



11.3.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

What an eventful week! The Halloween Parade was the highlight ! Thanks to all the parents and families that came out! We had a great turnout! I have included a bunch of pictures in this week's newsletter. We had lots of photographers out there that day. Please feel free to share with me via email. I will add more pictures to our future Weekly Memos as I receive them.

Set your clocks back an hour Saturday evening for Daylight Savings Time.
Remember it is Fall so fall back and enjoy the extra hour to sleep in.

Parent Teacher conferences are coming! By now, you may have received an invite to come meet with your child's teacher about how they are doing in school. It is a time to ask questions, talk about your child, collaborate with the teacher and create a plan of action. The national California Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has come up with a [Tip Sheet](#) to assist parents in preparing for their Parent Teacher conferences. This may be of help to you. Remember, due to Parent Teacher conferences, we will be on a **minimum day schedule beginning Wednesday, November 8th**. There is no school next Friday, November 10th due to Veteran's Day. The schedule is as follows:

Minimum Day Schedule for the next Two Weeks

- November 8 -Parent Teacher Conferences begin **Minimum Day**
- November 9 Regular Minimum Day **Office closing early at 1:15**
- November 10 -No School Veterans Day
- November 13-17- PT Conferences **Minimum days**

Lastly, there will be **no Flag Pole this coming Monday** due to a student Traffic Safety assembly put on by the Walk N Roll program through the City of San Jose. We will begin the first assembly at 8:30 AM.

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

- Dia de Los Muertos
- College Monday
- Halloween Parade Pictures
- Spell A Thon update



Dia de Los Muertos



“Skeletons are scary, right? Not if you're celebrating Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This lively Mexican celebration helps families honor their ancestors. Day of the Dead combines the ancient Aztec custom of celebrating ancestors with All Souls' Day, a holiday that Spanish invaders brought to [Mexico](#) starting in the early 1500s. The holiday, which is celebrated mostly in Mexico on November 1 and 2, is like a family reunion—except dead ancestors are the guests of honor. Day of the Dead is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory.” (*National Geographic for kids*). Here are a couple videos to learn more about this beautiful celebration. [What is Day of the Dead?](#) [Dia de los Muertos Disney](#)

Halloween Parade

Thank you to everyone for a great Halloween Parade. The kids were so adorable with all of their creative costumes. The dance party afterwards was really fun! Those babies can groove! It was so cool to see everyone out there doing the Cupid Shuffle. Hmm...what dance will we do next year? We shall see! A big thanks to PTA for all the set up help. A special thanks to our local fire station for coming through and providing glow sticks for all the kiddos! There were so many photographers out that day. Please share your photos with me and I will continue to post over the next few weeks if there are additional pictures submitted. Thank you so much!



Uno card deck aka Ruskin Staff



Staff



Fire fighters and office staff



Noon Duty Supervisor, Ms. Rosena and Wednesday and Barbie



Office staff, Speech teachers and Social Worker

PTA News

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

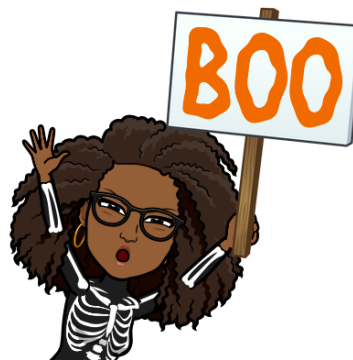


Trunk or Treat

We had an awesome turnout for the PTA's Trunk or Treat event. It was a packed house! There were 28 cars and 38 pumpkin entries. Man, you all are super creative! You all made it hard to judge the best cars and pumpkins. They were **ALL** so creative! It was great to see so many kids and families out on such a fun night. Thank you for another fun filled event. Parents, please see the message from PTA that was sent out earlier this week.

"Parents - Please inspect your children's treat bags. It has come to our attention that toys passed out during the event contain small parts that are not suitable for children under age 4. Please continue to monitor your children. Thank you and stay safe.
Ruskin PTA"

Here are some pictures from the event.





1st Place Pumpkin Carving Contest Winner



2nd place Pumpkin Carving Contest Winner













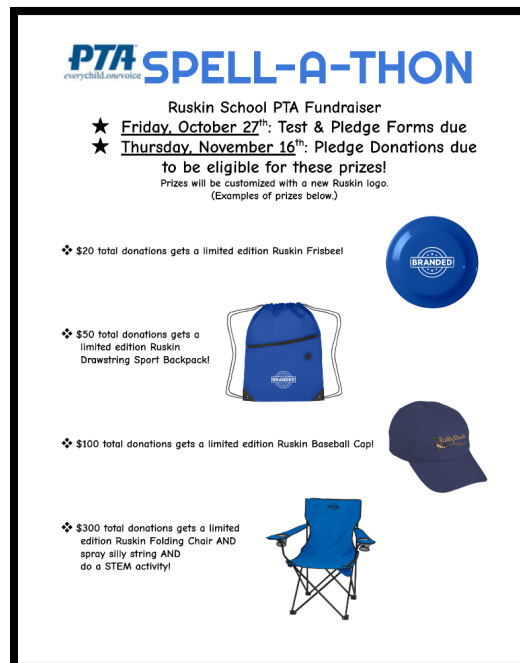




Trunk or Treat Winner

Spell A Thon

Students did a great job studying for the Spell-a-thon test! Pledge forms and corrected tests will be sent home this week for students to collect pledge money. Students can still ask family and friends for more donations to receive more prizes. All Spell-a-thon donations are due by Thursday, November 16th. Please write your student's name and teacher's name for the donation to be eligible for prizes. Go to www.RuskinPTA.org to donate and support programs at Ruskin. Thank you for your support!







PTA **SPELL-A-THON**
everychildLovevoice

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! 

Please join PTA for their upcoming meeting next Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30. Our meetings are virtual. Here is the info to join:

Zoom ID : 467 462 4844

Passcode: 755771

School Site Council

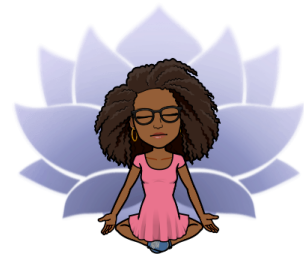
Before you log onto the PTA meeting at 6:30, come join us at the School Site Council virtual meeting at 5:30. We will be discussing the School Plan for the year. Join us for your opportunity to ask questions and give input. We still need more parents to join to have a voice in how we spend our dollars, what programs we purchase and how we support our students. Please contact me if you are interested. Currently I have only 1 parent on the ballot. Here is the link to join:

SSC/DELAC

Wednesday, November 8 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video link: <https://meet.google.com/ybq-uudu-jdz>



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Why do we teach Socio -emotional learning? Don't we have enough academics to cover ? Why should you focus on this with your own kids?

- **Social-emotional learning (SEL) helps kids work on things like coping with feelings and setting goals.**
- **It also helps with interpersonal skills like working in teams and resolving conflicts.**
- **SEL can help kids who learn and think differently talk about their challenges and build self-esteem.**

College Monday

This week's featured college is California State University Los Angeles. It is located in the heart of LA. Here are some quick facts about the school:

- Opened in 1947
- Established the nation's first Chicano Studies program in 1968
- Their mascot is an eagle named Eddie
- CSULA offers 142 Bachelor's Degrees, 122 Master's degree programs and 4 doctoral programs
- CSULA has an Early Entrance Program (EEP) in the Honors College for gifted students and accepts students as young as 12 years old
- Ms. Blackshire's mom graduated from here

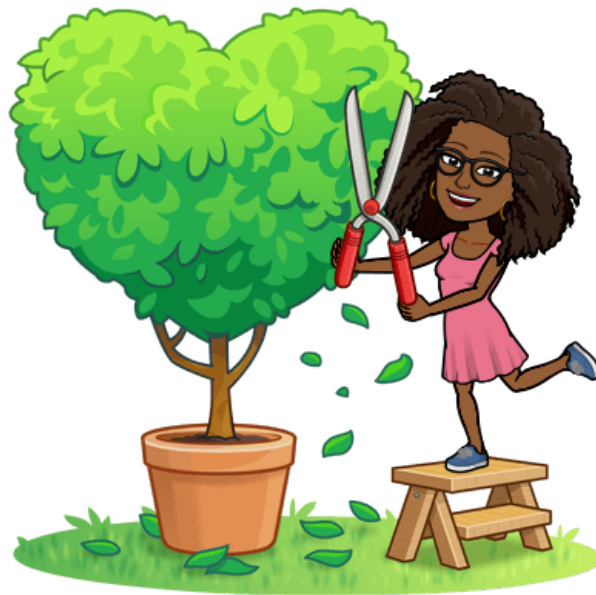


Cal State Los Angeles

REMINDERS

Ruskin School Garden Community Work Day

Please “save the date” on your calendars. On Nov. 11th, from 9:00-11:00 AM, RuskinFIT will be sponsoring a community work day in our school’s garden. You and your child are both invited to come and join other volunteers from the California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF) in preparing our garden to become an outside classroom! We will need you to come with your gloves, water bottles, hats, shovels, wheelbarrows and a spirit of community service. Looking forward to a fun time together! Stay tuned for announcements about the exciting plans we have for the future of the garden!



Lost and Found



Our Lost and Found cart is overflowing! Our Leadership students have been fast at work collecting and organizing lost items. If you have lost a jacket, sweatshirt, hoodie, or other item of clothing, please come check the Lost and Found cart located in the courtyard in front of the office. It's getting colder, so come and claim your nice, cozy clothing!

Upcoming Calendar Events:

11/8 SSC/ DELAC and PTA Meetings

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

11/10 Veteran's Day No School

11/16: Pledges/Money due to be eligible for prizes!

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



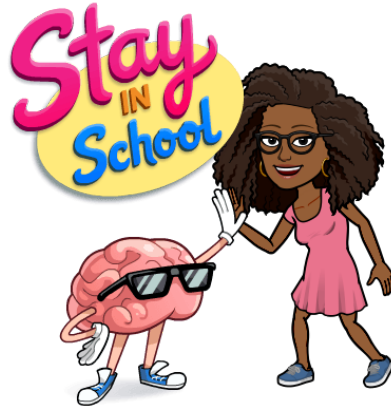
Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our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

[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 [based on Ed Code EC Section 48260](#). 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 Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto edjoin.org and look under Berryessa Union School District. 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 November 2023](#)

 [Elementary Lunch Menu November 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