



2.16.24



Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

We made it to another break!!! Whoo hoo!! This week has been fun-filled, celebrating Lunar New, Valentine's Day and Black History Month. Thanks for all the yummy treats and gifts! Two of our amazing parents decorated our courtyard with beautiful lanterns for the Lunar New Year.



To celebrate the Lunar Year, this afternoon we will have a Lion dance performance, sponsored by our amazing PTA. Just a reminder, the performance will take place outside on the blacktop at 12:30. **Parents are welcome to attend. Remember it is an early dismissal day. WE HAVE NO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT'S WEEK. SCHOOL RESUMES ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH.** Enjoy your week off!

Don't forget to turn in your Lunar New Year pictures!! Remember we are encouraging families to share pictures of how you celebrate Lunar New Year. We ask that the pictures be no larger than 3x5 and printed out already. **The pictures are due today, 2/16 by 1:30 (minimum day today).** Turn

them into the front office. We are so happy to showcase our families and how you all celebrate.

This was week 1 of our Black History Month Trivia Contest. At flagpole this Monday, I presented the following question to the staff and students: **Who was the first Black explorer to reach the North Pole? The correct answer is Matthew Henson.** The contest winners are **Mrs. Murray's class (TK-2) and Mrs. Choi's class (3rd-5th).** The student winner is Zoe (Choi) and we also had some runner up winners who will get an individual prize. They are **Jason from Mr. Amutan's class and Cady from Mrs. Paddock's class.** Here is a [video](#) to learn more about the explorer Matthew Henson. TK- 2 teachers researched the answer and shared the info with the students. Then they entered their answer into a drawing for their grade level span. Students in 3rd-5th grade researched the answers themselves and entered their answers into the drawing for their grade span. They earned an individual prize. Both grade level span winners won the teacher 30 minutes of prep time and the class won 30 minutes of fun time. Congrats! The next trivia question will be asked on next Monday, 2/26, at flagpole.

I have continued to read to the students. The two books are Eyes That Kiss in the Corners and Ron's Big Mission, one celebrating the beauty, culture and history a daughter of Chinese descent sees in her mother's and grandmother's eyes. The other book is about Challenger astronaut Ron McNair and how he stood up and demanded a change to the unfair laws in his South Carolina town. The law was that only white people were able to check out books. In 1959, nine year old Ron was able to change that law.

Here I am reading to Mrs. Murray's class:





2nd graders, Office staff Mrs. Ouyang's Class

Please remind your students not to wear crocs to school for safety reasons. We appreciate your support.

Coming after the break is the annual Berryessa Education Foundation **"Make a Difference" Raffle**. Top Prize is **\$1000**. Tickets will be \$5 a piece or 4 for \$20. **More info to come after the break.**



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

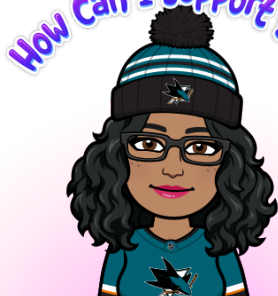
How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

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> Thanks!



How can I support you?



How can I support you?



How can I support you?





SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning)

Respect

Respect and Mental Wellness

Children with good mental wellness feel loved, safe and secure in their environments. They also feel happy and positive about themselves most of the time. The sense of feeling cared for and accepted by family and peers can further positivity. Children who respect others are better able to find positive ways to problem solve and manage conflict. They understand there are different points of view and accept these differences.

Ways to help children foster respect at home

Teach children that no matter what a person's differences are, they have something special to bring to the community. It is important we respect people, even when they are different:.

- Set appropriate boundaries
- Involve children in decision making
- Teach children to ask for things, not demand
- Model respect toward others
- Teach empathy
- Teach and model respectful communication



College Monday

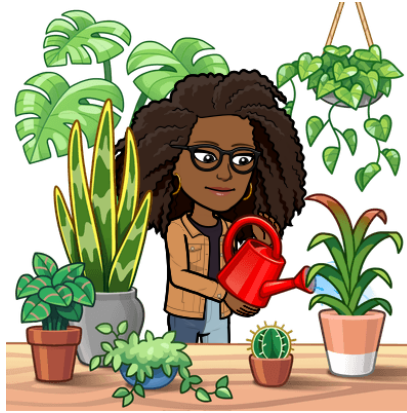
This week's featured college is Florida A&M. Florida A&M University is a public institution that was founded in 1887. It has a total undergraduate enrollment of 7,709 (fall 2022), its setting is urban, and the campus size is 422 acres. It utilizes a semester-based academic calendar. Florida A&M University's ranking in the 2024 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, #170. Its in-state tuition and fees are \$5,785; out-of-state tuition and fees are \$17,725.

Florida A&M University, located in the hills of Tallahassee, is the only historically black institution in the State University System of Florida. The school's mission is to educate African-Americans, but it accepts students of every race, ethnic origin and nationality. Although the "A&M" in its name stands for Agricultural and Mechanical, the university offers about 60 bachelor's degrees in a wide range of studies, with architecture, journalism and psychology among the most popular undergraduate majors. Graduate students at Florida A&M can choose from about 40 degrees, including [law](#) and [education](#).

The university, more commonly known as FAMU, also offers more than 100 student organizations and several fraternities and sororities to join. Student athletes can try out for the FAMU Rattlers varsity sports teams, which compete in the NCAA Division I Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Notable FAMU alumni include Fox Sports reporter Pam Oliver and Vibe magazine co-founder Keith Clinkscales. (Florida A&M site)

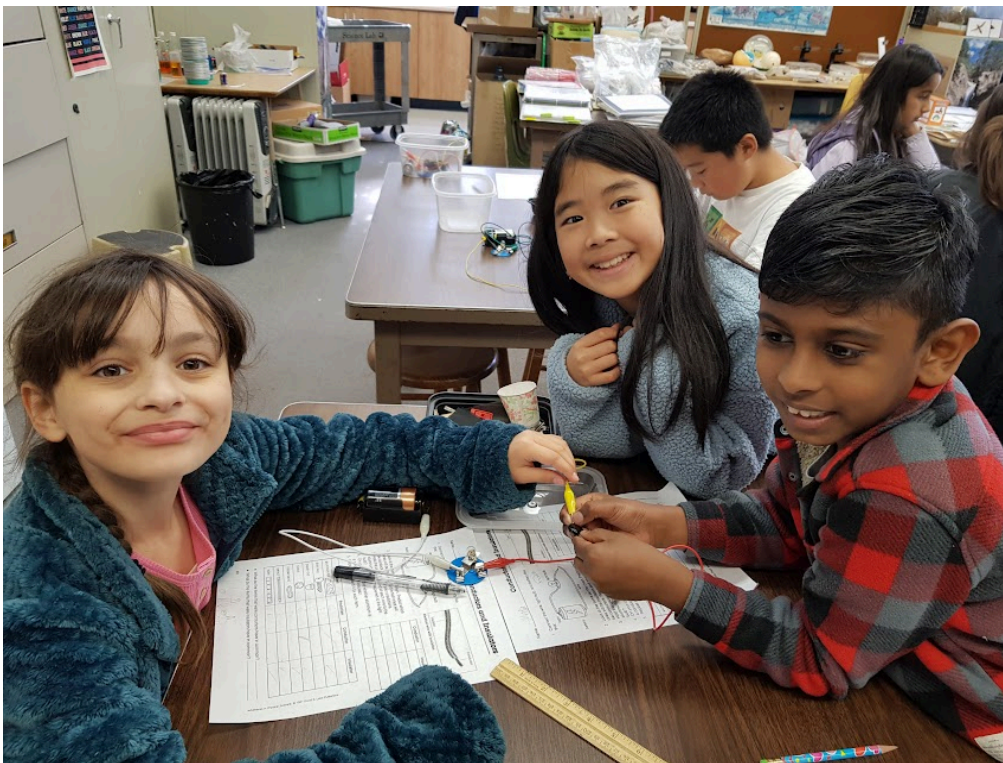


Science Lab



Last Friday, the 4th grade classes assembled an electrical circuit and tested whether a material was a conductor or insulator. Third grade studied the weather and the various instruments used to measure the weather. The 2nd grade classes learned about erosion.

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)



Thank you again PTA for our upcoming Lion Dance this afternoon. Pictures will be in the next newsletter.





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 TODAY**
2/19-2/23: **February Break**
2/26 **School resumes**

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

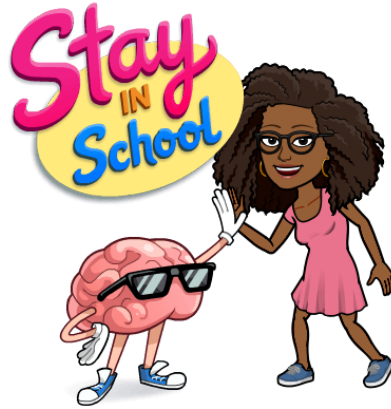
our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

[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 week off!!



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