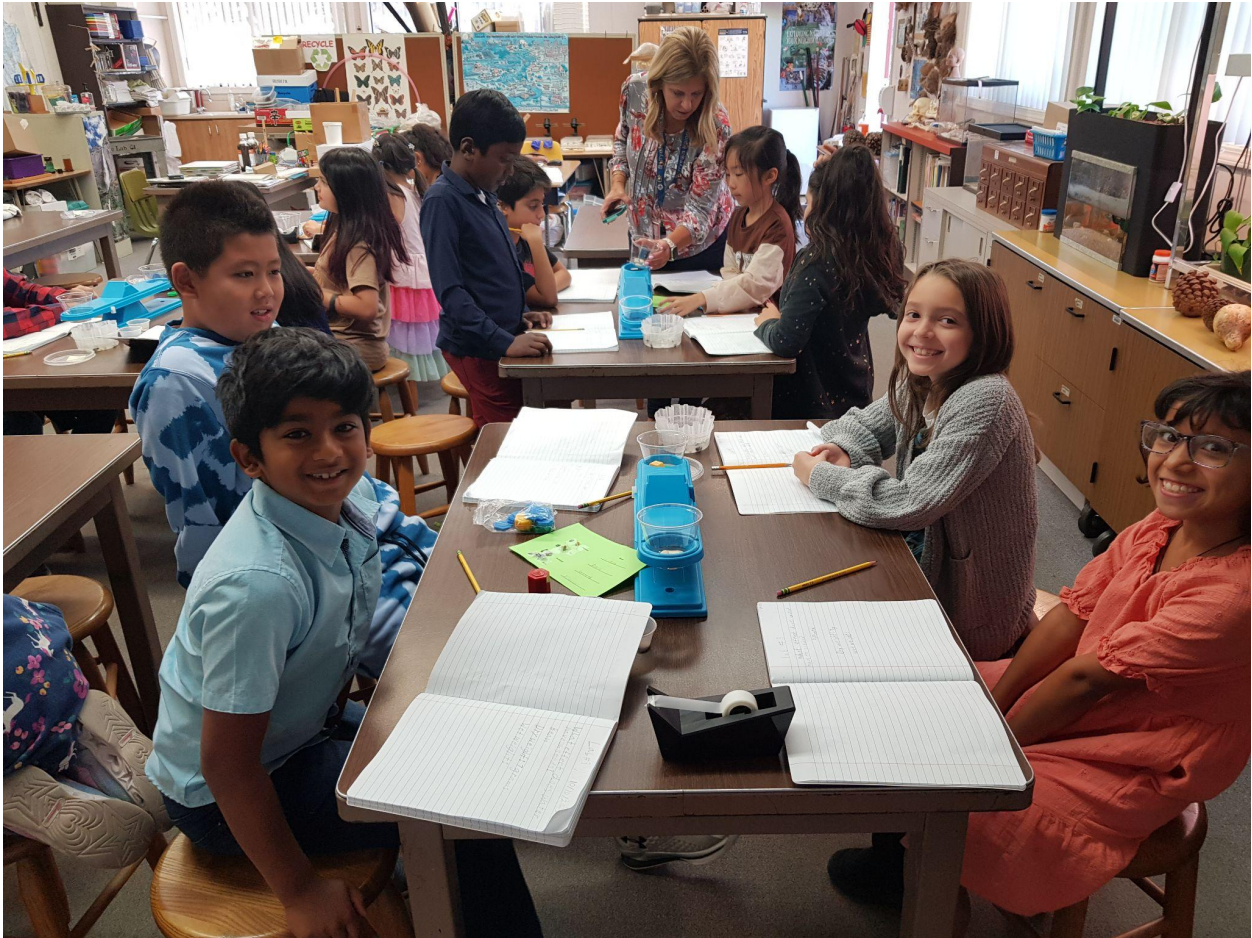
The Book Fair is Coming

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Ruskin from Monday, October 16th through Friday, October 20th. It will be open during recess and lunch for students. It will close at 2:30 daily, except for Thursday. Parents can come on **Thursday after school from 1 - 2pm**. TK & Kinder parents can come right after school any day. Parents, please note that utilizing the e-Wallet feature is the best way to go for your student. You can add money online and your child can shop without having to carry cash to school.

Science Lab

This week, 1st graders learned about what makes something alive. They compared living things and nonliving things. The 3rd graders experimented on how water affects seeds. They measured and calculated how much water a seed can absorb. Fifth graders made mini pizzas and traced how all food that we eat gets its energy from the sun.





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



PTA

Reminder... The **Spell-a-thon** is happening in October! This is PTA's biggest fundraiser to raise funds for our school. The spelling test will be held on October 27th. Also, PTA is sponsoring a **Trunk or Treat** event on Friday, October 27th. This is a safe way for the kids to get dressed up in their costumes and trick or treat for candy and treats. See the flier below for more information.

Ruskin PTA Presents

Trunk or Treat

ENTER OUR PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST!

COME JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

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

TEACHER PARKING LOT

PLEASE COME DRESSED IN YOUR BEST COSTUME!
(NO GORE OR WEAPONS)

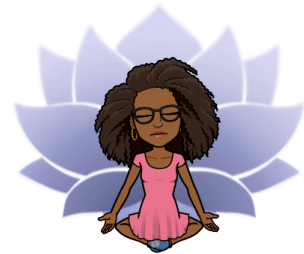
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!
TO RESERVE A TRUNK SPOT
PLEASE EMAIL
BOARD@RUSKINPTA.ORG

ADMISSION IS FREE!

CAN'T VOLUNTEER?
CANDY DONATIONS APPRECIATED.
THIS WILL BE A NUT FREE EVENT.



We need a few more cars to come out and decorate their trunk to pass out candy. Don't have access to a car? No worries! We can provide a table for you to decorate and you can pass out candy from there. Please email the PTA at Board@Ruskinpta.org if interested in participating, donating candy or volunteering.



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Happy High 5 Friday!! It's so good to see everyone getting into the High 5 spirit! Thanks to all the parents that joined in on the fun.

Do you ever wonder about the Ruskin Beeps that your child may have received? How did they earn it? Why are we giving out prizes ?

I wanted to share with you that staff will be getting retrained on an initiative called PBIS. It stands for **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support**. It is a program designed to frontload wanted behavioral expectations to the students and catch them being good, following the expectations. We then reward them with a Beep (paper ticket) and if they're name is drawn from their weekly classroom drawing, they get to come to the office and pick out a prize. All

school rules live under the umbrella of our 3 main school rules: **1. Be Safe 2. Be Respectful 3. Be Responsible**. This week, Ruskin's team (Myself, our Social Worker, Ms. Nicole, 5th grade teacher Ms. Wong and school secretary Ms. Melani) attended one of several training sessions that will be occurring during this school year. Here is a short [parent video](#) that describes the PBIS rewards system. Ours varies slightly but as a team, we may decide to make changes to our existing program.



College Week

COLLEGE WEEK
SEMANA UNIVERSITARIA
TUẦN ĐẠI HỌC

REGISTER HERE
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

WWW.SCCOE.ORG/CTE/PAGES/COLLEGE-WEEK.ASPX

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS
Checklists, tools, webinars and articles to help get through all steps of the college journey. How to start, which college, applying, paying, life while you're in college and what happens after college.

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS
Lesson plans, activities and webinars for all grade levels to engage students in the college going mindset.

Partners & Sponsors
Santa Clara County Office of Education, excite, SJSU, Berkeley, CSAC CALSOP, EAOB, DAC

2024
OCTOBER 23 - 27

This week, instead of focusing on one particular college, I wanted to share with you some resources regarding college. You know, it is never too early to start planning for college. Having regular conversations early on can normalize the expectations. October

23-27 is the Santa Clara County Office of Education's official **College Week**. Ruskin will be participating. The County Office will provide each student with a College Week pencil and bracelet. Each teacher received a bag and a poster to display. Classes will adopt a college to research and teachers will discuss their college experiences with their students. We encourage students to wear their college gear all week. The following resources are available for parents or use the QR code:

- [Santa Clara County Office of Education College Week Website](#)
- [Student Resources](#)
- [Parent Resources](#)
- [Parent Sessions](#)



Director of Student Services, Tom Carroll



One of our students with her mom



REMINDERS

Upcoming Calendar Events:

10/19 The Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill

10/23 - 10/27: College Week!

10/31: Halloween- Early dismissal- 1 pm!

11/1: P.D Day- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS!

11/8 SSC/ DELAC and PTA Meetings

11/8-11/17 Parent Teacher Conferences (Minimum days)

11/10 Veteran's Day No School

11/20-11/24 Thanksgiving Break No School

11/27 School resumes

11/28 Coffee with the Principal



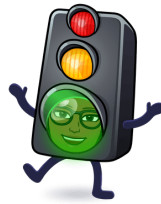
Parents, please remember, NOT to park in the horseshoe. It is made for cars to move in and out of quickly. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at Lblackshire@busd.net.

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

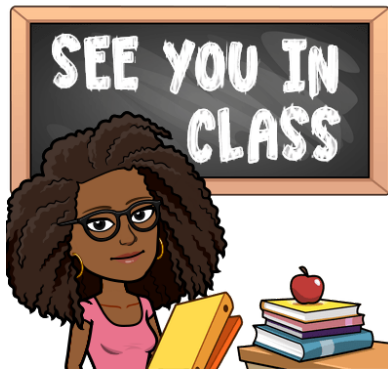


- Please do not park in the STAFF parking lot
- Thank you for not parking in front of or in the neighbor's driveway
- Please do not double park OR park in the horseshoe
- Try to come early or walk or bike to school if possible
- Staff supervision of students begins at 7:50
- Please leave the premises 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 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

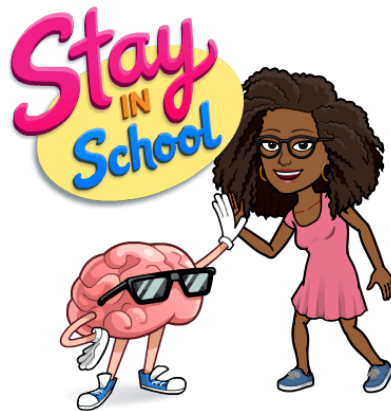
[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[Espanol Truancy Video](#)

- 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.



Independent Study Process

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

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 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