



4.19.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

Did you know yesterday was National High Five Day? The third Thursday in April is recognized as National High Five Day. Take the time to give a High Five today as we celebrate High Five Friday!

Thank you so much for all of you that were able to come to the Viva Escuela Community Event last Friday. We had vendors from various organizations, including the Boy Scouts, RAFT, Maker's Space Bus, the ROCK after school program and the Police and Fire Department. We had such a great turnout ! I would like to personally thank Council Member David Cohen and office, Superintendent Fuentes and Assistant Superintendent McCreary for their presence. A huge shout out to Winne Gee and her team from the City of San Jose Walk N Roll program for organizing this event!! We love the fact that families walked or rode bikes or scooters to the event, especially with the street closure. Hopefully parents can come up with alternate routes to school or see that they can park a bit away from the school and take a short walk. This helps alleviate traffic congestion and keeps more people safe. Kudos to everyone!!



Standardized testing will resume next 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](#).

While at recess this week, I happened to be playing with the kids during a Ruskin Fit day. I had fun hula hooping with the kids. They were pretty shocked I knew how to do it and kept challenging me to add hoops. My record was 3 hoops at once. It was a lot of fun to be out in the sun with the kids and getting some physical activity.



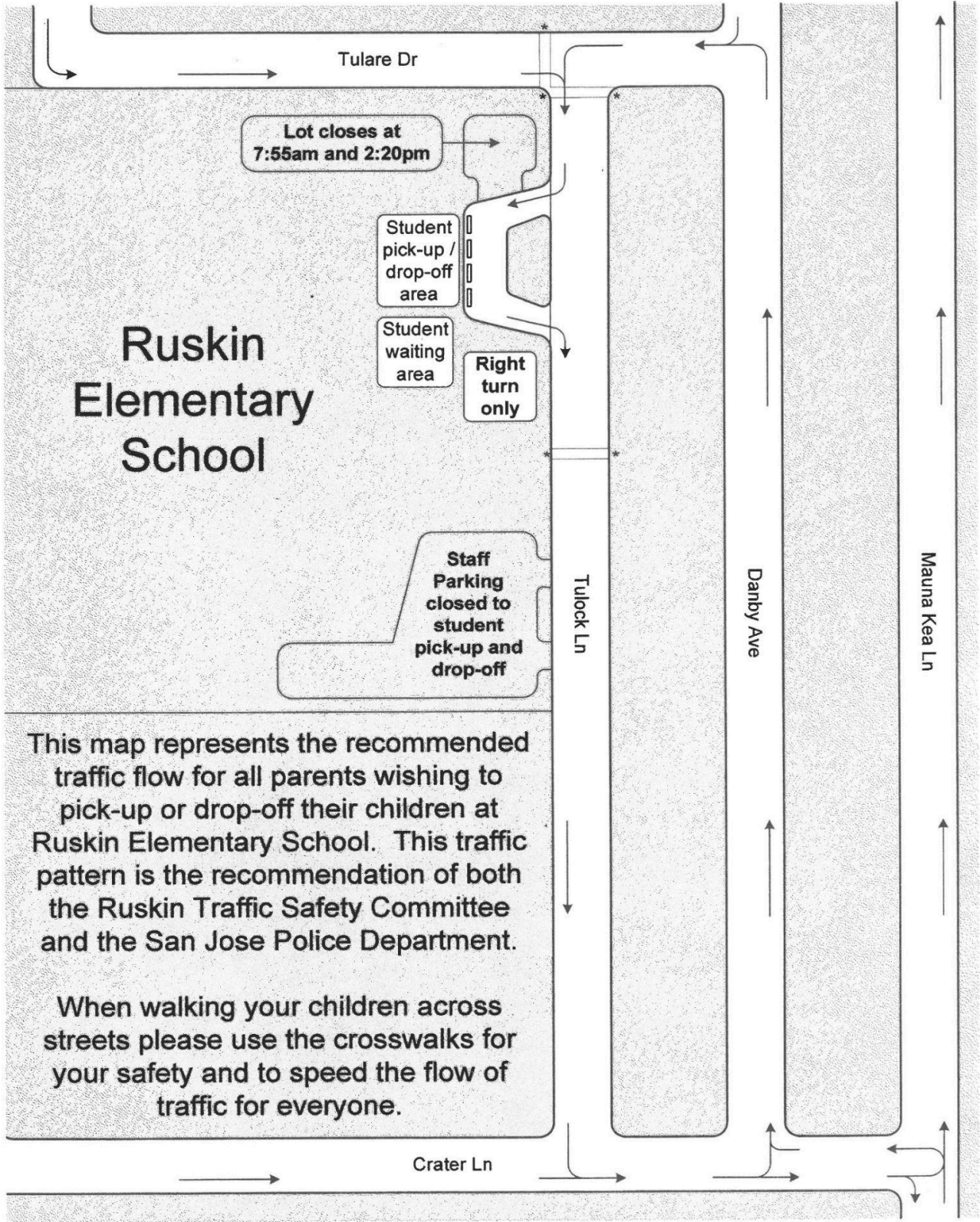
In today's memo we will be covering the following main topics:

- Viva Escuela
- Traffic Flow Control
- Author Visits
- Ohlone Indian Lessons
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning

## Traffic Flow Control

You may have noticed the additional cones and signs out on Turlock in front of the school. They were given to us through PTA by the City of San Jose, Councilmember Cohen's office. **We also worked with SJPD to come up with a recommended traffic pattern.** We were given the cones with the agreement that we would tighten up the flow of traffic. With that being said, we have extended the cones to prevent left turns into the horseshoe, as it significantly slows down the flow of traffic. We understand that it may be inconvenient for some of you but **PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE AROUND THE CONES AND TURN LEFT INTO THE PARKING LOT.** You may want to go one street over, on Danby, and then turn onto Turlock so you can turn right into the parking lot. Please see the suggested route and set up below.

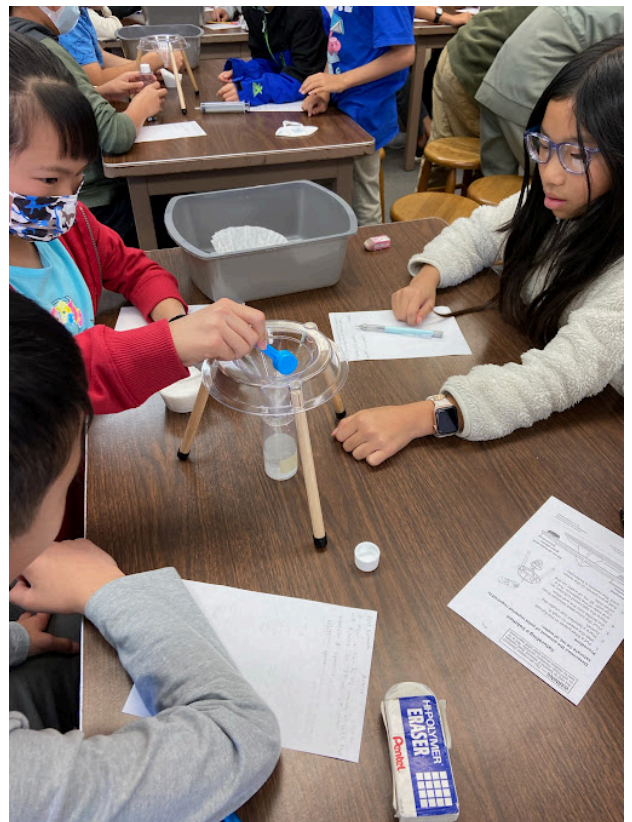






## Science Lab

Last Friday, the 4th grade students learned about electromagnets. This week, the 5th grade classes tested how much salt is needed to saturate a solution. The 3rd grade classes learned about types of forces. The 1st grade classes explored light and reflection.



## Social Emotional Learning



This week, Ms Nicole, our School Social Worker, pushed into classrooms and taught students about various good character traits to have. She had a discussion with the students and then read a book to them on this topic. The students were involved and participated throughout the lesson. They also did a fun coloring activity with hidden character traits located in the picture. **Above is Ms. Munoz's class.**





## Author Visits



This week our PTA sponsored an author visit from not one, but TWO authors. On Monday, author Lynne Kelly was here talking to the 3rd-5th graders about the process of writing books, her journey and answered some questions from students. It was very informative. The kids learned so much about what it takes to be an author

On Wednesday, we were fortunate to be visited by author, Ben Clanton. He spoke to the students about his journey, especially as a children's book author and illustrator or an "authorstrator ". He led the students on an amazing drawing adventure.



## Ohlone Indian in class Field Trip

On Wednesday, Mr. Keith from A Touch of the Earth was sharing the ways of the Ohlone Indians with the 3rd graders. "This 1 1/2 hour classroom field trip program assists teachers with their studies of California Indians. The children learn about the life of the Coastanoans (Ohlone) through hands-on activities including: acorn grinding, hunting, fire making, games, clothing, song and dance. The children will also learn where they lived, what they ate and how they made things such as tools. Everyone will go away with a sense of history and respect for these Bay Area natives. " (A Touch of the Earth website) The students learned how to make face paint from rocks, barter and drill. Here are some pics below from the visit.





Third Graders learning about the Ohlone Indians of California

## Arab American Heritage Month

Did you know that April is Arab American Heritage Month? In April of 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed April as Arab American Heritage Month. Arab Americans have played a significant role in the United States by advocating for their own rights and the rights of other minority groups during and after the [Civil Rights Movement](#), in campaigns against discrimination, racial profiling and hate crimes. The goal “is to mobilize a whole-of-society effort to counter all forms of hate, discrimination, and bias against Muslim, Sikh, South Asian, and Arab American communities and to raise awareness about their heritage and invaluable contributions to our country.”(USDA Website). Here is a [video](#) to learn more about this celebration.



## Literacy Night

Last night the PTA sponsored our annual Literacy Night. We had a great turnout ! In keeping in tune with our Literacy Spirit Week, students dressed up as their favorite book character on Thursday. Children and parents visited different stations with hands-on activities and games, all centered around literacy. Every student who attended received a free book. Some of the activities were a Narnia's Turkish Delight tasting, to make a Morse Code, journal decorating, Meet an Author and more. Thank you to PTA, the staff and all volunteers who helped to make this evening a success. More pictures next week!



# PTA



**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](mailto:board@ruskinpta.org) to order.

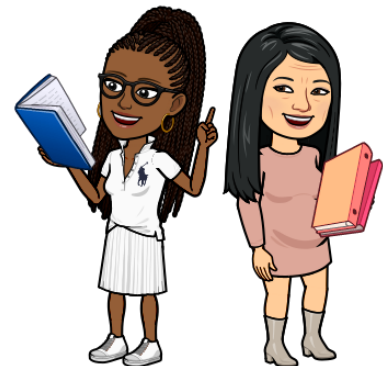
# Reminders

## 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:

- 4.22-5.3 SBAC Testing for grades 3-5
- 4.25 Spirit Day Pokemon /Anime Day
- 5.3 Multicultural Fair

## Traffic Reminders



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

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](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.



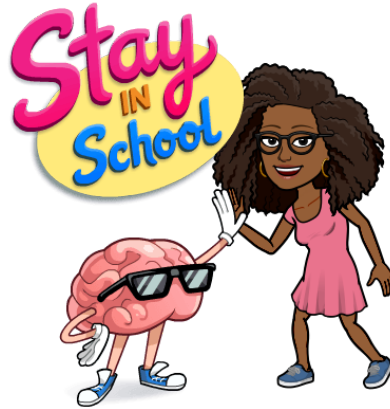
[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[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
- Not allowed during standardized testing for grades 3-5
- Not allowed last 2 weeks of school

## 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 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

The weather should be lovely! Have a great weekend!!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal (co starring Ms. Kim, Mrs. Kawasaki, Mrs. Blair Lee and Ms. Melani)

#### 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)