



12.8.23

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

Happy High 5 Friday and Happy Hanukkah!!! As we get into this wintery December, we have multiple holidays that are celebrated. Yesterday began the start of Hanukkah. “Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival.” (Brittanica Kids) It celebrates the miracle of the candles burning for 8 days straight, while only having oil for one day. There are many customs that people partake in during this celebration. Learn more by looking at this short [video](#). I encourage you to learn more about this celebration by going online, visiting your local library or visiting a Hanukkah celebration.

Parents, we want to hear from you!! How do you feel when you walk into the front office? Is it a warm welcoming environment? Do you feel like your voice is heard? Do you feel a sense of community or belonging? The front office is looking for ways to improve your experience when you visit us. We have been working hard to spruce up our office and enhance the feeling of belonging parents and visitors experience when they walk through the door. Our School Community Liaison, Ms. Kimberly has been working hard decorating our office to help create that feeling. **Please help us by completing this short survey by utilizing the QR code below.** We appreciate your

feedback, suggestions and support. What we really want to know is, “**How may we serve you today?**”



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

- Walk N Roll News
- Penguin Patch
- Socio Emotional Learning
- College Monday
- Science Lab

Walk N Roll

Please see the email below from Winnie Gee from the City of San Jose Walk N Roll Program and their newsletter in multiple languages:

Hi everybody,

I hope this email finds you in high spirits as the holiday season approaches!

In this month's newsletter, we want to emphasize the importance of staying safe during the upcoming break. To help you navigate this festive season safely, we've put together some valuable safety tips that will come in handy for your holiday adventures, unique gift ideas for the holidays, and getting into the holiday spirit!

Winterfest

is back at the San Jose Public Library. They have a fantastic lineup of free events all winter long – perfect for keeping yourself and your family entertained during the holiday break!

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support throughout this year. We're grateful to have you as part of our Walk n' Roll Schools community. Thank you for choosing us as your partner in promoting safe walking and biking!

Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday break filled with love and laughter.

In good health,

Winnie

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Winnie Gee, MPA

Transportation Specialist | Walk n' Roll Program

City of San José, Dept. of Transportation

200 E. Santa Clara St, 8th Fl, San Jose, CA 95113

C: 510-501-8133

E: Winnie.Gee@sanjoseca.gov

W: sanjoseca.gov/walknroll



[Walk N Roll Newsletter English](#)

[Walk N Roll Newsletter Vietnamese](#)

[Walk N Roll Newsletter Spanish](#)

Here are the 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 started yesterday and continues today!!! Thank you to PTA for putting this event together for our kiddos. How much fun the kids had shopping for their friends and families!



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



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



Last week we talked about the importance of Acceptance and Diversity. This week, I am sharing some ways in which to teach children Acceptance and Diversity.

How to explain acceptance and diversity to your child:

Share with them the importance of accepting others; ask them to “Imagine that person is you”

Explain that “differences may not be physical; Differences show up in many ways. The important factor is that we are all human. Teach young children that everyone is unique and should be appreciated and accepted.”

What can parents do? Talk about it! ask them questions like:

What do you think acceptance and diversity means and why is it important?

What is one way you can show acceptance at school?

What is one way you can show acceptance outside of school?

What would the world be like if everyone was the same?

Teach It! Teach your child about empathy and different points of view. Caring about how others feel is as important as wanting others to care about how they feel.

Practice it! Have your child spend time with family members or friends who are different from them. Make a plan for your child to get to know what makes that person different and unique.

Read about it! Teaching through literature and picture books are great ways to help children learn about diversity.

Here are a few books:

Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev

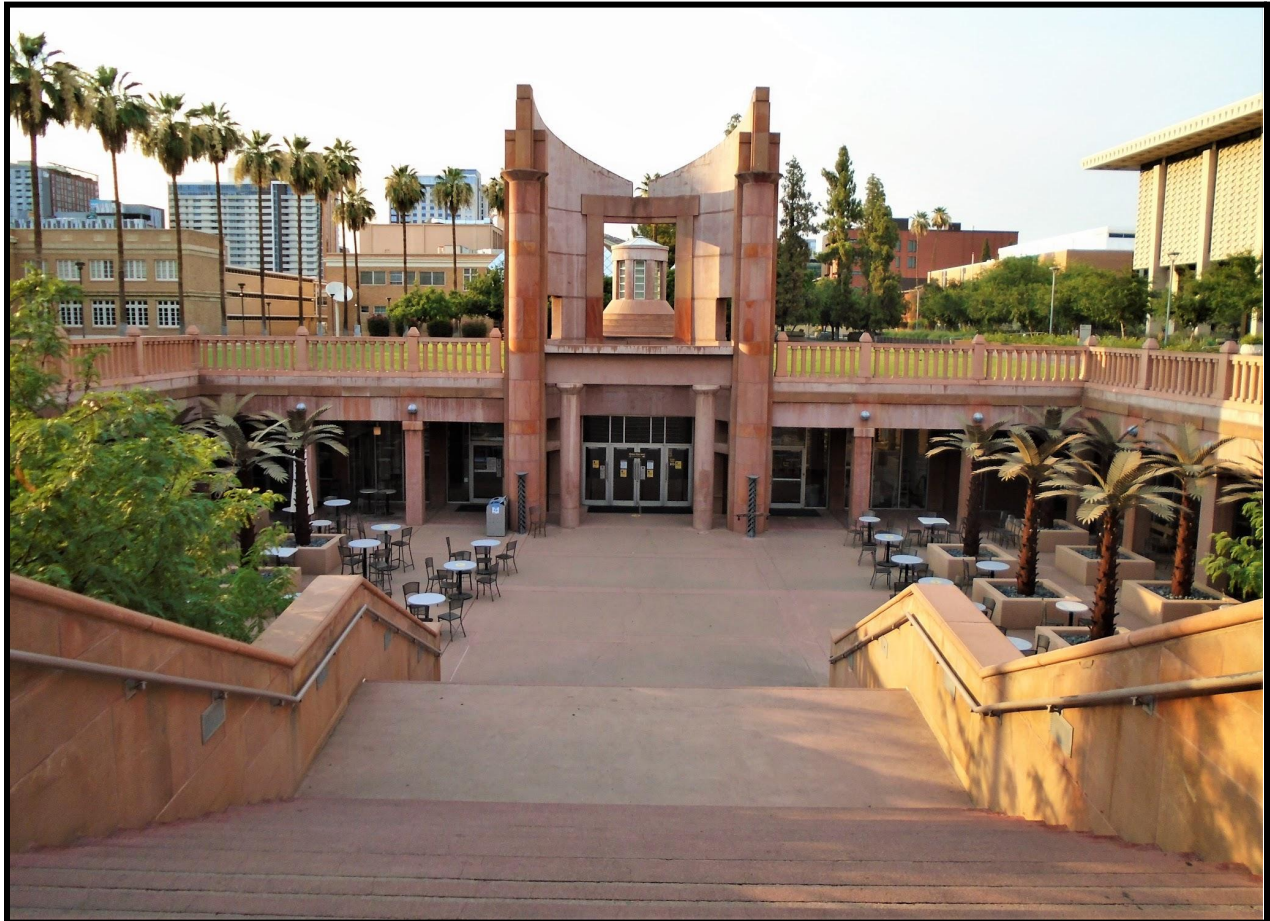
If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith

Same, Same But Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

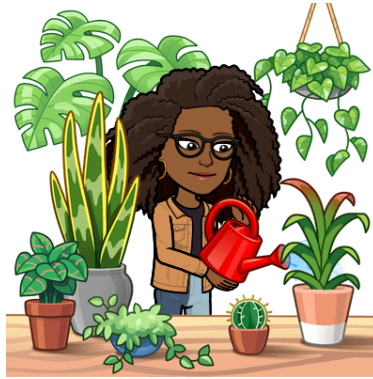
College Monday

This week's featured college is Arizona State University. It is located in the Phoenix metropolitan area. It is one of the largest public universities by enrollment in the United States. Here are some quick facts about the school:

- Founded in 1886
- Offers over 350 degrees in its 17 colleges
- They have 4 distinct campuses spread out over Metropolitan Phoenix
- Serves approximately 145,000 students
- They are a NCAA Division 1 school in athletics
- Their mascot is the Sun Devils



Science Lab



This week, the 5th graders learned about the nervous system. They did an experiment to test how quickly they respond to a visual stimulus. The 3rd graders dissected owl pellets to find the bones of what the owl ate. The 1st graders learned about habitats and made a flip book with different types of habitats.





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!

Upcoming Calendar Events:

12/12: Field Trip: 3rd grade(Burns, Choi & Pham) to The Tech Museum

12/14: Office will close at 1:30 pm

12/14: Music Concert - 5pm

12/19: Ms. Burn's 3rd grade class play, 8:30 TK-2, 1:30 3-5

12/21: Spirit Day - PJ Day

12/22 - 1/5: Winter Break (Woo!)



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



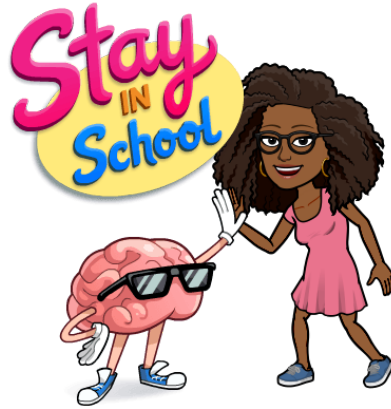
Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our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

Have an amazing 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