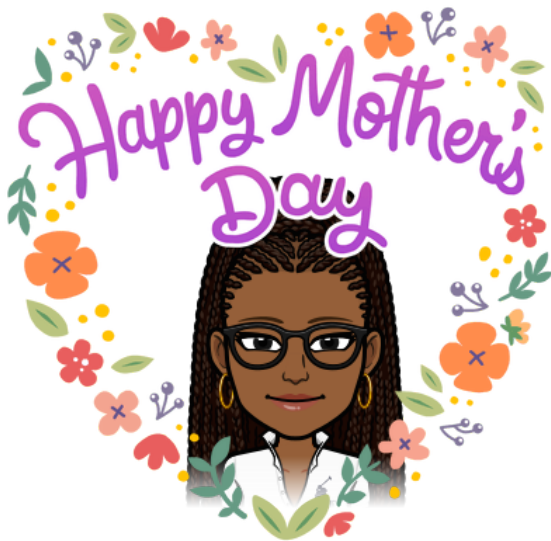




5.10.24



Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,

How was your week? It seems like forever since we've touched base. I hope you all have been well. I am still reveling in the excitement of visiting my son in Ohio and watching him walk across the stage at his college graduation. We are so proud of him and being an educator, I am very happy to share that accomplishment with you. I have included a picture of our family with the graduate in this week's newsletter.

Thank you to our amazing PTA and parents for making Teacher and Staff Appreciation week so special. We certainly felt spoiled and appreciated! The food, treats, cards, flowers, decorations, gifts...they were ALL cherished. We have the best parents and PTA in the district! Hands down!!!

I wish all the mothers and mother figures out there a wonderful, happy and blessed Mother's Day!! Enjoy the day that is specifically for you!! We appreciate you all!





### Notre Dame College

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

- Mobile Dairy Assembly
- Multicultural Festival
- San Jose Giants Field Trip
- Open House
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning
- PTA
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week



## Mobile Dairy Assembly

This Monday we had a visit from Buttercup the cow and her calf Oreo. The instructor, Brandon, taught us all about the cow and how we get our dairy products. The assembly also stresses the importance of healthy eating. The kids had a great time learning all about the cows and even got the opportunity to take a picture with the cow.



## Multicultural Fair

Last Friday, Ms. Barragan and Mrs. Kawasaki hosted our annual Multicultural Fair. There were activities, food, performances and of course, Mr. Softee. Thank you to all that participated, hosted a country, performed, assisted, cleaned or did anything to help make this a fabulous event! I love all the exposure that the students get at this event to experience and connect with all the different cultures that make Ruskin such an amazing place!

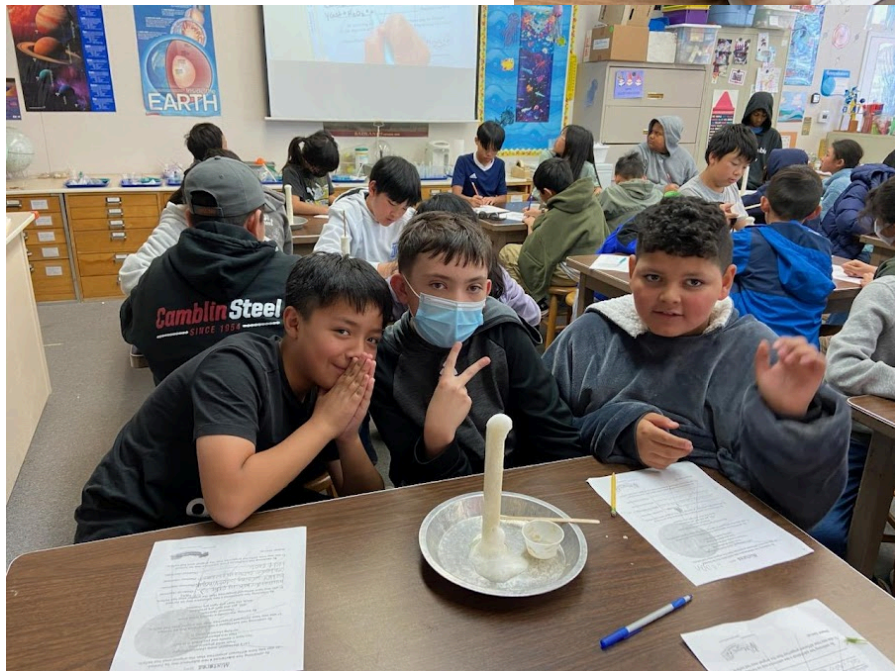






## Science Lab

Last week, the 5th graders had conducted multiple chemical reactions. They really enjoyed making "Elephant's Toothpaste" in their last lab at Ruskin. The 4th grade classes explored energy and how it can change. The 2nd grade students learned about how heat can change matter in different ways.



# Social Emotional Learning

## Positive Thinking

**What is Positive Thinking?** Positive Thinking is the practice of focusing on good things, despite the situation. It does not mean that you ignore challenges and avoid trying to solve them; it simply means looking for the good.

**Why teach children Positive Thinking?** Positive Thinking promotes a healthy mindset in children; fostering optimism and a positive sense of self. Optimism and positive self-concept can help children develop a sense of self-efficacy and belief in the ability to succeed in many capacities in life. Positive thinking supports mental wellness. Next week I will share ways in which to encourage positive thinking in children. This article was shared by our **School Social Worker, Ms. Nicole.**

## Celebrating our School Lunch Heroes



May 6 was School Lunch Hero Day. The students and staff honored our Kitchen Supervisors, Ms. Stella and Ms. Emily, who serve our kiddos daily. Leadership students made a poster and students signed it to show their appreciation. Ms. Stella has worked in the Ruskin kitchen for 5 years. Thank you ladies for all you do! Ms. Emily will be featured next week.





# Open House

Thank you to all the attendees who were able to come out for Open House. The students and teachers have been working tirelessly to get through the standards, complete projects, and prepare to show off their best work. Along with the classwork, students had their science projects on display in the multipurpose room. We have quite a few potential future scientists at Ruskin!





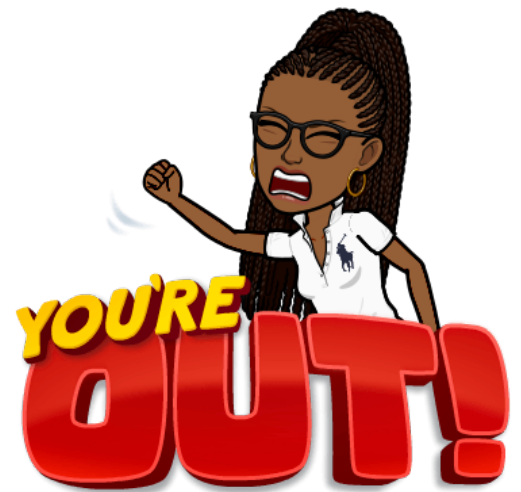


## San Jose Giants Field Trip

On Tuesday, eight of our classes, ranging from grades 1-4 went on a field trip to the Education Day at San Jose Giants Baseball stadium. The students were able to see a game but there was so much more. The San Jose Giants' Education Day is a unique day for local schools to enjoy an educational & fun baseball-themed field trip. Tickets include educational learning centers,

baseball-themed activities & a baseball game at Excite Ballpark!





# ***PTA***

## **PTA- Upcoming Events**

- 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+\$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:

- Author Visit May 15
- Happy Birds Assembly May 20
- BMX Assembly May 28
- Ruskin Evening of Fun May 31

## Traffic Reminders



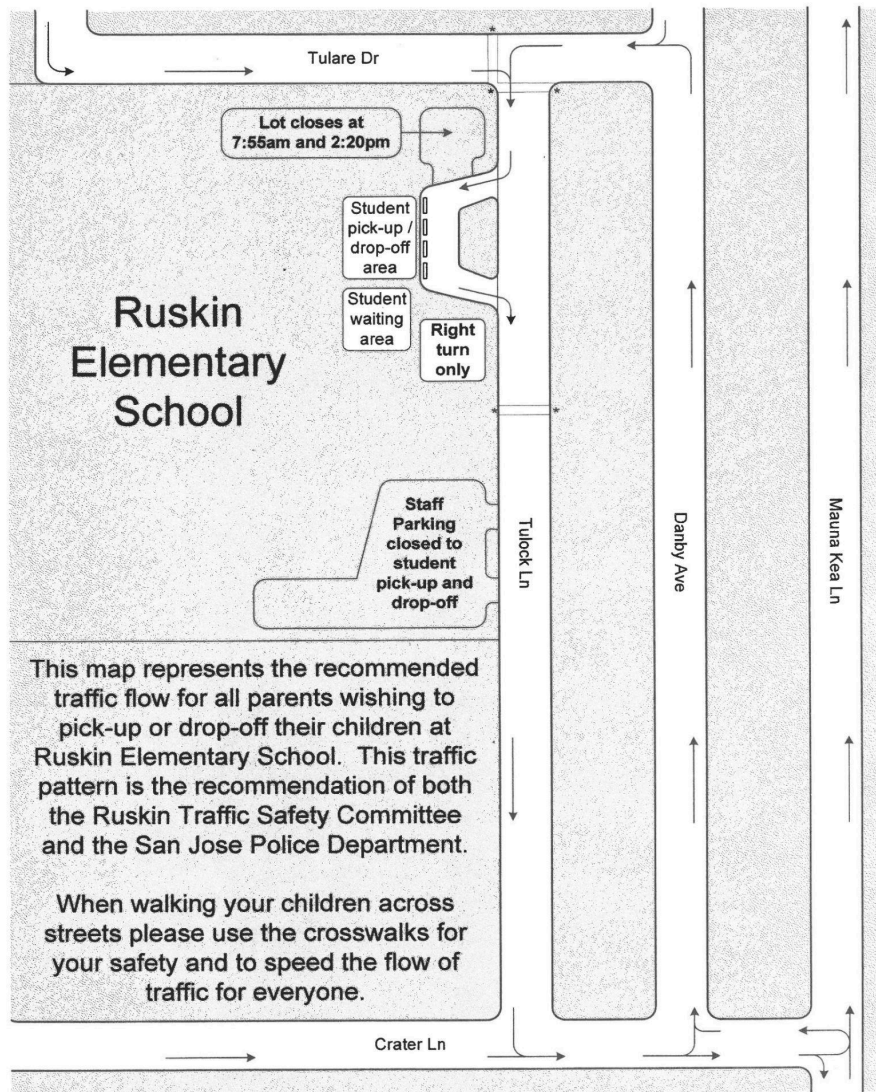
Parents, please remember, NOT to park in the horseshoe. It is made for cars to move in and out of quickly. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at [Lblackshire@busd.net](mailto:Lblackshire@busd.net).

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.

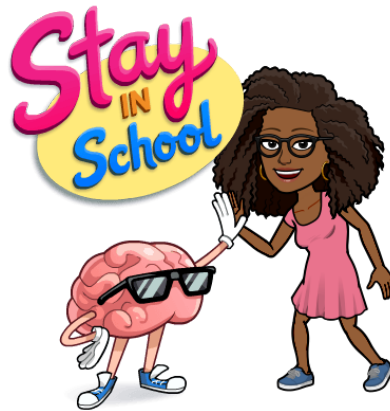


## [Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

## [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

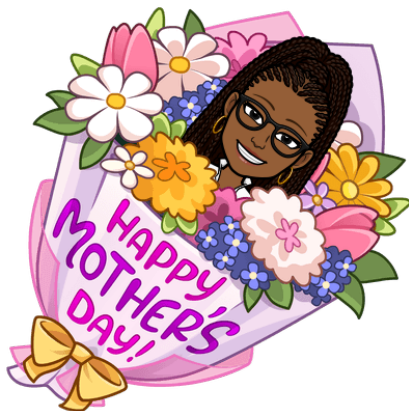
**Berryessa Union School District.** School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student may receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch each school day. Meals include fruit, vegetables, and milk. Milk taken separately from a meal costs \$0.50 (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

  [Elementary Breakfast May 2024](#)

[Elementary Lunch Menu May 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 spectacular Mother's Day weekend!!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal

## **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)