



2.9.24



(Bessie Coleman, first Black licensed female pilot)



Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

I'm not sure about you, but we LOVE Fridays around here. I think we love Fridays as much as we love dancing in the parking lot on Friday mornings.

We hope you enjoy the Super Bowl this weekend! It should be an awesome game! Ms. Kimberly says, "Go Niners!"



As we continue to move into the month of February, we celebrate Lunar New Year and Black History Month. Lunar New Year begins tomorrow, February 10th. Many people who celebrate Lunar New Year have been sweeping and cleaning their homes, visiting family and friends and getting ready for a big feast. It is the Year of the Dragon. It is a year of prosperity, good fortune, authority and abundance for the dragon sign. Next Lion

dance performance, sponsored by our amazing PTA. Weather permitting, the performance will take place outside on the blacktop on Friday February 16th at 12:30. **Parents are welcome to attend. Remember it is an early dismissal day.** Check out this [video](#) to learn more about this awesome and beautiful cultural celebration. **We are encouraging the kids to wear their Lunar New Year clothing in lieu of college apparel this Monday.** Happy New Year!!!

Our School Community Liaison, Ms. Kimberly, has been hard at work getting our bulletin boards together for Lunar New Year and Black History Month. For Lunar New Year, we are encouraging families to share pictures of how they celebrate Lunar New Year. We ask that the pictures be no larger than 3x5 and printed out already. The pictures are due next Friday, 2/16 by 1:30 **(minimum day that day).** **Turn them into the front office.** We would like to showcase our families and make our board beautiful. Thank you.



In continuing our February celebrations, we also honor great African Americans and their contributions to our country. Here is a [video](#) that explains who started the celebration of Black History, why it was started and what is important to know about it. I have been reading to students about the journey of space shuttle Challenger astronaut Ron McNair. At nine years old, he used his bravery and love of books to change the law in his South Carolina town. The law prohibited black people from checking out books from the public library. Thanks to young Ron McNair, people of all colors were able to check out books at the library.

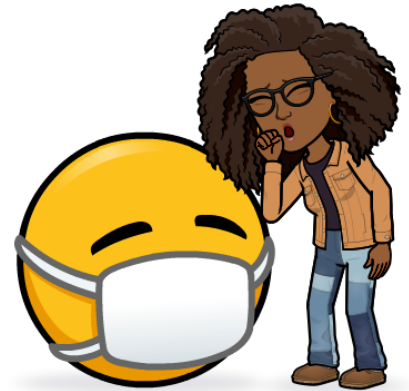
We will be having our Black History Month Trivia Contest starting next week. The questions will be asked on Monday and the answers are due by Wednesdays at 3:00 PM. In TK-2, the teachers will research the answer and share with the students. Then they will enter their answer into a drawing for that grade level span. Students in 3-5 will research the answers themselves and can enter their answers into the drawing for their grade span. They will earn an individual prize. Both grade level span winners will win

the teacher 30 minutes of prep time and the class will win 30 minutes of free time. They may decide to have more recess, play games, watch a movie, etc. Happy researching!!!

Please remember that it is Cold, Flu and COVID season. There are lots of icky germs going around. As soon as your kid starts showing cold/ flu/ COVID symptoms, please test them asap. We have test kits available for you here in the office. If your kids are sick, please keep them at home. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

- Lunar New Year/ Lion Dance
- Black History Month
- Socio Emotional Learning
- College Monday
- Science Lab

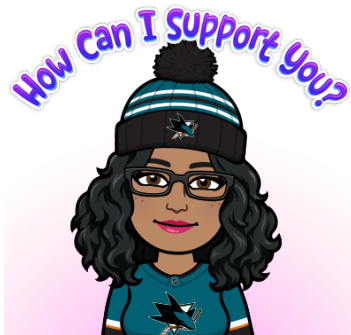


How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

In order to hopefully increase the participation of parents completing our Parent Office Survey, we will be having the teachers include this link to their correspondence to parents. We **REALLY** need your help !!! PLEASE fill out this short Parent Survey regarding the front office. **We have a whopping 18 responses and almost 1000 parent contacts.** Thank you to those 18 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](#). 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>



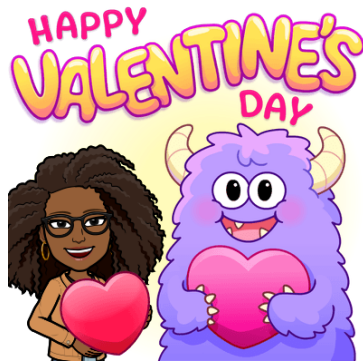
SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

Respect

What is Respect? Respect is feeling that someone or something is important and acting in a way that demonstrates that. When you respect someone, you treat them kindly and use good manners. Sometimes it means doing things for them or listening to their instructions.

Why Teach Children about Respect?

Respect can be shown in many different settings like school, among friends or peers, on teams, at home, and in the community. Respect can look different in different settings.



A few examples are:

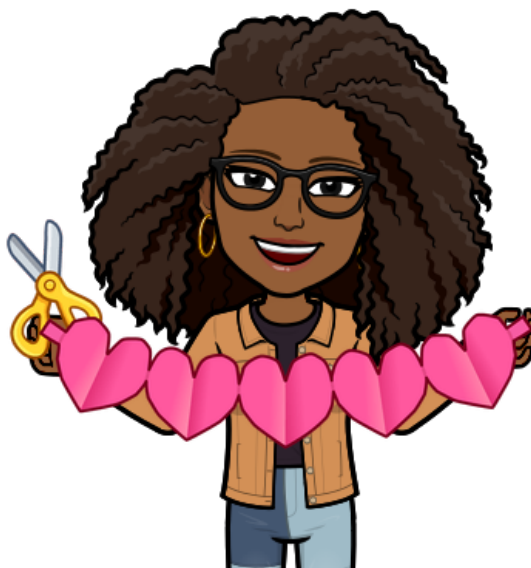
School: not yelling at others, accepting differences, not saying unkind things, listening to others, not interrupting, cooperation, sharing, following rules, keeping safe and calm bodies, cleaning up after eating lunch or snack.

Friends/Peers: playing well with others, including many people in play, problem-solving and resolving conflict in a helpful way, playing fair, not yelling at others, keeping safe hands and bodies.

Teams: playing fair, listening to teammates and coaches, following the rules, good sportsmanship, talking out disagreements in a positive way.

Home: helping around the house, being kind, listening to parents, cleaning up their own messes.

Community: volunteering, not littering, helping others when needed, following community safety rules.



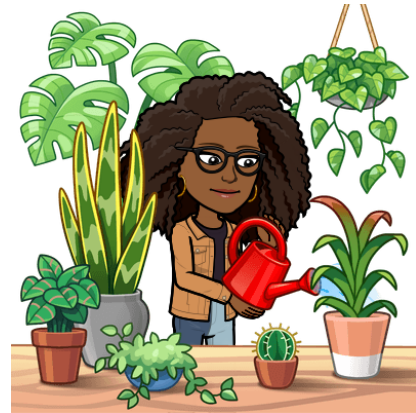
College Monday

This week's featured college is Spelman College. Spelman College is a private, historically Black, women's university located in Atlanta Georgia.

- Founded in 1881
- It is the oldest historically Black liberal arts institution for women
- In 2013, they dropped their university athletics teams and created wellness programs for all students
- Ranked first among baccalaureate origin institutions of African- American women who earned science, engineering, and mathematics doctoral degrees
- Offers bachelor's degrees in over 30 academic majors
- Has the highest graduation rate among HBCUs with a 76% graduation rate



Science Lab



This week, the 5th grade students learned about conduction, convection and density. The 3rd grade students tested why things float and how many marbles their clay boat can hold. The TK students explored magnets and the objects that they attract.

STEM Night: We still need volunteers for STEM Night. Please email Ltom@busd.net if you are interested in helping out. Middle school and high school students are also welcome to volunteer.



PTA

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



Ruskin PTA will be selling Ruskin Swag in front of the school office **TODAY** from 230-3:30PM. **Hoodies are \$35 and T Shirts are \$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

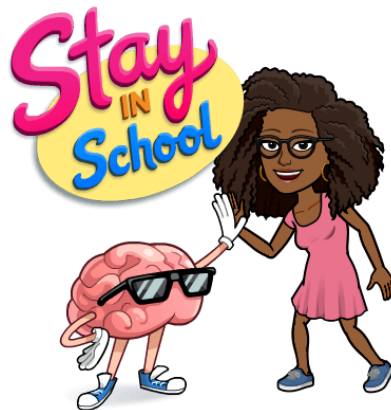
our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

[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 Super Bowl weekend and Happy Valentine's Day!!



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