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3.22.24



Happy High 5 Friday Ruskin Families,

I hope you all have had an amazing week. We are so close to another break. Spring Break is around the corner. Next week is a 4 day school week. **We will be closed from Good Friday, March 29th and will resume school on April 8th.** Once we return, we hit the ground running. Students in 3rd-5th grade will begin standardized testing, or CAASPP, California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. Standardized testing is just one measure of what the students have learned during the school year. The test is computerized and adaptive, meaning it adapts or tailors exam questions in real time to the ability of each test taker. During testing time, which is from April 10-May 10, we really need the students to get plenty of rest, eat a good breakfast and get to school on time. Here is a link to resources for parents and guardians [CAASPP Parent/ Guardian Resources](#).

Parents, I appreciate your support in completing the District survey. Although we did not have a huge parent completion rate at 15.3%, we came in 2nd place in all 13 schools and 1st place in elementary school parent completion. We came in 1st place in **ALL** the

schools with 100% student completion and 1st in staff completion with 88.9%. **The staff and teachers rock!!** We will be celebrating them with a treat very soon. These results help us create the goals for the site and the district Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Nice job!

This morning was the last chance to purchase raffle tickets for the Berryessa Education Foundation or BEF. Thank you to our BEF Committee members Mrs. Ouyang and Ms. Burns for spearheading the organization and sales of the tickets. We appreciate all of our volunteers who helped sell tickets. Our portion of the proceeds will go to our Science Lab.

In continuing our celebration of Women's History Month, we will be celebrating 10 female inventors. Did you know that caller ID, The automatic dishwasher and windshield wipers were all invented by women? Most of their inventions are things we utilize daily and make our life easier. Take a look at this [video](#) that showcases 10 female inventors and their awesome contributions to society. Go ladies!!



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

- BEF Raffle
- Women's History Month
- Young Author's Fair
- 5th Grade Middle School Electives Chosen
- Viva Escuela
- Parent Workshops
- District Offerings
- PTA
- Social Emotional Learning

Young Author's Fair

Yesterday, students were able to spend some time, virtually, with some pretty popular authors. The students zoomed in and had a chance to listen to and interact with the authors. The author workshops were interactive and some lucky students even had the opportunity to ask the authors a question. This was a HUGE project and there was so much work that had to happen behind the scenes to bring this fair to life. PTA provided books for teachers to read to their classes ahead of time in anticipation for this event. A huge thank you goes to PTA, especially **Susan Lee**, for all of the efforts to put this together. We will be having in person visits from authors next month.



Author of Guts,
Raina Telgemair

5th Graders Pick Middle School Electives

The Sierramont Middle School Counselor, Mr. Mehat came to visit our 5th graders this



week and guided them in picking out their electives for middle school next year. They got to hear about the different elective choices and get any questions they had answered. Our 5th graders are almost ready for middle school. How exciting!



Walk N Roll City of San Jose/ Viva Escuela

On **Friday, April 12**, Ruskin, in cooperation with the City of San Jose, will participate in Viva Escuela. **This is a BEFORE SCHOOL event starting at 7:00 AM.** There will be vendors and resources from the city and fun activities for the students. The goal of this event is to **encourage students and families to walk and bike to school.** This event is being supported by SJPD and other city organizations. **THE STREETS NEAR THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED DOWN THAT MORNING. YOU WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE HORSESHOE OR PARKING LOTS.** The city has suggested some walking or biking routes, even if parking a couple blocks away from the school. Neighbors will be notified of the parking restrictions and this event by the city. Please look at the attached suggested walking/ biking routes and tips, complete with estimated times it will take to reach the school. **PLEASE PLAN YOUR ROUTE TO THE SCHOOL AHEAD OF TIME TO PREVENT FRUSTRATION. THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A FUN FAMILY EVENT.** Thank you for your cooperation.

[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes English](#)

[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes Spanish](#)

[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes Vietnamese](#)



Free Parent Workshop on Anxiety and Depression

We have an **Workshop: Depression on April 10th**, the flyer in Vietnamese. The and it is **Virtual**. Services will be workshop. We



**HỘI THẢO MIỄN PHÍ
DÀNH CHO PHỤ HUYNH
LO ÀU TRẦM CẢM**

HÃY THAM DỰ HỘI THẢO TRỰC TUYẾN MIỄN PHÍ NÀY ĐỂ TÌM HIỂU LO ÀU VÀ TRẦM CẢM Ở Lứa TUỔI VỊ THÀNH NIÊN VÀ CÁC CÁCH ĐỐI PHÓ.

**Thứ Tư
Ngày 10 tháng Tư năm 2024
Lúc 6pm qua Zoom**

Đường dẫn Zoom
<https://bit.ly/AnxietyDepressionEWC>

Để biết thêm thông tin
mlazaro@busd.net

GARDNER
Health Services

upcoming **Parent Anxiety and Depression** opportunity at **BUSD 2024**. I am attaching English, Spanish, and workshop is **FREE** Gardner Health facilitating this hope you can attend.



**FREE PARENT
WORKSHOP:
ANXIETY & DEPRESSION**

COME ATTEND THIS **FREE** VIRTUAL WORKSHOP TO LEARN ABOUT ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN TEENS & THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO COPE WITH IT.

**Wednesday
April 10th, 2024
at 6pm Via Zoom**

Zoom Link:
<https://bit.ly/AnxietyDepressionEWC>

For More Information:
mlazaro@busd.net

GARDNER
Health Services



**TALLER GRATIS PARA
PADRES:
ANSIEDAD Y DEPRESIÓN**

ASISTA A ESTE TALLER VIRTUAL **GRATIS** PARA APRENDER SOBRE LA ANSIEDAD Y LA DEPRESIÓN EN LOS ADOLESCENTES Y LAS DIFERENTES FORMAS DE AFRONTARLA.

**Miércoles
10 de Abril del 2024
a las 6:00pm via Zoom**

Enlace de Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/AnxietyDepressionEWC>

Para mas informacion:
mlazaro@busd.net

GARDNER
Health Services

Zoom Link:

<https://bit.ly/AnxietyDepressionEWC>

Measure A Vacancies

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 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/COMMUNITY/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 Morrill Middle School Family (Brooktree, Laneview, Northwood Elementary Schools, and Morrill Middle School) – one (1) position

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

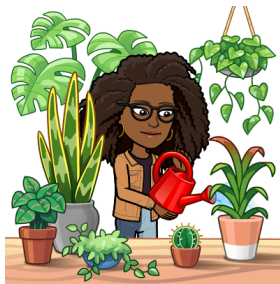
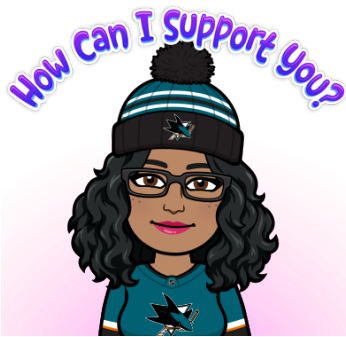
Certificated/CTAB Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position

Classified Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position (Classified or Teamster)

How May We Support You Today?

Parent Survey

We still need your help!!!! Please help us as we continue to provide a welcoming experience for ALL parents. I have 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!



Science Lab



Last Friday, the 4th grade classes explored magnetism. This week, the 3rd grade students made an ocean profile model using dough in preparation for learning about the different zones in the ocean. The first grade classes learned about

sound waves and made several models to explore sound.



SEL Corner
(Social Emotional Learning)
PBIS

Yesterday staff members worked together to analyze survey results regarding the school and behavior. We solidified that our 3 core values or school rules were the following:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**

We also discussed what 5 areas around the school were voted to need the most attention and explicit rules or expectations created to ensure that students are being safe, respectful and responsible. They were:

- **Lunch Tables**
- **Water Station**
- **Playground**
- **Bathroom**
- **Multi Purpose Room**

We will be continuing to work as a staff to determine positive ways in which to guide the students and make sure students, staff and parents are all on the same page regarding behavior expectations.



PTA



Ruskin PTA is a group of parents that provide the support

to build the community and programs our children deserve. Without Ruskin's PTA, the following programs would lose some or all their funding:

looking for the next leaders to step up and our school needs to

- Classroom Funds
- School-wide Assemblies (ex. Lion Dance, Author's Visits)
- Science Lab Supplies
- STEM night
- Science Fair
- Traffic Control
- Field Day
- Multi Cultural Fair
- Technology and Media
- Library Funds

We must fill the Treasurer position for the 2024-2025 school year or PTA will shut down, unfortunately. Training and support will be provided. For more information, please contact Jessica, jessica@ruskinpta.org

Open Positions:

Treasurer

Quick Description (your predecessor will still be a part of the board and available for guidance) this is an approximate 4-5 hr. commitment per month.

Tasks can be done remotely:

- We have a good system called myPTEZRecord down the expenses and the incomes.
- Prepare a financial report for every association meeting (monthly)
- Give oral update on bank balance in every board meeting (monthly)
- Fill in the tax report every year (once per year)
- Pay several bills, including movie license renewal, paying insurance, NVT fee etc. (once per year)

Tasks need to be done onsite:

- Write checks for all reimbursement forms (work with president and secretary)
- Deposit Checks on occasion

Financial Secretary

Historian

Parliamentarian

Ruskin PTA supports other programs in addition to these like Literacy Night, Ruskin Evening of Fun and more. These programs all contribute to a vibrant and enriching experience for our children. Please help us continue to provide these experiences for our children by joining the Ruskin PTA Executive Board.

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Thank you,
Jessica Bustos | PTA President
www.ruskinpta.org | www.instagram.com/ruskinpta/
www.facebook.com/PTARuskin



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



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 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.**

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:

- 3.29-4.7** **Spring Break**
- 4.12** **Viva la escuela event**
- 4.18** **Literacy Night**



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



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:](#)

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.

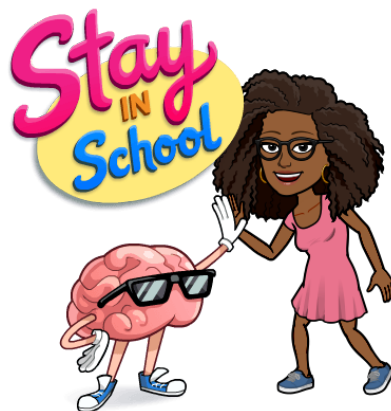
Let's work together to ensure our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.



[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

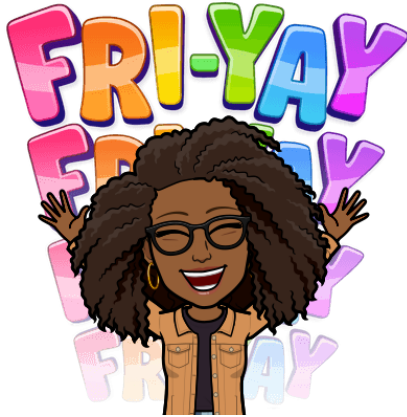
School Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto edjoin.org and look under Berryessa Union School District. School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student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