



11.17.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? It has been a busy one here with Parent Teacher Conferences. **We thank PTA and ALL of the families that provided the delicious treats to the staff during conference time.** It was really appreciated!!!

Please remember that **there is no school next week** in observance of Thanksgiving. I am so thankful for my Ruskin School Community. Take some time this holiday season to reflect on what you are thankful for. **School resumes on Monday, November 27th.**

Last Friday, we had a day off due to the observance of Veteran's Day. This is the day when we celebrate and honor those who have served in the military. [Here](#) is a kid friendly video discussing why we celebrate our fantastic veterans.

Monday was World Kindness Day. Teachers guided students in activities that showed ways in which they can be kind to others. We hope you felt a little more kindness on that day.

This past weekend, many of the families in our Ruskin community celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance" (Wikipedia). Diwali is celebrated over five days. Some of the things people do during Diwali is clean their homes, decorate their homes with clay lamps, gather with family for yummy food and fireworks and visit with family and friends. Here is a [video](#) to learn more about this beautiful celebration. Thank you to all the families that shared their Diwali pictures.







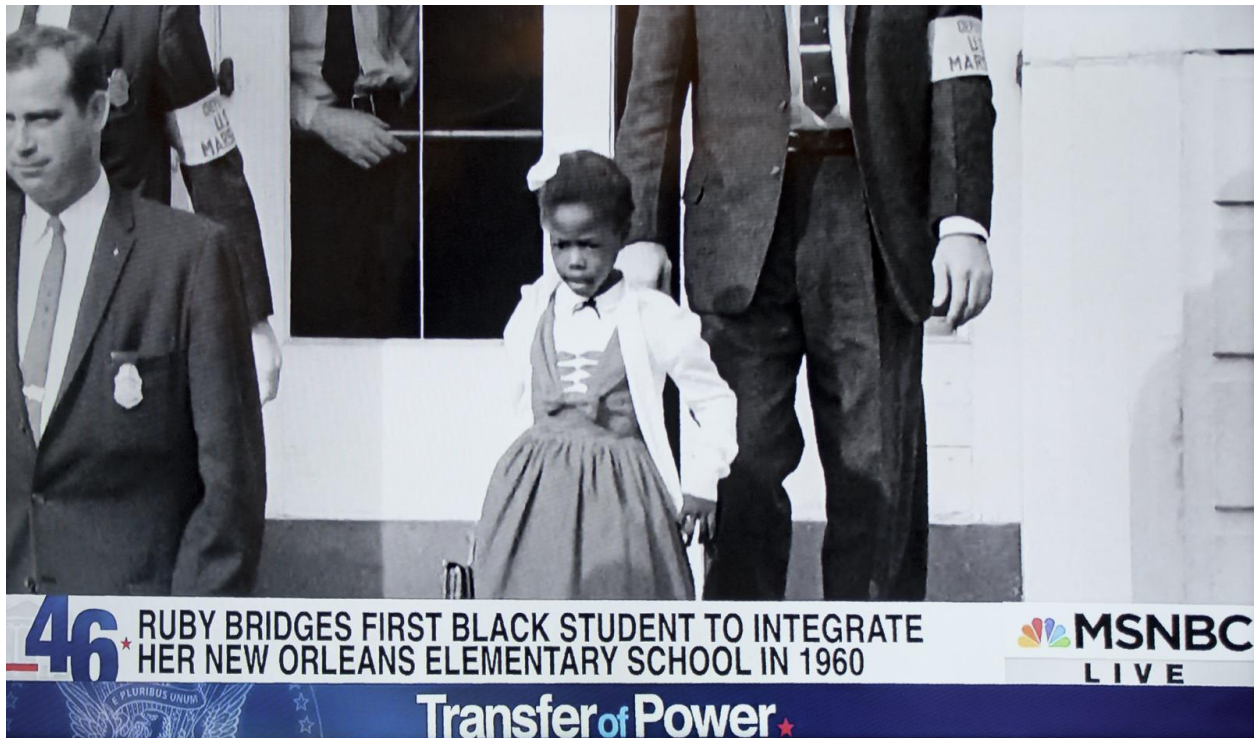




In today's memo we will be covering the following main topics:

- Diwali
- Walk at School Day/ Ruby Bridges Day
- Walk N Roll Assembly
- Ruskin Math
- College Monday

Ruby Bridges Day/ Walk at School



In California, Tuesday, November 14th was Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. On this day, we celebrate the brave little 6 year old girl, Ruby Bridges, who in 1960, was escorted to school by four federal marshals, in the face of an angry mob. She endured this for an entire school year. She was the first Black student to attend the previously all- white school, Frantz Elementary School located in New Orleans, Louisiana. I read this book to Mr. Lee's kindergarten class. It is called [The Story of Ruby Bridges](#). You may show this video and the book is read aloud to students. I discussed with the kids about how scary it must have been for Ruby to attend school when almost NO ONE

wanted her there. The other parents wouldn't even let their kids attend school while Ruby was present. She was at school with no other students. Instead of being angry at them, she prayed that they would be forgiven for their actions.

Mr. Lee and Mrs. Pham arranged a "Walk AT School" event where students walked around campus and visited different stations that had a message about this historic event. We thank them for bringing this event to our school.



Mr. Lee's class



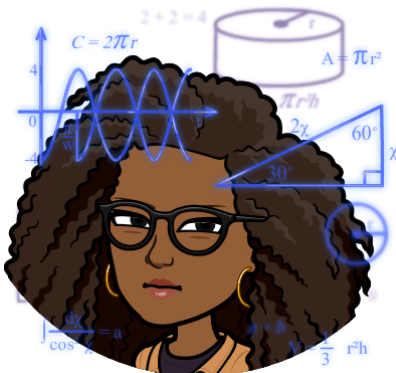
Mrs. Pham's class



Walk N Roll Traffic Safety Assembly

Last Monday, November 6th, PTA invited the City of San Jose Walk N Roll Program to come out and do a traffic safety assembly for our students. As you know, we have had increasingly bad driving behaviors near the school. Having this assembly is another layer of protection in keeping our students safe. The students learned the safest ways to cross the street, how to safely ride a bike, how to properly wear a helmet and other traffic safety rules. Thank you for doing your part in keeping the students and community safe by driving safely and obeying all traffic safety rules. **Walk N Roll will be our special guest at the next Coffee With the Principal Tuesday, 11/28 at 4 PM.**



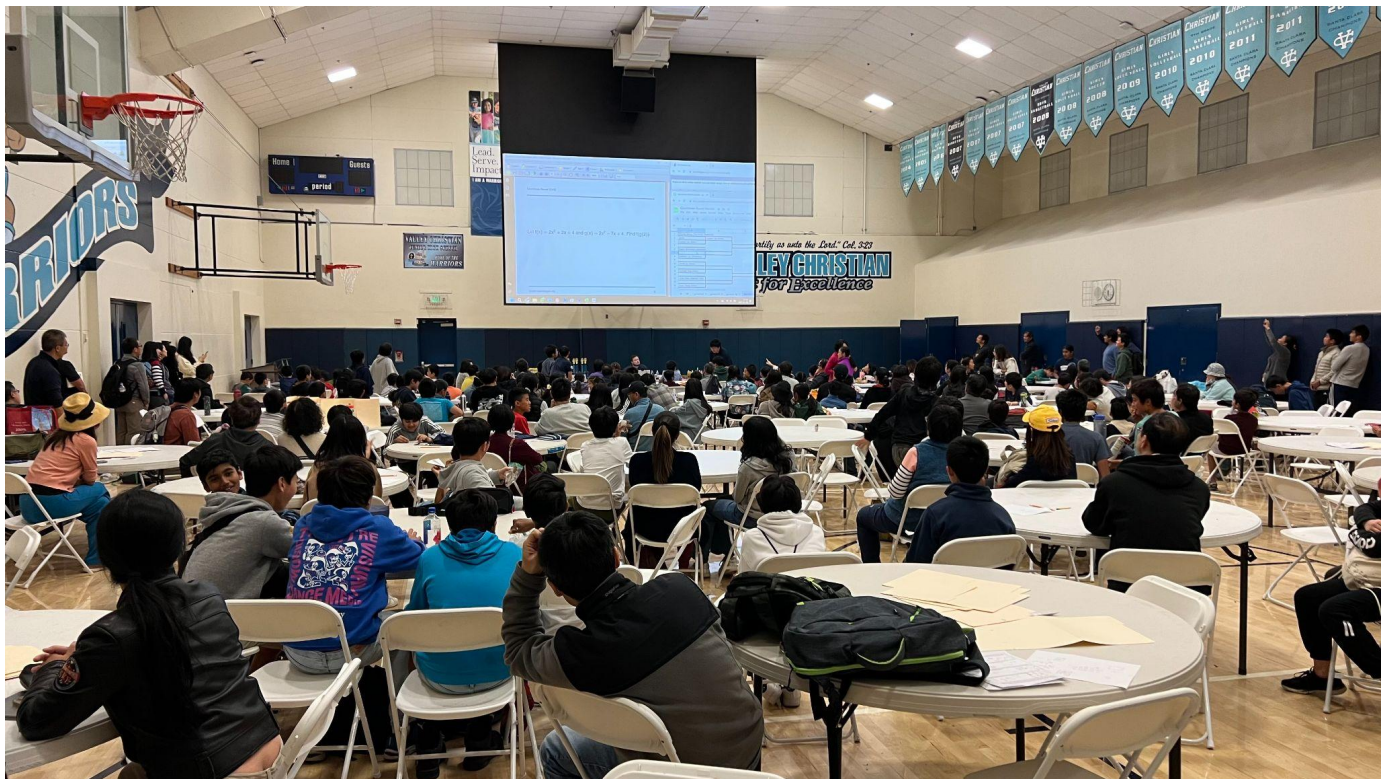


Ruskin Math League Winners

This past weekend, our Ruskin Elementary team won 2nd place in the Math League competition held at Valley Christian School. Twenty nine elementary schools in Silicon Valley participated in this event, and the first place winner was Harker Academy.

For the individual part, **Eli Zhang won the 2nd place, Caroline Guan won the fifth place, and Tiffany Han won the sixth place.** They had great teamwork and did a really good job! Huge congrats! We are SO proud of you!!







Congratulations!

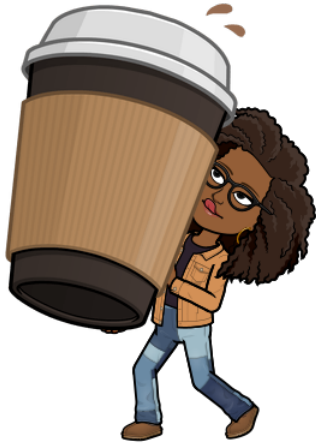


Ruskin Chess Club

Did you know that Ruskin has its very own Chess Club? It was created by students and is operated by students. They meet on Wednesdays during lunch time. The club is open to students in 2nd through 5th grade. Registration is required. Come check them out!







Coffee With the Principal

Please join us for our next Coffee with the Principal on Tuesday, November 28th at 4PM. **Our special guest will be the City of San Jose Walk N Roll program.** We will discuss traffic safety and all of the other things that the Walk N Roll program addresses. Here is the link to the meeting:

<https://meet.google.com/dhr-egoi-gwz>

School Site Council

Help!!!! 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 awesome parent on the ballot. Our next meeting is January 10, 2024. Here is the link to join:

SSC/DELAC

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pgr-xfjq-reb>

PTA News

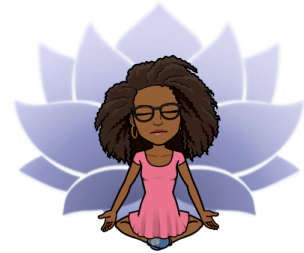
PTA Membership (Totem Website \$10+\$1fee)



Spell A Thon

Thank you for all of your support and donations with Spell A Thon. The forms and donations were due yesterday. Go to www.RuskinPTA.org to continue to donate and support programs at Ruskin. Winners will be announced after Thanksgiving Break. Thank you for your support!





SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



With Thanksgiving fast approaching, let's talk about gratitude and being thankful. What is Gratitude? The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

Expressing gratitude is associated with a number of mental and physical benefits. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, enjoy good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

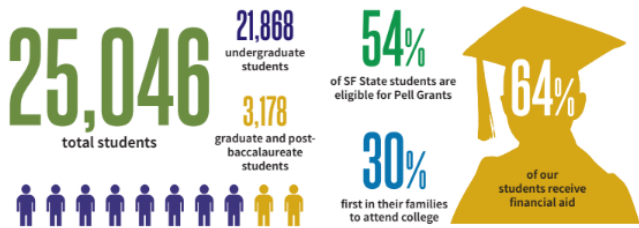
Why teach children Gratitude? Thankful people are usually more optimistic and better able to cope with stress. Gratitude fosters more positive emotions and a better attitude, including at school. Thankful people are usually more optimistic and better able to cope with stress. Gratitude fosters more positive emotions and a better attitude, including at school.

College Monday

This week's featured college is California State University San Francisco. It is located on the southside of San Francisco. Here are some quick facts about the school:

- SFSU has approximately 25,000 students
- 64% are eligible for financial aid
- 39% of their student population is Latinx
- They have 12 Division II Teams
- They have 83 Bachelor Degrees offered
- Their mascot is the Gators

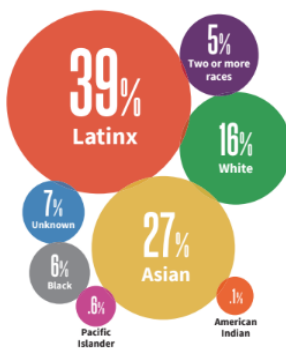
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY



STUDENTS

♀ 56% WOMEN ♂ 43% MEN 🌈 .004% NON-BINARY

STUDENT ETHNICITY



bachelor's degrees offered, with 41 areas of concentration



residential student communities available



international students, 4% of the Fall 2022 student population

TOP 10 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- 1 Psychology
- 2 Computer Science
- 3 Business Administration — Marketing
- 4 Communication Studies
- 5 Criminal Justice Studies
- 6 Cinema
- 7 Business Administration — Management
- 8 Business Administration — Accounting
- 9 Kinesiology — Exercise/Movement
- 10 Business Administration — Finance

PERFECT LOCATION

The 144-acre main campus is on the southwest side of San Francisco, less than two miles from the Pacific Ocean.

Additional Sites:
Romberg Tiburon Center: 52.7 acres
Sierra Nevada Field Campus: approx. 7.1 acres
Downtown Campus: approx. 15,580 sq. ft.



MASCOT

The Gator (alligator). Selected by students in 1931, it was originally spelled with an "er" — Golden Gaters — a play on words to emphasize San Francisco State's location.

ATHLETICS

12 DIVISION II TEAMS



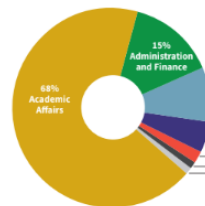
MEN: baseball, basketball, cross country, soccer, track & field, and wrestling

WOMEN: basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, track & field, and volleyball

AFFILIATION:
NCAA Division II, California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) and Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) affiliated member in wrestling



MONEY MATTERS



2022-2023 BUDGET

Total: \$358,427,487



\$158 MILLION
2022-2023 Endowment

A CULTURE OF GIVING
Gifts: \$21 million

Part of the California State University (CSU), the largest four-year public university system in the U.S.

SF State is among the most diverse universities in the U.S. —Wall Street Journal

Named an Equity Champion for Higher Education for its work with Latinx transfer students.





Ruskin School Garden Community Work Day

On Saturday, November 11th, students, staff and community members, along with the California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF) worked in the garden here at Ruskin, sponsored by our RuskinFit program. Besides beautifying our school, there was a sense of community being created during this time. Thank you to all that were involved in this event !



REMINDERS

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! **Clothing items will be donated this afternoon.**

Upcoming Calendar Events:

11/27 School resumes

11/28 Coffee with the Principal Special Guest Walk N Roll

11/30: Spirit Day: Crazy Day

12/5: Make-up Picture Day

12/7-12/8: PTA Holiday Boutique
12/21 Pajama Day



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



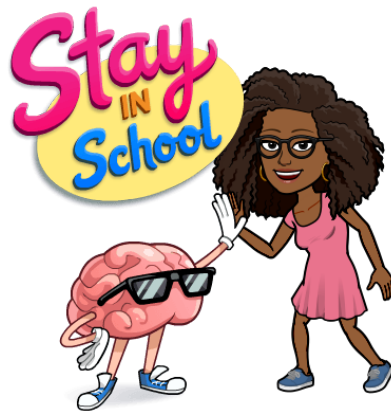
Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our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

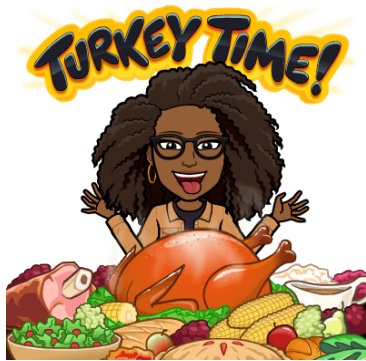
- Families are strongly encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced price meals in order to increase funding for school programs and possibly qualify for other food benefits and discounts, e.g., afterschool programs, utilities and internet.

- 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

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Enjoy your week off !!!!! See you back on Monday, November 27th.

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