



2.2.24

Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? This week was a busy one for us! We love Fridays. You can usually catch Ms. Melani and I handing out High 5s and having our weekly epic Friday morning dance party with the kids at the dropoff. Some of these kids have moves! Feel free to join us and get your groove on !

So excited that it's the beginning of Black History Month! As a matter of fact, February is full of things to celebrate! Besides Black History Month, we have Groundhog's Day today, Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day. We also celebrated the 100th Day of School this Tuesday. Lots of fun this month!

As I mentioned, this is the start of Black History Month. In this month we honor the many contributions of African Americans to our society. There are so many things that we take for granted today that were invented and patented by African Americans. What makes these accomplishments even more incredible are the horrible constraints that

many African Americans were under when inventing these items. Some of them had been born into slavery and had that hardship to overcome. The laws were against them and it was an uphill battle to patent their creations. Did you know that **the first open heart surgery was performed by a Black surgeon by the name of Daniel Hale Williams** in 1893? Did you know that a Missouri farmer, born into slavery, named **George Washington Carver, grew up to create over 300 products derived from peanuts**. Some of them are butter, cocoa, milk, animal feed, shampoo, soap, shaving cream and instant coffee to name a few. Did you know that **Benjamin Banneker, a black man, was responsible for completing the plans to build the White House and the city of Washington, DC?** These are but a few of the many contributions of African Americans that we benefit from today. Here is a [video](#) to learn about other inventions that we use today, invented by African Americans.

Today is Groundhog Day!! Do you know if Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow? If he did, then legend says we will have six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't.....hello to an early Spring !!!



On Friday, February 16th, we will be having a Lunar New Year Lion Dance assembly, sponsored by our amazing PTA. The performance will be at 12:35 out on the blacktop. Parents are welcome to attend. **Please be reminded that this is an early dismissal day.**

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

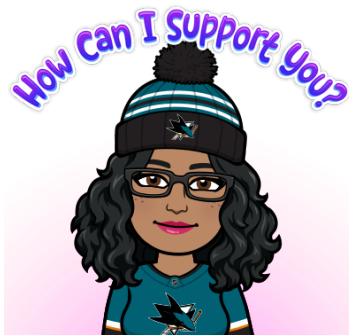
- Front office Survey
- February Celebrations
- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Socio Emotional Learning
- 100th Day of School
- Math Champions
- College Monday

- Science Lab STEM Night
- Yearbook Poster contest

How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

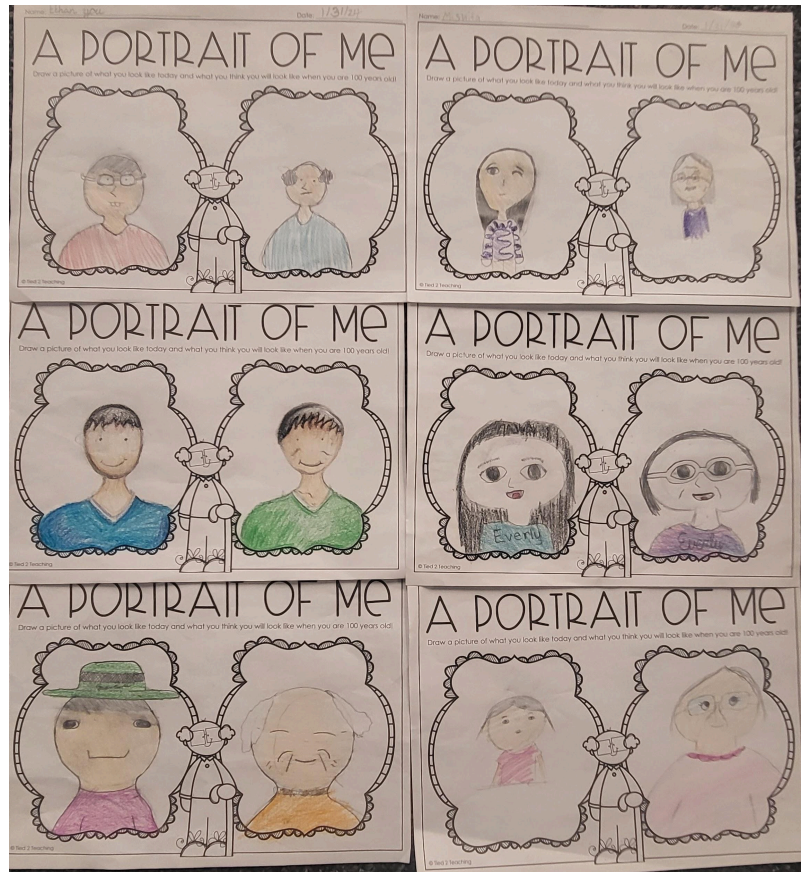
Just a reminder....parents....we **REALLY** need your help !!! PLEASE fill out this short Parent Survey regarding the front office. **We have a whopping 10 responses and almost 1000 parent contacts.** Thank you to those 10 parents. We are trying to get your input on how we can best help YOU. Please help us as we continue to provide a welcoming experience for ALL parents. **You can use the QR code below to access.** I have also included a link [here](https://forms.gle/6b3sUWnoWbtZtwTq5). We really appreciate your feedback, suggestions and support. What we really want to know is, **“How may we support you today?”**
<https://forms.gle/6b3sUWnoWbtZtwTq5>

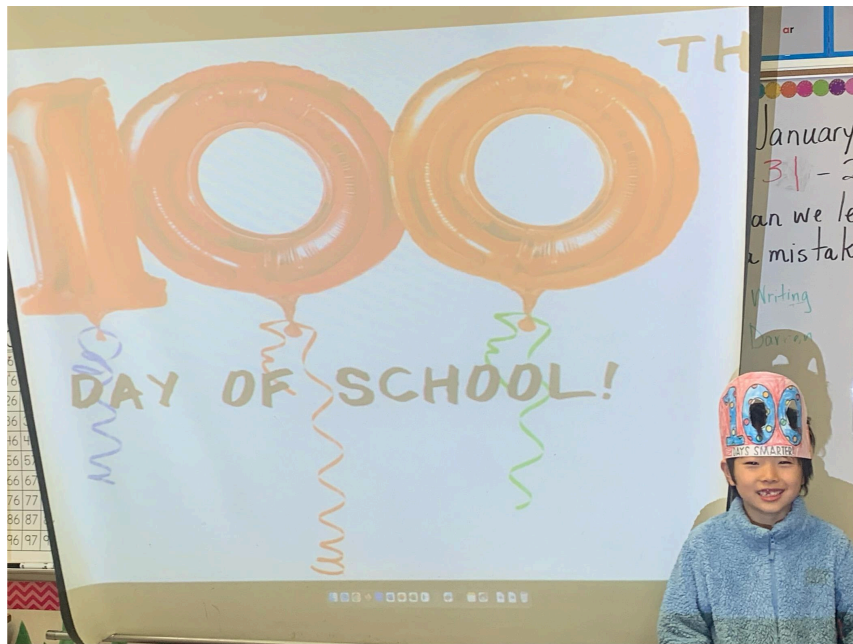


100th Day of School

On Wednesday, we celebrated the 100th Day of School. The students created all sorts of projects and did 100th Day activities. Here are some pictures of the kids' work.







Updated Message from the Yearbook Committee

Final Due Date is Sunday, February 4th

Hi Ruskin families!

Students are invited to participate in the annual **Ruskin Yearbook Cover contest!**
Here are the rules and directions on how to digitally submit your child's artwork:

- *Yearbook covers must be drawn on a plain, white 8.5 x 11" paper (portrait style)*
 - *Make them vibrant and colorful (use markers, crayons, colored pencils) reflecting all of the reasons why you love that Ruskin is your school!*
 - *Include "Ruskin Elementary School 2023-2024" in the drawing.*
 - *All entries must be hand drawn, then scanned. No digital editing, please. If you don't have access to a scanner, you may try to take a picture with your phone.*
 - *Please submit the file in JPG or PNG format, not PDF or HEIC.*
 - *Submit your child's cover art here: <https://forms.gle/cfSqq3Y3t8SDSMth8>*
 - *All grade levels are welcome to participate and can look at previous yearbooks for ideas.*
- Final due date is February 4th! Get your yearbook cover art submitted today!**

Good luck from the Ruskin Yearbook Committee!



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)



The socio-emotional health of our students is a joint responsibility. We have lessons, activities and strategies that we share with the students. As a parent, there are strategies you can do to assist your child in their socio- emotional well being:

- Check in with your child
- Keep track of how your child is doing
- Create a routine together
- Be encouraging
- Help your child address any anxiety about safety or uncertainty
- Help your child address any concerns about separation
- If you need more support, look for it (ask school officials)
- Share important information about your child with their teacher

FEBRUARY 2024

**make
kindness
the norm.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																																
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				1 Spend an afternoon at a cultural museum.	2 Follow @RAKFoundation on Instagram to add some kindness your social media feed.	3 Leave small containers of bird seed near a park or lake for other people to feed the birds.																																																																																																																
4 Leave a small gift or note of thanks addressed to your mail carrier in your mailbox.	5 Play Cupid: introduce two single people who you think would make a great match.	6 Write encouraging letters to strangers who need them. MoreLoveLetters.com provides a list.	7 Plan to send an anonymous bouquet of flowers and/or candy to your local nursing home.	8 Show appreciation! Bring a variety of bagels to work for your team to enjoy.	9 Donate interview appropriate clothes to disadvantaged individuals entering the workplace at DressForSuccess.org.	10 Host a dinner with acquaintances and invite someone new to the group.																																																																																																																
11 Host a fun Super Bowl get together with friends.	12 Find a way to show someone you care.	13 Create a music playlist that inspires you and put it on your phone to listen to regularly.	14 Arrange a romantic date night with your partner.	15 Think of ways you could be more inclusive at work and in your community.	16 Volunteer to feed the hungry at a shelter or assist in a local food drive.	17 Visit CareForThree.com and become part of the movement.																																																																																																																
<p>— RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK — visit randomactsofkindness.org/rak-week to download our new RAK week activities. —</p>																																																																																																																						
18 Plan your perfect day and go out and live it.	19 Hide a love note for your partner in their bag or wallet for them to find during their workday.	20 Bring a pot of tea over to an elderly neighbor's home to enjoy over a long chat.	21 Plan a neighborhood cleanup day with neighbors to pick up litter.	22 Buy flowers or a new plant for your office space and an extra one for a coworker.	23 Collect baby clothes and supplies and donate to new parents who need them.	24 Give out sincere compliments today.																																																																																																																
25 Learn something new. Take a dance or exercise class.	26 Read the child in your life a bedtime story.	27 Practice a moment of self-reflection today.	28 Purchase coffee for your team members and write words of affirmation on the lids.	29 Offer to help a friend or family member with a task or errand they've been putting off.	<table style="width: 100%; font-size: 8px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</th> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">MARCH</th> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> </tr> </table>		JANUARY							MARCH							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Math League Champions

We are so excited to share January MATH LEAGUE results with you: Ruskin team got 2nd place again in Division 5!

Eight Ruskin kids, including six 5th graders and two 4th graders, participated in this event at Basis Fremont campus on January 27th, 2024.

In 5th grade, Tiffany H won 1st place, and Caroline G won 3rd place!

All other Ruskin members are listed below:

5th grade - Shuwan Q, Tiffany J, Yunjen L, Marvin C.

4th grade - Phillip G, Owen G

Congrats to all of our Math League participants!!!!



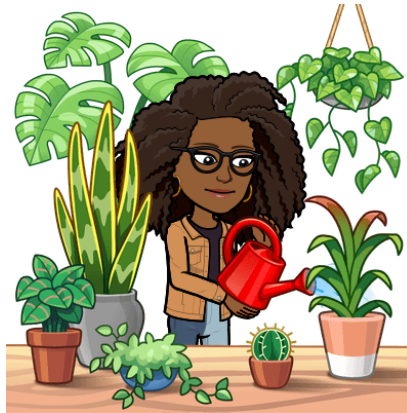
College Monday

This week's featured college is Cal State University Northridge or CSUN. It is located in Northridge, CA and is part of the CSU system.

- CSUN is located in the second largest city of Los Angeles
- It is the third largest university in the CSU system
- LMU offers 61 majors and 42 masters' degrees and a doctorate in educational leadership
- CSUN hosts the National Center on Deafness
- LMU mascots are the Matadors and compete at the Big West Conference



Science Lab



Our STEM Night registration is now full. We have reached our capacity. It will be a packed house with plenty of hand on fun !!

This week, the 5th grade classes experimented with how sun and shade affects soil and water differently. The 3rd grade classes learned about heat energy and made thermometers. The 2nd grade classes made a model of the layers of the Earth. The Kindergarteners learned about their sense of smell and tried to identify unknown scents.





PTA

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



Ruskin PTA will be selling Ruskin Swag in front of the school office on Wednesday, February 7 from 2:30-3:30PM. See the flyer below for more details

A flyer with a light blue sky background and a blue glittery border at the bottom. At the top, the text 'RUSKIN Swag is now in stock' is written in a pink, cursive font. Below this is a row of three images: a dark blue hoodie with 'RUSKIN' printed on it, a photo of two people wearing hoodies, and a dark blue t-shirt with 'RUSKIN' printed on it. A pink banner across the middle contains the text 'WE WILL BE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL WEDNESDAY, FEB 07 FROM 2:30-3:30PM'. To the left of a starburst graphic is a pink box with the text 'Hoodies- \$35' and 'T-Shirts- \$15'. The starburst graphic features a person wearing a hoodie with 'RUSKIN' on it.

RUSKIN Swag
is now in stock

**WE WILL BE IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, FEB 07 FROM 2:30-3:30PM**

Hoodies- \$35
T-Shirts- \$15

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 (four (4) one hour meetings per year) 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)



REMINDERS

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.



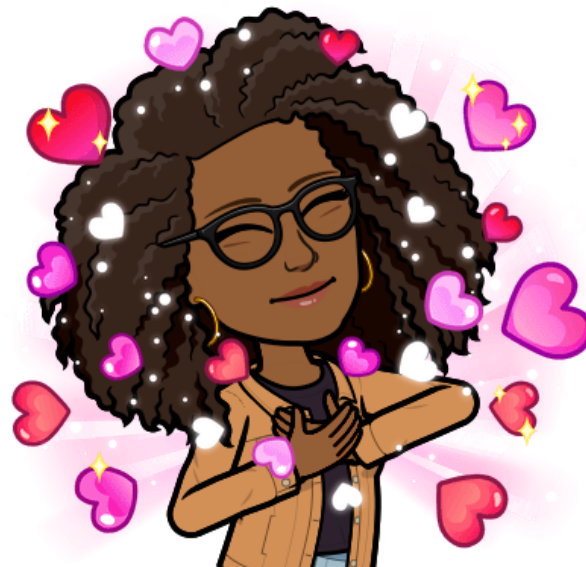
Parenting Workshops

Update- Workshops are full but there may be a wait list: 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 0
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)



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:

2/16: Minimum Day

2/16: PTA: Lion Dance Assembly- 12:30pm- Blacktop

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.

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. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure

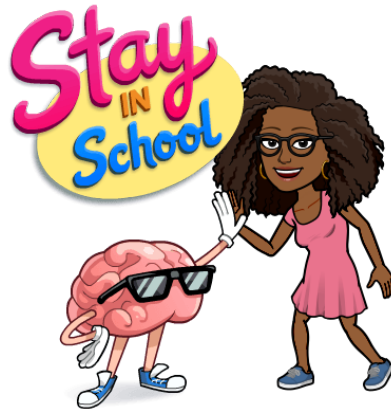
our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

[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



Student Nutrition Services

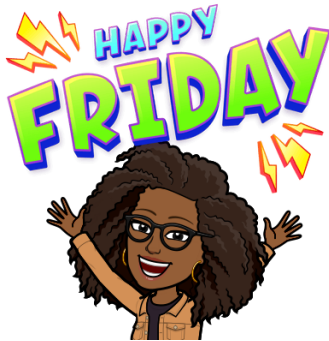
School Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto edjoin.org and look under Berryessa Union School District. School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student 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 Breakfast Menu February 2024](#)

[Elementary Lunch Menu February 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
School Secretary: Melani Montez MMontez@busd.net
School Clerk: Kimberly Yee KYee@busd.net