



12.1.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

Welcome back! How was your week off? Did you catch up on some sleep, do some Black Friday shopping, binge watch some shows, read a good book or spend some quality time with family? Whatever you did, I hope you are well rested and ready to tackle the last few weeks of 2023.

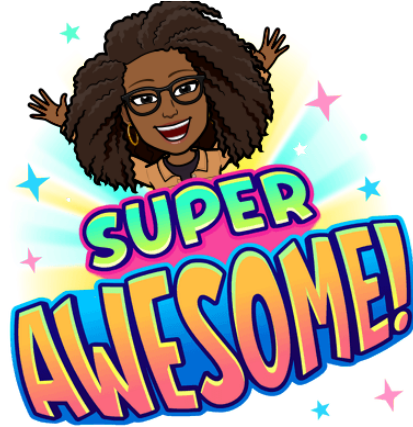
As we leave the fall weather of November and welcome in wintry December, let us be reminded that last month we celebrated and gave thanks for many things. As you know, Thanksgiving was one of the big holidays last month. It was also Native American Heritage Month. We honor the Native Americans whose land we are so blessed to be upon. Learn more about some of the contributions of Native Americans in this cool [video](#).

This past Thursday was Crazy Day Spirit Day. The kids wore their clothes backwards, had mismatched shoes, wild hair and all sorts of crazy looks! Look at some of our cutie pies!



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

- Native American Heritage Month
- Crazy Day Spirit Day
- Walk N Roll Safety Presentation
- College Monday
- Science Lab



## Walk N Roll

At Tuesday's Coffee with the Principal, Winnie Gee, from the City of San Jose's Walk N Roll program, was our special guest. She thoroughly explained the traffic safety program and all that it has to offer and provide for schools. Some of the things that the program offers is:

- Incentives to encourage students and parents to walk or bike to school
- Park a block, walk a block. Parents park a block away and walk the rest of the way to school
- Viva Escuela - a before school community event where streets are shut down and families walk or bike to school. See the [video](#) of this event at one of our district schools.
- Links to report traffic violations around the school or request enhanced traffic safety around the school (parking enforcement, request crosswalk updates, etc).
  - [Parking Compliance](#)
  - [Traffic Enforcement Request:](#)



## PTA News

**Penguin Patch is coming!!!** Next Thursday and Friday, 12/7 and 12/8, the PTA will be having their annual Holiday Boutique. Information sheet and envelopes will go out early next week. PTA is Looking for **district approved volunteers/ parents** to help PTA with this event. Thank you.



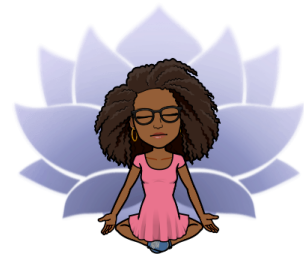
**PTA Membership**  
(Totem Website \$10+\$1fee)



## SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Acceptance and Diversity are important to developing Social Awareness. Social awareness is a skill that helps children understand the world around them. Acceptance is the art of appreciating things for what or whom they are; including what makes things different (diverse) or unique.



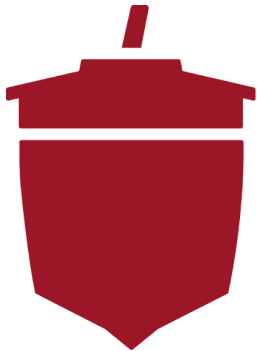
### **Why is it important to teach children about Acceptance and Diversity?**

The world is full of people, places, experiences, and things that are different. It is important for children to learn about and accept differences amongst one another. Whether it be how they look, where they are from, what they like or don't like, their strengths, as well as the things maybe they need to work on. Acceptance is important to making and keeping friends, being a good classmate, and citizen; here at school and out in the community. Next week I will share ways to teach children diversity and acceptance.

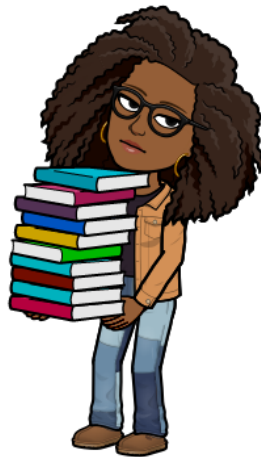
## College Monday

This week's featured college is Foothill Community College. It is located in Los Altos Hills, here in Northern California. It is part of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. Foothill College is one of the California Community Colleges that offers **free tuition from the California Promise Program**. In order to qualify, **you must be a California resident, be a full-time student, be a first-time student**. Here are some facts about Foothill Community College :

- Founded in 1957
- Offers 79 Associate Degrees
- Serves approximately 14,000 students
- They have football, basketball, Soccer, Swimming and Tennis teams
- Their school colors are scarlet, black and white
- The campus was designed to look like a neo-Japanese garden
- Their mascot is Fotsie the owl

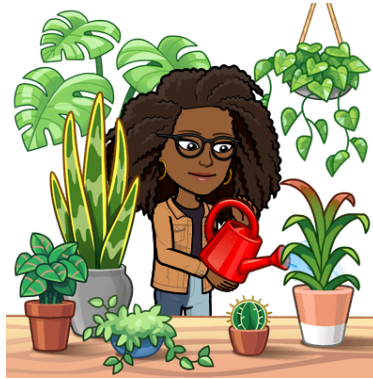


# FOOTHILL COLLEGE





## Science Lab



This week, the 1st Grade classes learned about the water cycle and made terrariums. The 2nd graders made observations about rocks and used screens to separate river rocks, The 3rd graders dissected a squid and learned about its body parts.







# REMINDERS

## Upcoming Calendar Events:

- 12/5: Make-Up Picture Day
- 12/7: 12/8: PTA Holiday Boutique
- 12/7: Staff Meeting
- 12/11: Earthquake/Fire Drill (with ICS 4 Schools)
- 12/14: Prep Day
- 12/14: Music Concert- 5pm
- 12/21: Prep Day
- 12/21: Spirit Day - PJ Day
- 12/22 - 1/5: Winter Break (Woo!)

## 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!





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](mailto: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



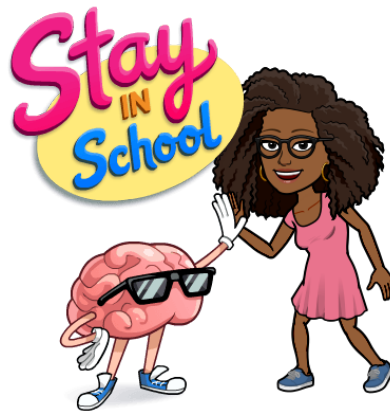
Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at [kyee@busd.net](mailto:kyee@busd.net). I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work 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](mailto: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](http://www.mysunshineschool.com)

408-839-8366

Right At School (Room E1)

[www.Rightatschool.com](http://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](https://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 December 2023](#)

 [Elementary Lunch Menu December 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

### Office Staff

**Office Hours** 7:30-3:30

**Office Phone** 408-923-1950

**Principal:** LaKeisha Blackshire

[LBlackshire@busd.net](mailto:LBlackshire@busd.net)

**School Secretary:** Melani Montez

[MMontez@busd.net](mailto:MMontez@busd.net)

**School Clerk:** Kimberly Yee [KYee@busd.net](mailto:KYee@busd.net)



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire  
Principal