



1.19.24

Happy New Year Ruskin Families,

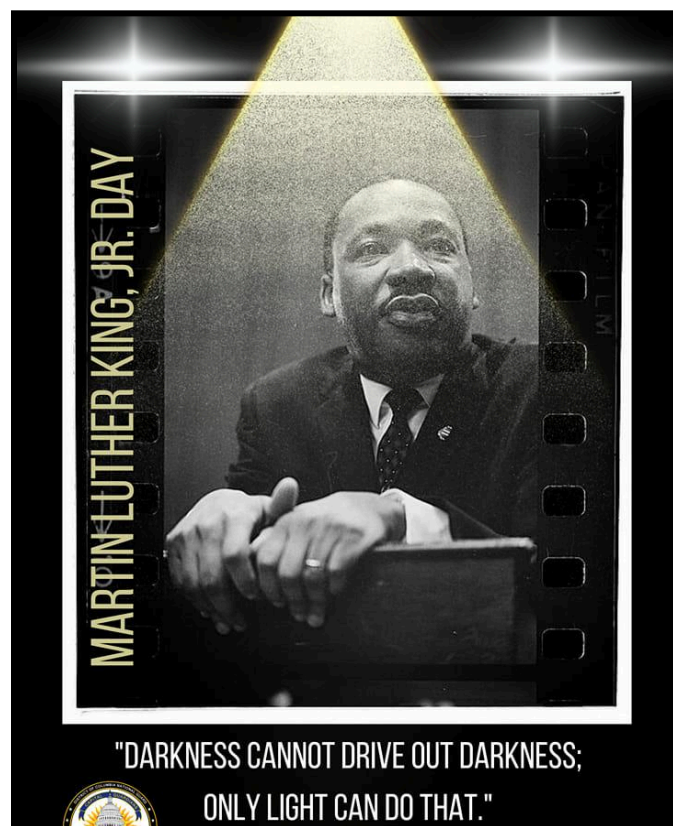
I hope you had an amazing Winter Break! The time seemed to fly by!! Sorry for the delayed New Year wishes. I had an amazing two weeks off, came back to work for one day and then got the flu. It was terrible! I was out for a week. I apologize that there was no memo last week. Please take care of yourselves, wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze and if you can, consider wearing a mask. COVID, flu and cold seasons are definitely upon us.

I wanted to say a heartfelt, albeit delayed, **THANK YOU** so much for all the gifts, cards and holiday wishes. Thank you so much for your generosity!! It did not go unnoticed.



Please be reminded that we have closed the crosswalk at the intersection of Tulare and Turlock. Our amazing Lead Custodian, Homero, is at the crosswalk daily to remind students to walk down to the crosswalk behind the office, near the large staff parking lot. Thank you to all of those abiding by this rule. If you see someone ignoring the custodian and ignoring this rule, **please do not follow them**. Your children are looking at you. We are trying to keep them safe and teach them the important life lesson of following rules. If you are modeling this poor behavior, your children will soon mimic. We appreciate your support in keeping our babies safe.

Last Monday there was no school in observance of Martin Luther King Day. We are honored to celebrate the birthday, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We owe so much to this man who literally gave his life for the fight for equality, freedom and civil rights for all people. Here are some ideas on ways to honor the work of Dr. King: Look at this short [video](#) honoring Dr. King. Have a discussion with your children. Encourage them to do a service act or something kind for someone. Always use this day as more than just a day off. When I was a child, we used to ride the "Freedom Train" from San Jose to San Francisco. We would sing songs, listen to speeches, attend rallies... we did many different activities to remember this incredible man. Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!!



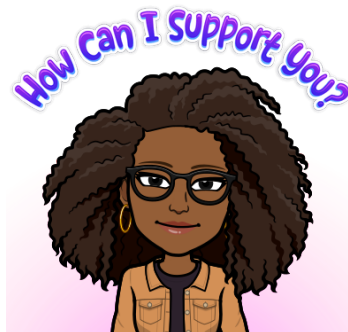
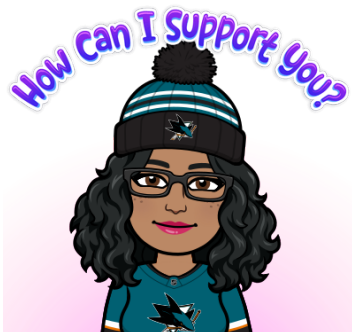
In today's memo we will be covering the following main topics:

- Front office Survey
- Socio Emotional Learning
- College Monday
- Science Lab
- Parent Workshops
- Registration Portal is open

## How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

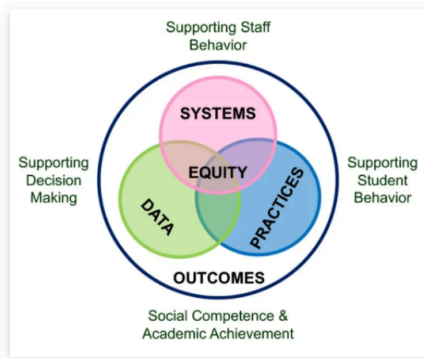
Don't forget to fill out this short Parent Survey regarding the front office. **You can use the QR code below to access.** We really appreciate your feedback, suggestions and support. What we really want to know is, "How may we support you today?"





## SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

### ELEMENTS OF PBIS



#### What does PBIS Emphasize?

In general, PBIS emphasizes four integrated elements: (a) data for decision making, (b) measurable outcomes supported and evaluated by data, (c) practices with evidence that these outcomes are achievable, and (d) systems that efficiently and effectively support implementation of these practices.

#### Elements of PBIS are guided by six important principles:

- Develop a continuum of scientifically based behavior, social emotional and academic interventions and supports
- Use data to make decisions and solve problems
- Arrange the environment to prevent the development and occurrence of problem behavior
- Teach and encourage pro-social skills and behaviors
- Implement evidence-based behavioral practices with fidelity and accountability
- Screen universally and monitor student performance & progress continuously

### College Monday

This week's featured college is University of California, Merced. Located locally in central California, Merced is the newest school in the California University system. Besides being a world-class public research university with the feel of a small, private

campus, there are a lot of reasons why people are increasingly interested in becoming Bobcats. Merced offers 60 undergraduate programs and 18 graduate programs. Their entire campus is green. They are extremely environmentally friendly. They offer many internships and social learning experiences. Fun fact: UC Merced has a partnership; with Yosemite National Park and is the only school with a research station at the park which allows students, faculty and others to work and learn in one of the most beautiful and diverse ecosystems in the world.



## Science Lab

Last week, Ms. Burns' class learned about the science of fingerprints. Look at them... hard at work and having fun in the process.



## Enrollment Portal is Open

Please note that the enrollment portal is open. This is only for **NEW students or students in TK or Kindergarten attending school for the first time**. You do not need to re-enroll your children currently attending one of our schools. Please see the [enrollment link](#) for more information on the enrollment process. Enrollment is available online. Please do not hesitate to contact the front office if you have any questions.



## Parenting Workshops

In January through March, the district will be offering a 4-week **parenting workshop** series in partnership with SCCOE. One series will be for middle school, one series for elementary school. (Childcare & dinner will be provided.)

➤ Active Parenting Workshop Series (Middle School): 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14 6:00-7:30 pm @ Morrill

➤ Parent Project Jr. Workshop Series (Elementary): 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 - 6:00-7:30

pm. @ Ruskin

Families received an initial email on January 4th. Here are links to flyers that were sent home:

- [Active Parenting of Teens Flyer.2024.pdf](#) (middle school parents)
- [Loving Solutions Parenting Flyer.2024.pdf](#) (elementary school parents)



# PTA

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



## 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:**

**1/25: P.D Day**

**1/30: Coffee with the Principal - 4pm**

**2/16: Minimum Day**

**2/19-2/23: February Break**

## **Walk N Roll**

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

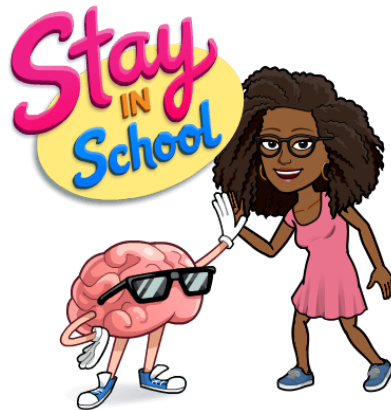
[Kyee@busd.net](mailto:Kyee@busd.net). I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

### [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



## 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 Breakfast Menu January 2024](#)

[Elementary Lunch Menu January 2024](#)

- 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)