

10.20.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

I hope the week has been a good one for you. Did you give or get a High 5 today? If you come by the horseshoe Friday mornings, you can definitely get a High 5 Ms. Melani or myself. The kids are really getting into the High 5 spirit. Give or get a High 5 all day. Here's our awesome School Secretary Ms. Melani, myself and some students giving out High 5's and dancing the Cupid Shuffle trying to get the school into the Friday Spirit this morning.





We have had an eventful week here at Ruskin. We took part in the Great Shake Out, wore pink to Stand up to Cancer and had our awesome book fair here all week.

In continuing efforts to keep our students, staff and community safe, PTA has partnered with the Walk n' Roll program, through the city of San Jose. "Walk n' Roll is a program designed to increase the number of kids who walk and bike to school. We teach safe walking and biking skills, like crossing streets and why we use bike helmets. We also support events like Walk n' Roll Days, so kids can use those safety skills. Watch our [Street Safety Assembly!](#) Learn how you can get to school safely, whether you walk, roll, bike, or travel by car."

(<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/safety/walk-n-roll>)

Please note that **Tuesday, October 27 at 8:30 will be our Halloween Parade**. Parents are welcome to join us on the blacktop for the parade. That day is also early dismissal for K-5. **There is no school for students the next day Wednesday, 11/1.**

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

- Great California ShakeOut Drill
- National Filipino American History Month
- Upcoming PTA events
- Halloween Parade



Filipino American History Month

October is Filipino American History Month. As mentioned previously, during this month, we will be honoring and highlighting the invaluable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to this country. Here is a quick [video](#) of some Disney channel cast members celebrating their Filipino heritage. Fun fact....did you know that the beautiful singing voices of both Disney's Princess Jasmine and Fa Mulan from Lea Salonga?



Happenings this Week

This week, the students participated in the Great CA ShakeOut, dressed in pink to bring awareness to breast cancer, and experienced the Scholastic Book Fair. Here's a few pictures:



Great CA ShakeOut Drill



Book Fair



Mrs. Ouyang's class in pink



Ms. Burns and Mrs. Pham show their fighting pink spirit



Pink Power and Coan's pink cuties



Mrs. Callahan's Class showing their Spirit



Ms. Burns' class looking lovely in their pink



Mrs. Paddock's class sporting their pink



Chess Club

Chess Club is back!!!!!!The student run Ruskin Lunch Chess Club will start next Wednesday, October 25th. This Chess Club is for 2nd-5th graders and will meet on Wednesdays during lunch starting at 12:40pm. Registration is required. Registration forms with more information are available in the office. See flier below.

The Ruskin Lunch Chess Club presents to you

An illustration on a blue background featuring a yellow king chess piece, a green pawn, and a brown alarm clock with two faces. The clock faces show a black hand pointing to the 12 o'clock position.

CHESS Club

For 2nd to 5th grade - All talent levels welcome

FREE ENTRY-sign up required
accepting donations
Registration forms at the
office

Every Wednesday 12:40

[Chess Club Registration Form PDF](#)

Science Lab

This week, second grade observed caterpillars and learned about the life cycle of butterflies. First grade experimented on what plants need to grow. Fifth grade studied leaves and stem cross sections to see how water, nutrients, and food is transported within the plant.







Mrs. Paddock's class making pizzas in science lab last week

PTA News

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



Reminder... The **Spell-a-thon** is happening in October! Word lists and pledge forms were sent home this week. Spelling tests and pledge forms (but not money) are due by Friday, October 27th. There are lots of prizes available. Spell-a-thon info is also available on the PTA's website: <https://ruskinpta.weebly.com/spell-a-thon.html>.

PTA everychild, every voice SPELL-A-THON

Ruskin School PTA Fundraiser

- ★ **Friday, October 27th**: Test & Pledge Forms due
- ★ **Thursday, November 16th**: Pledge Donations due to be eligible for these prizes!

Prizes will be customized with a new Ruskin logo.
(Examples of prizes below.)

❖ \$20 total donations gets a limited edition Ruskin Frisbee!



❖ \$50 total donations gets a limited edition Ruskin Drawstring Sport Backpack!



❖ \$100 total donations gets a limited edition Ruskin Baseball Cap!



❖ \$300 total donations gets a limited edition Ruskin Folding Chair AND spray silly string AND do a STEM activity!



Don't forget the PTA Trunk or Treat event happening Friday, October 27th from 5:30-7:00.

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

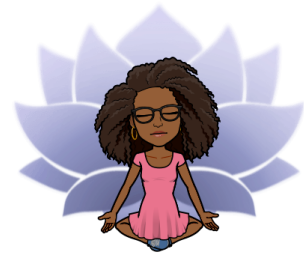
TEACHER PARKING LOT

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

CANT VOLUNTEER?
CANDY DONATIONS APPRECIATED.
THIS WILL BE A NUT FREE EVENT.



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Happy High 5 Friday!! Part of being a PBIS school (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) means explicitly teaching the positive behavior we want to see in students. There are many different ways to do this. Earlier this year when we had our rules assembly, we shared a video of some Ruskin students acting out the incorrect and correct ways to play on the playground. Other schools have come up with creative ways to teach expected behavior. Look at this silly [video](#) that a school made to teach the students the expected playground behavior.

College Week

Santa Clara County
Office of Education

COLLEGE WEEK
SEMANA UNIVERSITARIA
TUẦN ĐẠI HỌC

REGISTER HERE

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

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS
Checklist, tools, webinars and articles to help get through all steps of the college journey.
How to stress, which college, applying, paying, life when 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.

2024
OCTOBER 23-27

excite
SJSU
CSAC
D.C.

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:

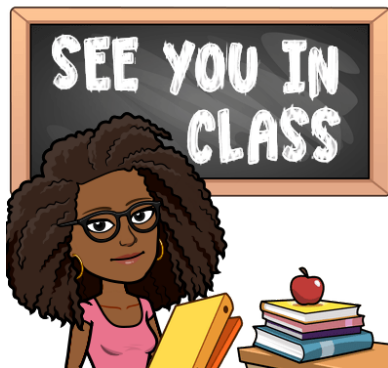
- Please do not park in the bus zone
- Please use the crosswalk near the staff parking lot
- Pull **ALL** the way forward in the horseshoe
- Please do not park in the STAFF parking lot
- Thank you for not parking in front of or in the neighbor's driveway
- Please do not double park OR park in the horseshoe
- 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.



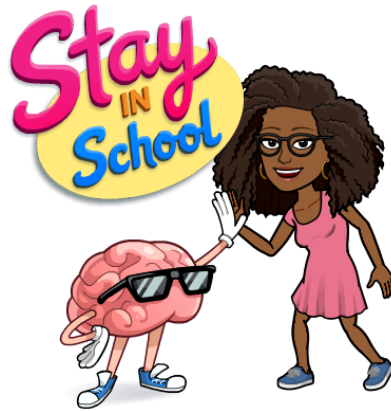
if they are ill and office. We can be you can contact the at Kyee@busd.net. I absenteeism and school year. Let's work students get the full

[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