



4.26.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? There was a lot going on at Ruskin! The students in 3rd-5th grades have been taking the CAASPP standardized exams exhibiting what they have learned throughout the school year. Here is the link again with parent resources for testing [CAASPP Parent/Guardian Resources](#). On Thursday, staff was trained on how to safely release students to their parent, guardian or approved pick up person in the event of an emergency. We will be having a drill this coming Monday to practice with the students **so there will BE NO FLAG POLE ON MONDAY, APRIL 29TH.**

You may have noticed that cones are out, then they are not out...We are working with SJPD, City of San Jose, the head of our Maintenance Department and Superintendent Fuentes to make sure that traffic is kept as safe as possible in the area while also being considerate of our neighbors. With that being said, what would **REALLY** help us out would be if drivers actually followed the safety and traffic rules and guidelines. **There are no left turns out of the horseshoe.** Signs are posted yet people do so and cause traffic jams and near misses with

oncoming traffic. That is the **ONLY** reason that cones are present. We appreciate you keeping our students, staff and community safe by abiding by the rules. **That includes no U- turns in the middle of the street during pick up / drop off.** Thanks for helping us out and thank you for the kind emails appreciating what we are doing to keep everyone safe. Please be reminded of the traffic rules listed below in the “Traffic Reminders” section.

Please note that the **next Weekly Memo will come out on May 10**, as I will be traveling to Ohio next week to celebrate my son’s graduation from college.

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

- Traffic (above)
- Multicultural Festival
- District Music Festival
- Earth Day
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning
- PTA

**greetings &  
salutations!**



## Multicultural Fair

Please don't forget to join us for our annual Multicultural Festival next Friday, May 3rd from 5-7 PM. This event showcases the many various cultures that we have at Ruskin. There will be food, performances, music and so much more!!!. There is an entrance fee of \$2 per person to help cover the festival costs. We hope you can attend.

# Ruskin MULTICULTURAL Fair

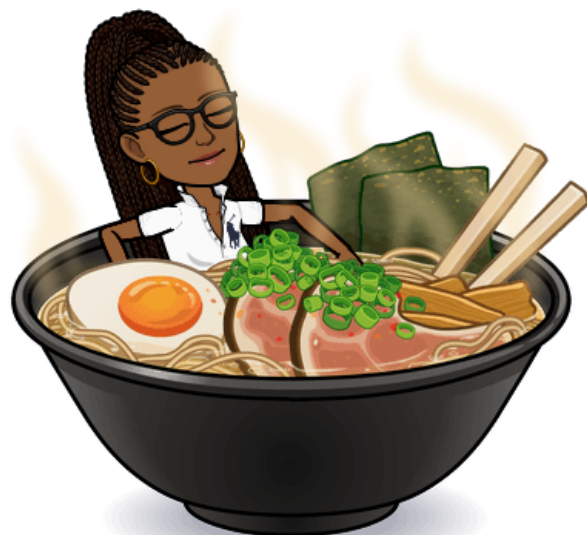


Friday, May 3rd, 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

**Come enjoy dance performances! Taste a small sampling of appetizers and purchase some soft serve ice cream!**

**\$2 per person  
includes water and food bowl for appetizers**

*DIVERSITY - CULTURE - COMMUNITY*



## District Music Festival

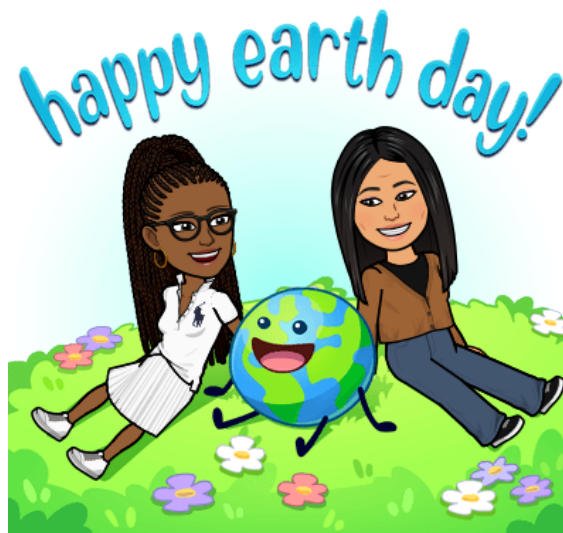
This year, our 5th grade music students had the opportunity to perform at our Berryessa Music Festival Extravaganza. Students practiced, auditioned, and practiced some more to get ready for this festival. There were 90 elementary string students and 43 elementary band students that went and performed with the middle schools, **with 5 of the band and 13 of the string students coming from Ruskin**. Great job to all the students who participated! Ruskin Music Program will be having their final music concert of the year on May 23rd at 5 PM in the Multipurpose Room. Thank you to our amazing music teachers Ms. Lin and Mr. Joey! Here is a list of the Ruskin students who performed at the District Music Festival:



Celine L., Chloe C., Zi Ning N., Yun-Jen L., Tiffany J., Cooper L., Ethan H.,  
Cady T., Anjali C., Harmony C., Anh (Krystal) D., Priscilla B., Hance L.

## Earth Day

This past Monday was Earth Day. Did you know each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation? By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we're making our world a happier, healthier place to live. (National Geographic Kids). What do you and your family do for Earth Day? Here is a [video](#) that explains what Earth Day is and ways you can help take care of Mother Earth.



## Science Lab

This week, the 5th grade students investigated the physical and chemical properties of different powders. The 1st grade students explored the interaction between air and water. The TK students engineered sturdy cup towers to save toy bears.



## Social Emotional Learning

As part of our **PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support ) Initiative**, staff members are trained to explicitly teach children the positive expected behaviors they wish to see. One of the things we teach children is to be kind. What does that actually mean? It may be easier to show by example. Here are 10 ways in which children can be kind to others at school:

### Kindness at school

1. Hold the door open for your teacher or headteacher.
2. Let someone else go in front of the line to go out to play.
3. Help a friend who's stuck on their classwork.
4. **Clear up a mess you didn't make.**
5. Tell someone a joke to cheer them up if they're feeling sad.
6. Hang up someone's coat if it's fallen off its peg.
7. **Sharpen all the pencils in the class at breaktime.**
8. Sort out the reading books if they're all jumbled up.
9. Write your teacher a note or a poem about why you like them.
10. **Clear out your old books and donate them to the school library.**



## More Literacy Night Photos





# PTA



## PTA- Upcoming Events

- Teacher Appreciation Week Activities- May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>
- A special treat! One last in person Author's visit (TK & K) Matt de la Pena- May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Happy Birds Assembly- May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Year-End Event Ruskin Evening of Fun- May 31<sup>st</sup>

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



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**
- 5.3 Multicultural Fair 5-7PM**
- 5.6 Mobile Dairy Cow Assembly**
- 5.6-5.10 Teacher Appreciation Week**

## **Traffic Reminders**



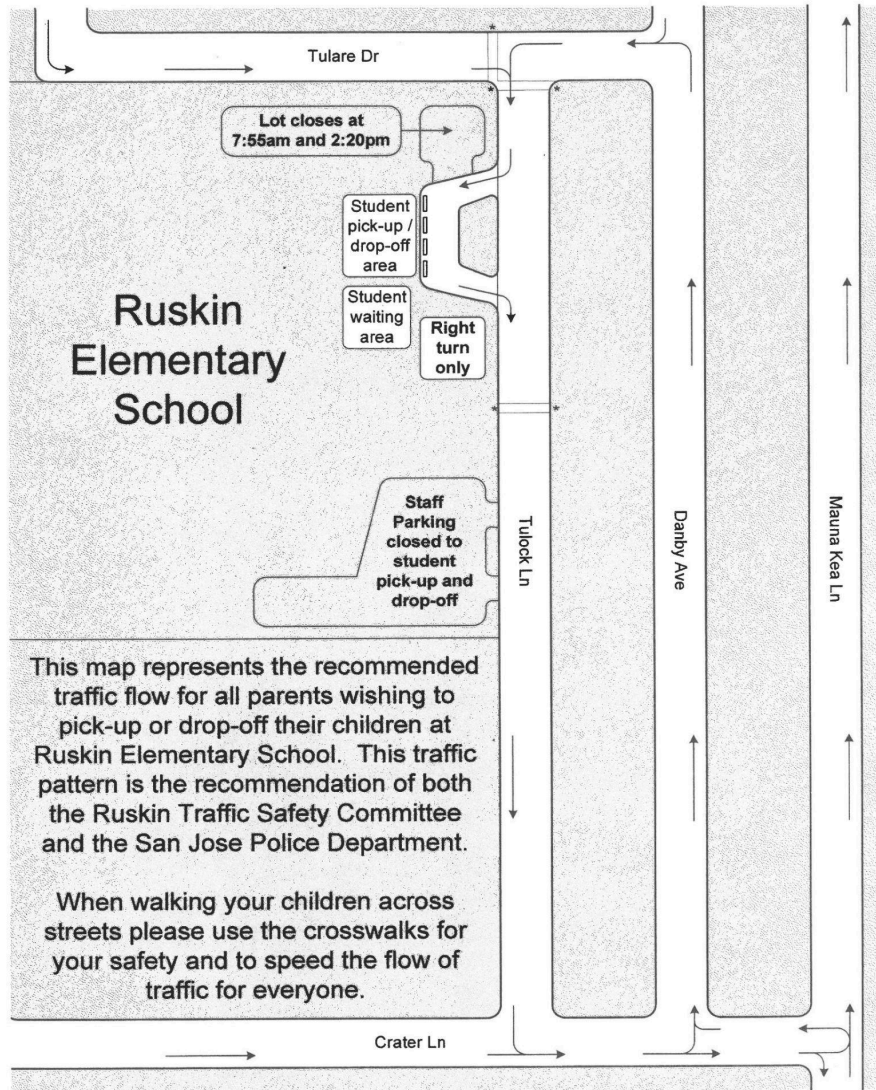
Parents, please remember, NOT to park in the horseshoe. It is made for cars to move in and out of quickly. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at [Lblackshire@busd.net](mailto:Lblackshire@busd.net).

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.

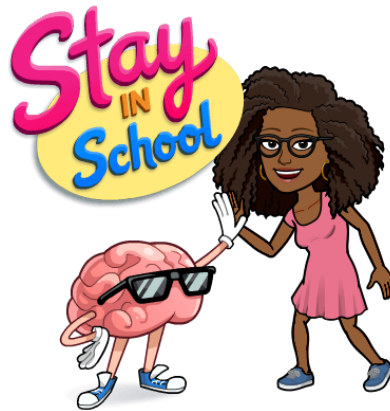


## [Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

## [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

Have a great weekend!!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal (co starring Ms. Jackson, Ms. Kim, 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)