



3.29.24



Happy Thursday Ruskin Families,

We made it! Spring has sprung!! Happy Spring Break!!! We will be closed from Good Friday, March 29th (tomorrow) and will resume school on Monday, April 8th. What fun plans do you all have for the break? Catching up on sleep? Reading any good books? Going anywhere fun? Any fun shows to binge watch? Whatever your plans are, enjoy yourself!

As a reminder, when we get back from break, we will begin our yearly standardized testing. 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. Again, I have included a link to resources for parents and guardians [CAASPP Parent/ Guardian Resources](#). I went over CAASPP Parent Resources with attendees of this week's Coffee with the Principal. We covered the different types of tests given, how to access practice tests at home, what accommodations are available for students and tips for testing.

A huge thank you again to ALL of those that participated in our annual Berryessa Education Foundation Raffle. We raised a total of **\$3460**, all of which supports our Science Lab. We had 28 winners at Ruskin !!! Wow!! Congrats!!!! We appreciate you all so much!!! We couldn't do it without you!!!

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

- BEF Raffle update
- Viva Escuela
- State Reports from Mrs. Callahan's Class
- Assembly Member Alex Yee Art Contest
- PTA
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning

IMPORTANT !! PLEASE READ !!!!! Walk N Roll City of San Jose/ Viva Escuela FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH 7AM

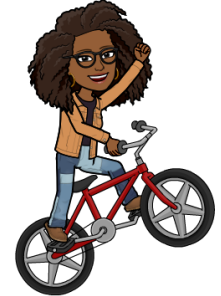
REMINDER :On **Friday, April 12**, Ruskin, in cooperation with the City of San Jose, will participate in Viva Escuela. **This is a BEFORE SCHOOL event starting at 7:00 AM.** Here is a [video](#) of a Viva Escuela event that took place at Cherrywood, one of our district schools. There will be vendors 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. **TURLOCK LANE WILL BE CLOSED DOWN THAT MORNING (BETWEEN TULARE AND CRATER LANE). YOU WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE HORSESHOE OR PARKING LOTS.** Event notification flyers will be sent out to the neighbors within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius of the school before the event date, so they are aware and can plan for alternative routes in the event the street closure impacts them. 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.** Emails will be sent out after Spring Break to remind you of the event. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Video of Viva Escuela at Cherrywood in BUSD](#)

[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes English](#)

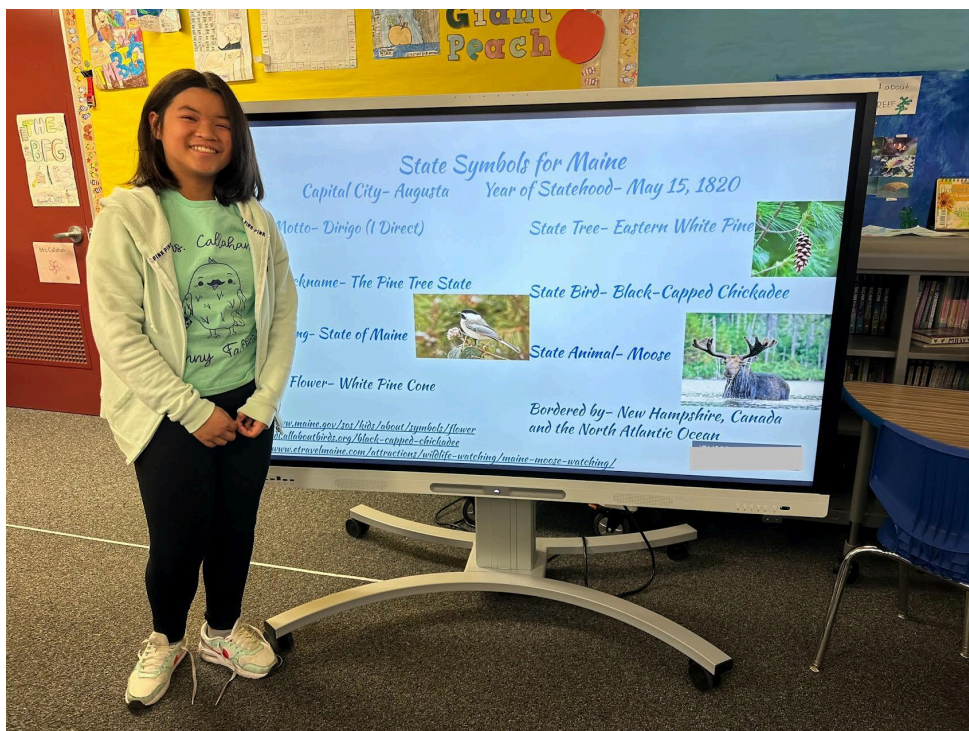
[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes Spanish](#)

[Suggested Walking and Biking Routes Vietnamese](#)



State Report from Mrs. Callahan's Class

Mrs. Callahan's 4th grade class has been working on state reports in their classroom. Here are some students presenting their reports utilizing the new Smart Boards we just acquired. Every classroom now has a Smart Board to do fun and innovative activities on.







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

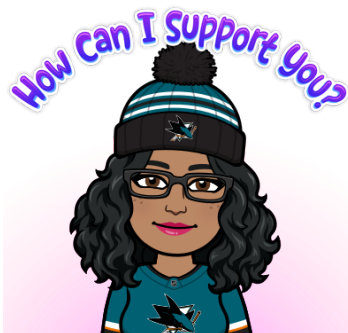
Certificated/CTAB Representative current employee of Berryessa Union School District – one (1) position

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](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> Thanks!



Science Lab

On Monday, April 8th (the day we get back from spring break), the solar eclipse will occur between 10:14 am until 12:16 pm. The main time in which the fullest part of the eclipse can be seen will be around 11:13am. From San Jose, we can only see a partial eclipse (~45% of the sun covered).

Our Science Lab instructor, Ms. Lucrece, collaborated with the PTA and PTA has generously purchased solar eclipse glasses for all students, teachers, and staff so they can use them to view the eclipse.

We will remind the students to only look at the sun only if using the eclipse glasses. Looking at the sun directly can cause damage to the eyes. These glasses are limited to 3 minutes of continuous use, intermittently over several hours. Anyone with diseased eyes or after eye surgery should not use these glasses.

Ms. Lucrece, will also stream the live video of the eclipse in the Multi so the students can see what it looks like on the path of totality.

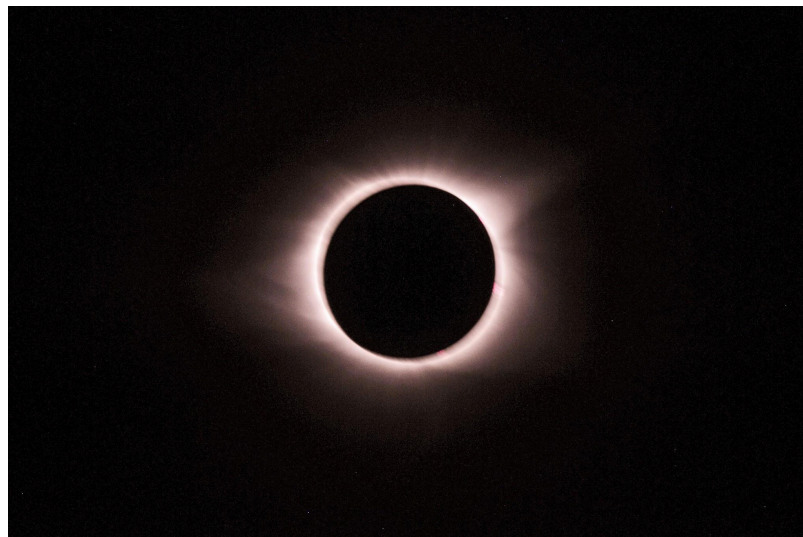
Below are some links for more information:

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/2024-total-solar-eclipse-guide>

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/san-jose?iso=20240408>

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1991228/where-to-see-the-2024-total-solar-eclipse-in-april>

Thank you Ms. Lucrece and our PTA for providing this awesome opportunity for our students and staff!!! What a fun event to look forward to on the day we return from Spring Break.

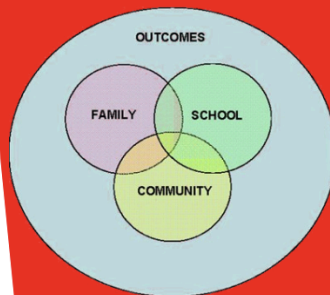


SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning) PBIS

In regards to school rules, policies and behavior expectations, parents play a crucial role. In order for students to have consistency, it is imperative that the school and parents are on the same page. As we continue our PBIS journey, we will continue to share our findings and policies with you. Here is a visual to show our interconnectedness.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Parents play an important role in implementing PBIS at school. Families are encouraged to reinforce the same expectations and rules that are used at school. Having this common language and support helps create consistency with children in learning expected and positive behaviors. Research has shown that when children feel support at home and school they have more confidence, feel school is important, and tend to do better in school.

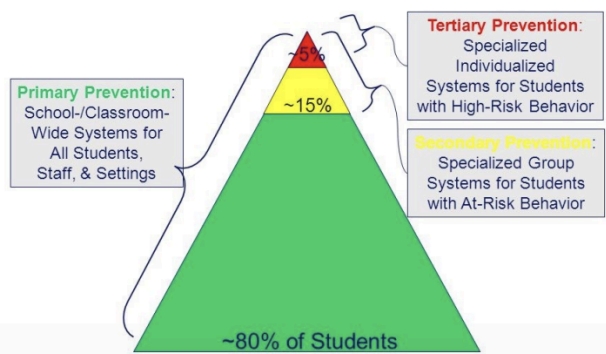


Why Implement PBIS??

- * Reduction in problem behavior
- * Increased academic performance
- * Improved perception of safety
- * Reduction in bullying behaviors
- * Increased administrator time for instructional leadership
- * Reduction in staff turnover
- * Increased perception of teacher efficacy
- * Improved social-emotional competence
- * Increased positive school climate and culture

Horner, 2013

PBIS is within a Tiered Response to Intervention Framework to meet the needs of each student.



Office of Assemblymember Alex Lee - Youth Art Contest

From Jo Nguyen with the Office of Assemblymember Alex Lee: I'm reaching out to inform you that our office is hosting a Youth Art Contest open to K-12 students that reside in the 24th Assembly District. This year's art contest theme is "A Home for Everyone." If you are able to, we would appreciate it if you could please share the details of the Youth Art Contest with BUSD schools, art teachers, and students. We hope to receive submissions from students all over the district and look forward to seeing the school district's turnout.

Winners of the art contest will be honored at the California State Capitol in the Assembly Chambers and displayed in Assemblymember Lee's Capitol Office for one year. Participants can learn more about the Youth Art Contest and submit their application on our website: <https://a24.asmdc.org/assembly-district-24-youth-art-contest-2024>

Best,

Jo Nguyen, Field Representative
Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs
Assemblymember Alex Lee, 24th District
District: 408-262-2501 | Capitol:
916-319-2024
<https://a24.asmdc.org> | [Sign up for newsletter](#)



APPLY BY APRIL 14, 2024
A24.ASMDC.ORG

PTA



IMPORTANT: Ruskin PTA is looking for the next group of parent leaders to step up and provide the support our school needs to build the community and programs our children deserve. Without Ruskin's PTA, the following programs would lose some or all their funding:

- 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. –

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.**

LITERACY NIGHT

On April 18, from 5-7, PTA will be hosting our annual Literacy Night. This promises to be a fun night filled with lots of hands-on activities for students and parents alike. In order for this event to be a success, we need your help. **If you are able to help volunteer to help host an activity, please contact the PTA Board at board@ruskinpta.org.** All materials will be prepared. We just need you to have fun with the kiddos doing some literacy activities.

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.



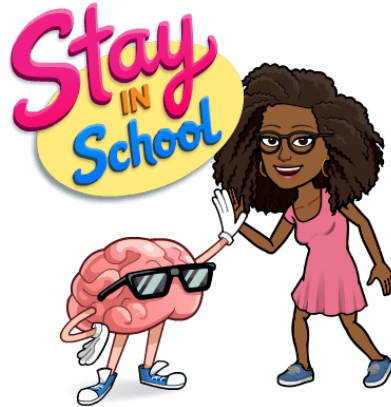
[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[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](#)

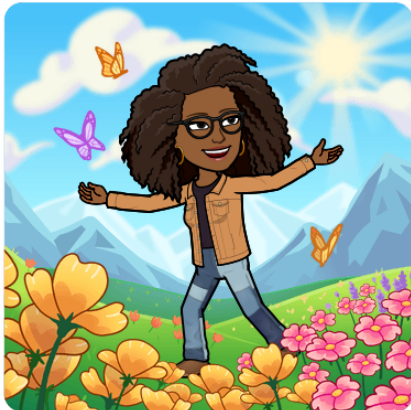
[Elementary Lunch Menu March 2024](#)

- 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 a great Spring Break!!!



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