



3.8.24



Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? We had a busy week at Ruskin. Last Friday was our STEM night. What a great turnout ! All of the hands-on Science activities for the kids kept them occupied for hours. Thank you to Ms. Lucrece, Ms. Tiffany and all the staff, parent and student volunteers that helped to make this event a success!

Please remember that **today begins Parent Teacher Conferences**. Your child's teacher should have reached out to you by now IF they felt the need to meet with you for any reason. You can also request a conference yourself. Otherwise report cards will be sent home. **These will ALL BE EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS**. We appreciate you picking up your child on time so teachers may begin their conferences promptly.

This year, Berryessa Union School District is surveying teachers, staff, students( in 3rd grade and above) and parents about their experiences and perceptions at work and school. Your perspective is critical to your school's success. To help protect your confidentiality, no one at your school will be able to connect your response to you.

The results of this survey will help administrators better understand the perceptions of teachers, staff, parents and students and results will be used to identify strengths and areas for growth.

You should have received an email from the district asking for your input on a parent survey. If you did not see the link, it is here for your convenience:

Family Survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/berryessa/6449942205/surveys>

We appreciate your participation. We are also quite competitive and we like to have the most parent surveys completed in the whole district. Please help us reach our goal. Please complete the survey only once. Huge thanks!

**Please remember that this weekend begins Daylight Savings Time. We SPRING Forward by turning our clocks ahead by one hour.**

In celebration of Women's History Month, we will be celebrating Katherine Johnson. She was one of the first African American female scientists at NASA. Katherine overcame so many obstacles to be the successful scientist she was, including racism, sexism and laws set to keep her from succeeding. Take a look at this lovely [video](#) honoring her crucial contributions to NASA and in particular, the shuttle launches. There was a movie made celebrating the vital contributions that she and some of her fellow female African American co workers made to the NASA program. They were called human computers because their math skills were so sharp!



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

- BEF Raffle
- Women's History Month
- Socio Emotional Learning
- School climate: Billboards Around the school
- College Monday
- Science Lab

## **Berryessa Ed Foundation Raffle**

**Hey Ruskin Families: Would you like to win \$200 to fly somewhere, a new Nintendo Switch to play or \$1,000 cash to spend on anything you want??**

**All these prizes and more are part of our Make A Difference Raffle. On Monday, March 4th, purple flyers and envelopes were distributed to all students with raffle information.**

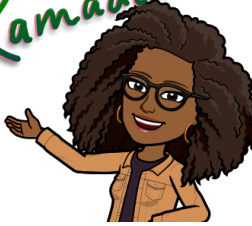
**Tickets are only \$5.00 each and all proceeds will go to support our Ruskin Science Lab! The more tickets you buy, the more chances you have to win!**

**Please fill out the bottom portion of the flyer and return it with payment in the envelope. Remember to make checks payable to BEF (Berryessa Education Foundation) and write the student's name and school in the Memo section.**



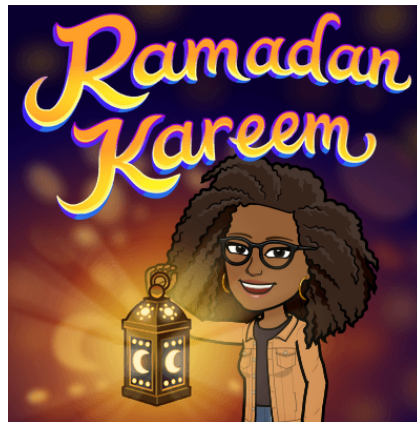
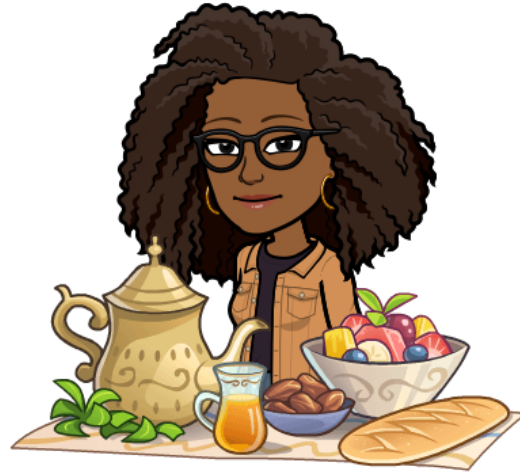
**The raffle will be held on Saturday, March 23rd at the Berryessa Union School District's district office. You don't even need to be present to win! The top three classes that purchase the most tickets will win a popsicle party for their class too!! Good luck and thanks for your support!**

HAPPY  
Ramadan!



## Ramadan

This Monday begins Ramadan. Many Muslims around the world celebrate Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, is one of the most sacred times for Muslims. It is the month in which it is believed that the Holy Qur'an was sent down from heaven "as a guidance for men and women, a declaration of direction, and a means of salvation." During this month, Muslims observe a strict fast from dawn until sunset. They are not allowed to eat or drink (even water) during daylight hours. Fasting is a private act of worship bringing about nearness to God, as well as a form of spiritual discipline and a means to empathize with those less fortunate. Here is a kid friendly [video](#) that explains more about Ramadan.



## Positive Affirmation Billboards

See Ms. Kimberly's latest billboard in the office. This one is a shout out to the teachers with positive messages attached. Love it, Ms. Kimberly!!!!



## Sierramont Middle School Students Perform

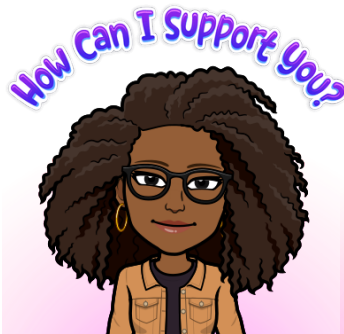
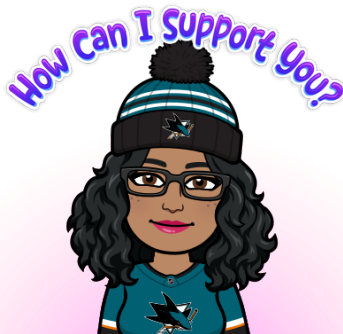
Last Tuesday, we had the pleasure of having the band, orchestra and choir students from Sierramont Middle School come and perform for our 3rd -5th grade students. The instructors were gracious enough to explain the programs, the time needed to practice, the difference between types of instruments and even had a Q&A session afterwards. The purpose of the event was to encourage students to try out for the music program when they get to middle school. The kids did a great job!



# 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!





## SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning) Perseverance

**Perseverance:** is the ability to keep doing something in spite of obstacles. People who persevere show steadfastness in following through with something despite how hard it is or how long it takes to reach the goal.

Why is it important for children to learn how to Persevere? It's important that children are taught to seek and find solutions. This way, when they are older and a problem arises, they can cope by seeking out patterns that they have previously used. These patterns can help avoid the development of stress and anxiety in everyday situations like exams, interviews and new situations.

### College Monday

This week's featured college is St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. Here are some fast facts about St. Mary's College:

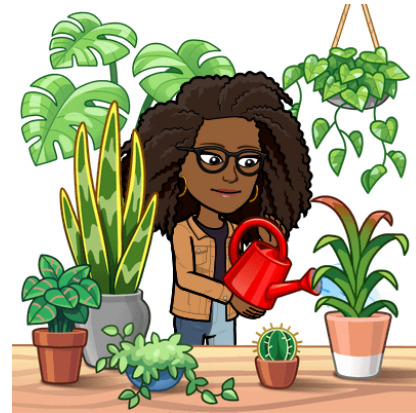
- Rated Top 4 college in the West
- It is in the top 6% in the U.S. for highest earning potential
- Men's basketball team is ranked Number 19 in the country in Men's Basketball
- Small class sizes where professors know students by name
- Their mascot is the Gaels







## Science Lab



This week, the 5th graders explored separating matter and testing the properties of matter. The 3rd grade students designed and tested waterwheels to see how water can do work. The 1st grade students learned about the solar system.





# Stem Night Photos





## English Learner Reclassification Ceremony

Last night, many English Language Learner students district wide were honored as they were reclassified as English Proficient. This is an amazing honor and we had a ceremony befitting their accomplishments. Ruskin had 17 students being honored. It was held at the Berryessa Youth Center and featured Indian dances and a lion dances performed by students. Congratulations students!!



## PTA



Don't forget PTA has SWAG for sale!!! They're fire too! T shirts are \$15 and sweatshirts are \$35. Contact the PTA at [board@ruskinpta.org](mailto:board@ruskinpta.org) to order.

We have an upcoming event that we need parent volunteers for. Literacy night is April 18th and we need parent help to make this evening a success.

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



# 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.



## 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:

### 3.8-3.15 Parent Teacher Conferences MINIMUM DAYS

## 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.

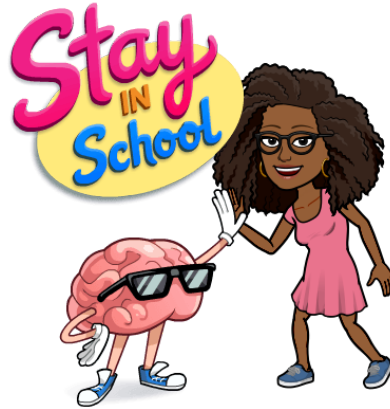
[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[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



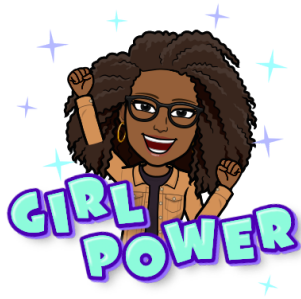
## Student Nutrition Services

School Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto [edjoin.org](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 Breakfast Menu March 2024](#)  
[Elementary Lunch Menu March 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)