



12.21.23

Happy Holidays Ruskin Families,

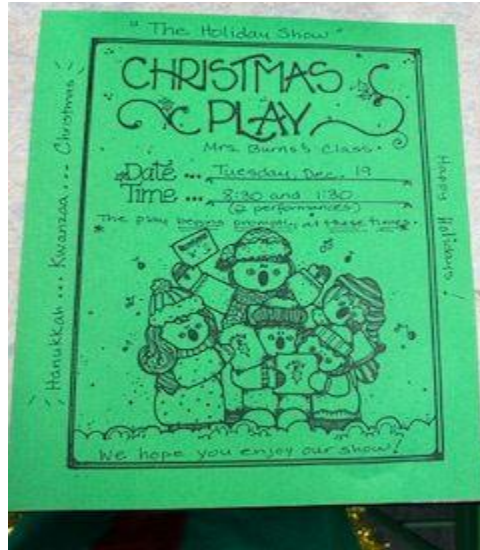
We have made it to the end of the calendar year. Soon 2024 will be here. I hope you all have a great two weeks off and enjoy your holidays. It is a great time to reset and enjoy family and friends. Whether you are going to ski the slopes, snuggling up in front of the fireplace or drinking hot cocoa... please enjoy yourselves!!

The office is so appreciative of all of your holiday wishes, cheer and thoughtful gifts. We appreciate your generosity and are truly thankful for working at such an awesome school. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!**

This weekly memo will be short and sweet! It will mostly be photos of the holiday events and activities the students have been experiencing. One of the things students learn about during this time of the year is how different people around the world celebrate winter holidays. I shared with you a little bit about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa celebrations. This week, take a look at this [video](#) about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. From Santa's Village in Finland to the little candle displays in Colombia, Christmas traditions may vary, but they are all best experienced with those you love.



## This Week in Photos



Ms. Burns amazing Holiday Play



Holiday Attire

Foothill Field Trip









**Pajama Day**





## **MEASURE A PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

As part of our obligation to the community to be accountable for the funds we get from the parcel tax, the Board of Trustees would like to invite you to apply for one of the vacant positions on the Measure A Parcel Tax Committee. The committee meets quarterly at the BUSD District Office. Applications and additional information can be obtained at the following district web-site location:

<https://www.berryessa.k12.ca.us/Parents--Community/Community-Resources/Measure-A---Parcel-Tax-Waiver/index.html>

The oversight committee ensures public funds are allocated in accordance with the original ballot terms. The committee evaluates the Parcel Tax impact on students, classrooms, schools, and the district.

### **VACANT POSITIONS:**

Parent Representative for the Piedmont Middle School Family (Noble, Summerdale, Toyon, Vinci Park

Elementary Schools, and Piedmont Middle School) – one (1) position

Parent Representative for the Sierramont Middle School Family (Cherrywood, Majestic Way, Ruskin Schools, and Sierramont Middle School) – one (1) position

Community Representative who must reside in the Berryessa Union School District Boundaries – one (1) position

Certificated/CTAB Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position

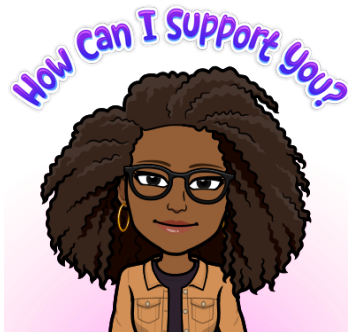
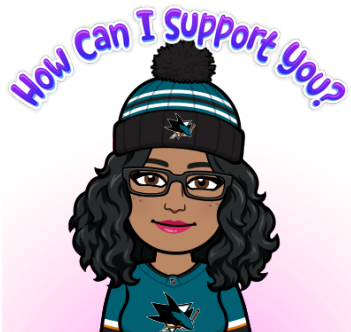
Classified Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position (Classified or Teamster)



# How May We Support You Today?

## Parent Survey

Don't forget to fill out this short Parent Survey regarding the front office. **You can use the QR code below to access.** We really appreciate your feedback, suggestions and support. What we really want to know is, **“How may we support you today?”**



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

- Front office Survey
- Kiwanis Kids Club
- PTA News
- Socio Emotional Learning
- College Monday
- Science Lab

# PTA

## PTA Membership

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



## SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

For many of us, the holiday season can present times of stress and pressure, but no matter what you celebrate, believe, or practice, this season can offer big and small opportunities to create positive memories.

These memories of loving relationships, warm environments, engagement with family and tradition, and emotional growth can help build lifelong resilience. Click the [link](#) to find out 10 tips to create positive memories this holiday season.



# 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:**

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

**1/8/24: Return to School**

## Walk N Roll Newsletters

[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:](#)



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 lot

## Attendance Matters



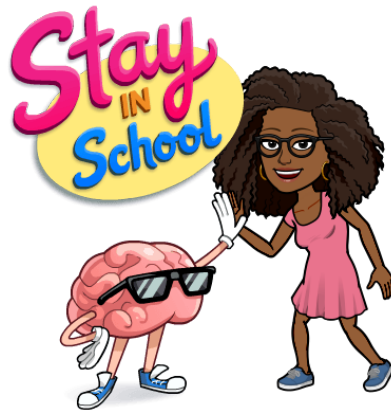
Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at [Kyee@busd.net](mailto:Kyee@busd.net). I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work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