



4.12.24



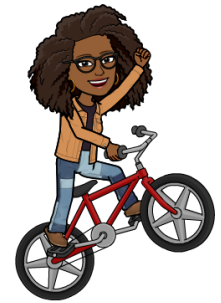
Happy Friday Ruskin Families,

Welcome back!! How was your Spring Break? What fun adventures did you get yourselves into? I spent a few days at the beach in Florida visiting a good friend. It was lots of sun, fun and good times spent with friends. I even ran into one of our teachers at the airport. We were on the same plane!!!

We started standardized testing this week, starting with the 5th graders. Our fifth graders took their Science assessments this week. Students in 3rd grade and above will begin testing on 4/23. I have again included a link to resources for parents and guardians [CAASPP Parent/ Guardian Resources](#).

This morning many of us woke up early to join in the fun for the Viva Escuela Community event put on by the City of San Jose's Walk N Roll program. There were games, prizes, Council Member David Cohen, Superintendent Fuentes and Assistant

Superintendent McCreary, as well as many other community members, families, staff and students. We appreciate all of the efforts put into making this event a success. More about the event and pictures will be featured in next week's newsletter.



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

- Solar Eclipse
- Pham/Vallala projects
- Assembly Member Alex Yee Art Contest
- Upcoming PTA events
- Solar Eclipse
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning

Solar Eclipse

This past Monday the students and staff witnessed the solar eclipse. Utilizing the NASA approved solar eclipse safety glasses provided by PTA, the students were able to experience this unique event that won't happen again until 2044. Here are some pictures of the students viewing the solar eclipse.



Full eclipse as seen by one of our 3rd grade students in Dallas, Texas



Mr. Ouyang's class



Ms. Burn's class



Mrs. Choi's Class



Ms. Nicole and Ms. Blackshire



Mrs. Munoz's Class

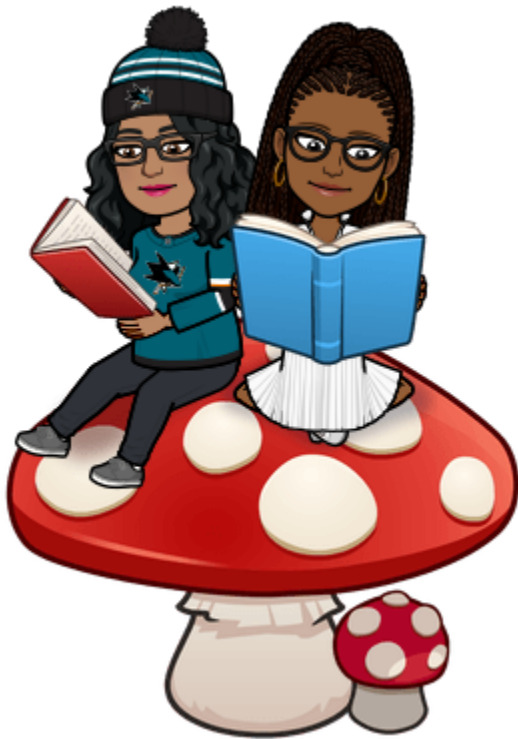


PTA



Welcome to all the new PTA Board members that took on a role for next school year.

We welcome you and are so appreciative that you stepped up and will keep the Ruskin PTA going for our students and staff. We applaud you.



PTA Event - Literacy Night

This coming Thursday, April 18 from 5-7, the PTA is sponsoring Literacy night. This is a fun night with many different literacy games and activities for students and parents alike. In order for this event to be a success, we need your help. We need volunteers to help us at various stations. **If you are able to volunteer to help host an activity, please contact the PTA Board at board@ruskinpta.org** The stations basically run themselves but need to be supervised. If we are unable to secure enough volunteers, we will have to have less stations for the children. Please also remember that students need to be supervised at this event. You need to have registered for this event and tickets will be given to the students to take home. We hope to see you there!

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.

Author Visit

On April 15th, Ruskin will host Author Lynne Kelly. **Bio/Intro:** "Lynne Kelly is the award-winning author of "Song for a Whale" which won the 2020 Schneider Family Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by New York Public Library. Her new book, "The Secret Language of Birds" has received critical acclaim, with Booklist saying, "From the lively characters to the secret at the heart of the plot, this book takes readers on an unusual and rewarding adventure." Lynne lives near Houston,

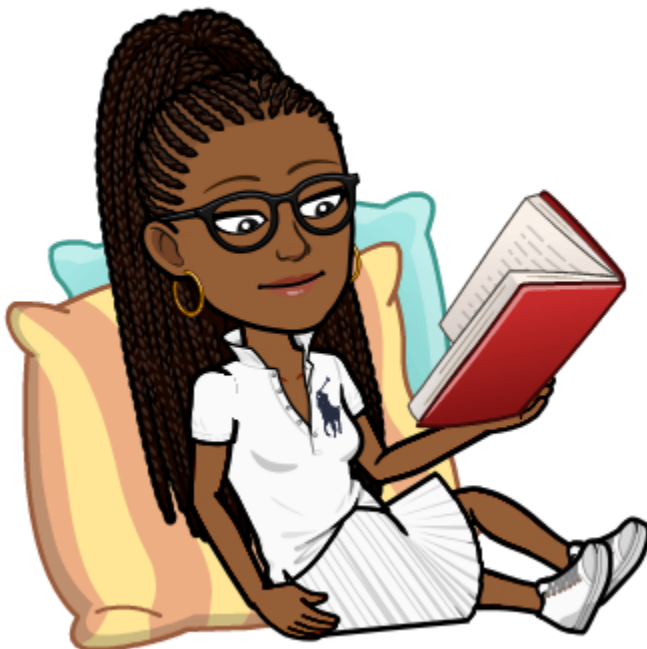
Texas with her dogs, Abigail, and Eloise. She works as a sign language interpreter while writing books for kids."

On April 17th, Ruskin will host Author Ben Clanton. **Bio/Intro:** Ben Clanton is a children's book author and illustrator or "authorstrator (best known for the Narwhal and Jelly books). [He has] spent most of [his] time on this planet reading, drawing, playing basketball, gardening and eating waffles." "Ben Clanton is a lot like a mutant potato. He too enjoys mud, eating stuff, and playing games. When Ben isn't doing these things (and sometimes when he is), he likes to make books. Books like the Tater Tales series, It Came in the Mail, Something Extraordinary, and the New York Times bestselling Narwhal and Jelly series."

In order to get into the literacy spirit, PTA is also sponsoring a Literacy Spirit Week.

- **Monday, April 15: "Birds"** - Welcome author Lynne Kelly by wearing a shirt with a bird on it (like a Ruskin roadrunner shirt!) or bringing in a toy bird.
- **Wednesday, April 17: "Marine Animals"** - Welcome author Ben Clanton by wearing a shirt with a favorite marine animal on it or bringing in a stuffed marine animal.

Click on the [link](#) to see the complete Literacy Spirit Week, day by day.



School Consolidation Advisory Committee

Please see the info below regarding the need for an advisory committee to analyze school sites to help identify which ones might be considered for consolidation:

Dear Berryessa Community,

As you may be aware, BUSD is actively recruiting applicants to form part of a new School Consolidation Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to conduct a thorough review and analyze school sites across the District and to identify those that may be considered for consolidation due to reduced necessity for school purposes. The committee will be discussing topics such as:

- District and School Enrollment Trends
- Conditions of Facilities
- School Configuration Models
- School Closures and/or Consolidation Options
- School Boundary Realignments

The Committee will develop recommendations regarding school closures and/or consolidations that will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Given the significance of this task, the District seeks individuals who are highly-qualified, capable, and dedicated to serve as members of the Committee.

Please find the recruitment packet with the application for serving on the BUSD School Consolidation Advisory Committee on the [District's website](#). Applications are available in English, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Spanish.

The application submission deadline has been extended to Monday,
April 15, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Applications are to be submitted to: Kevin Franklin at kfranklin@busd.net
For questions, please contact either Kevin Franklin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, kfranklin@busd.net or 408-923-1860 or Margot Sandoval, Administrative Assistant, msandoval@busd.net or 408-923-1860.

We look forward to hearing from individuals who are passionate about our BUSD schools and community to apply to become a member of the committee and contribute to shaping the future of our district.

Measure A Vacancies

Please see the following link for more information about [Measure A Vacancies](#).

Multicultural Fair

Ruskin Elementary School is hosting our Multicultural Fair on Friday, May 3rd, 2024. Our previous Multicultural Fairs were a huge success. The fair consists of hands-on activities, traditional costumes/outfits, music and art, and food.

Separately at the fair, we invite children and families to show their cultural stories and dance on stage. This is open to extended family members as well. If you would love to be part of our performance please contact Ms. Barragan at 408-923-1950 ex. 3222 or by email sbarragan@busd.net.

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!



SEL Corner (Social Emotional Learning) PBIS

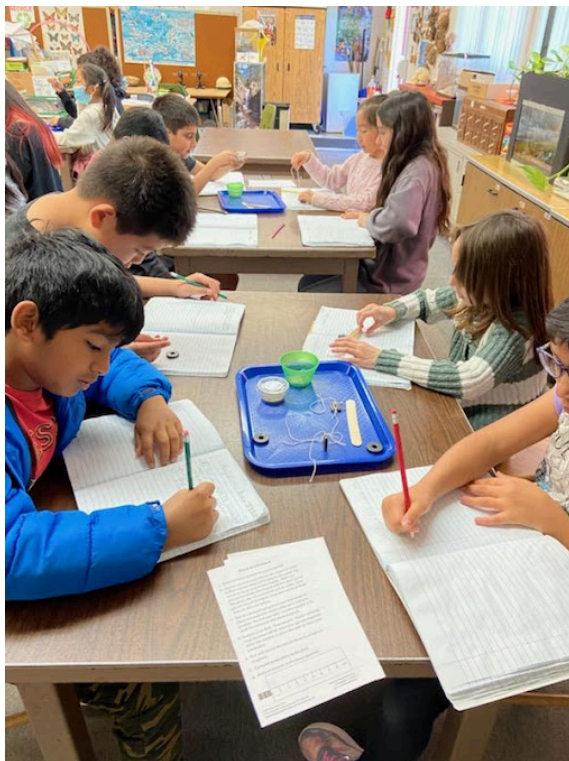
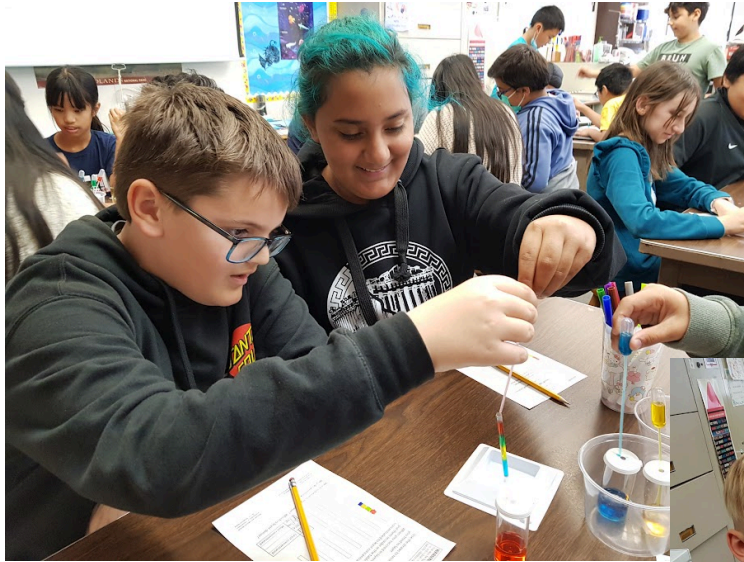
As mentioned previously, in regards to school rules, policies and behavior expectations, in order for students to have consistency, it is imperative that the school and parents are on the same page. I communicated with you that we would be sharing our findings, policies and values with you. At our last two staff meetings, we came up with the most crucial parts of the school grounds that need the most attention in regards to student activity. Each location has behavior expectations the staff created that focus on the three core values: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe**. Here is a visual to show our findings. It is still a work in progress.

RUSKIN SCHOOL MATRIX

	LUNCH TABLES	PLAYGROUND	BATHROOMS	WATER STATION	MULTI
BE RESPECTFUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to yard duty for instructions and dismissal Keep hands, feet, and body to yourself Use good manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take turns Be kind Include others Be a good sport Listen to the yard duty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect others privacy Quiet voices in and near the restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait patiently Walk quietly to and from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use inside voices Use quiet walking feet
BE RESPONSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after yourself Eat your own food only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throw trash in garbage can Pick up your belongings when bell rings Use playground equipment safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flush, Wash, Leave Throw trash in garbage can Keep water inside the sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throw cups in trash can Water station is for drinking and filling bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult permission needed to walk through the multi
BE SAFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk with your food to the tables Walk in the table areas Walk to the playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay visible Walk to line up Safe hands and safe feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking near and inside bathrooms Keep water off the floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell an adult about water spills Drink from the top of the arc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use walking feet Stairs are for adults only

Science Lab

This week, the 5th grade classes explored the relationship between concentration and density. The 2nd grade classes separated different sized particles of solid matter. The 3rd grade classes experimented with magnets and magnetic force.



REMINDERS

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

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:

- 4.18 Literacy Night
- 5.3 Multicultural Fair



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.



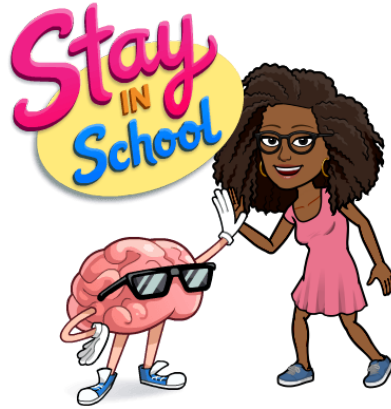
[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[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 April 2024](#)

 [Elementary Lunch Menu April 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 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