



5.17.24

Happy High Five Friday Ruskin Families,



How are you? The days seem to be flying by! We only have **14** days of school left! I mean, that's what someone told me. I'm not counting 😊.

We will be having a special assembly this Monday at 8:20 in lieu of our flagpole ceremony. We will meet outside and have some end of the year fun and celebrations. Parents are welcomed to join us on the blacktop.

Even though we are nearing the end of the school year, we have SO much left to do. The month of May is filled with many things! We had Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day and did you know that May is **Asian American Pacific Islander Month or AAPI Month**? May was designated AAPI Month to commemorate the first Japanese immigrants to arrive in the U.S. in 1843. May was also chosen as a way to remember the Chinese immigrants who worked tirelessly to create the first transcontinental railroad in America in May of 1843 and ending in May of 1869. What are the cultures that are represented in AAPI? They are East Asia: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan, Taiwanese, Tibetan. Hawai'i and Pacific

Islands: Carolinian, Chamorro, Chuukese, Fijian, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Kosraean, Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Niuean, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Pohnpeian, Samoan, Tokelauan, Tongan, Yapese.(*api-gv.org*)

We are honored to have a large Asian population at Ruskin. Let's celebrate them and their many contributions to our country. Here is a [video](#) to learn more about this cultural celebration.

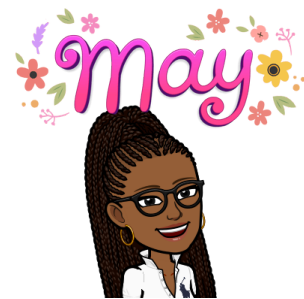
Parents, we need your help. We have been experiencing a few situations that we need you to talk to your child about. We have been having a lot of foul language being used on the playground by all grade levels, even Kinders. Please speak with them about using appropriate language at school. We appreciate your help.

I also want to let you know that we have had some students misusing their technology. We have had student's email accounts hacked and digital projects altered. There were some very inappropriate incidents that resulted from this. Multiple students were hurt. Besides the fact that it is mean and hurtful, it is against district policy. Please speak with your children about their use of technology. I had the Director of Technology come speak to the upper grade students about internet safety and the consequences of abusing their privileges. If you would like to learn more about Social Media safety please join us for a Parent workshop entitled Social Media Safety. It will be held via Zoom on Wednesday May 22nd at 7:30 PM. Here is a [flier](#) with more information.

Book Fair opens today through May 24. It will be open also after school with parent supervision and 2:30-3:15 and on Thursday 1-2:15 PM.

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

- Asian American Pacific Islander Month
- Book Fair May 17-May 24
- Mrs. Paddock's Class Play
- College Monday
- Science Lab
- Social Emotional Learning
- PTA Upcoming



Mrs. Paddock's Class Soars in their U.S. Constitution Performance

On Wednesday, Mrs. Paddock's 5th grade class put on her annual performance of her Constitution Play. The students belted out their songs and told the story of how the Constitution came to be. Mrs. Paddock did an amazing job, as usual, in getting the students prepared for their awesome performance. Great job to everyone!!



College Monday

It has been a little while since we had a college feature. This week's college is New Mexico State. According to its profile New Mexico State University (main campus) sits on a 900-acres and enrolls more than 14,000 students from across the U.S. and 89 foreign countries. NMSU is a NASA Space-Grant College and home to the very first Honors College in New Mexico. A Hispanic-Serving Institution, NMSU serves a multi-cultural population of students and community members across the state at four campuses, a satellite learning center in Albuquerque, cooperative extension offices located in each of New Mexico's 33 counties, and 12 agriculture research and science centers.

NMSU STATE



Science Lab

We have come to the final week of science lab. This week, the 2nd grade classes did candy chemistry experiments. The 1st grade classes explored how parachutes work by making their own. The kindergartners made ice cream using what they learned about changing matter.



Social Emotional Learning

Positive Thinking

Last week we talked about the importance of teaching positive thinking to children. This week we discuss ways to encourage positive thinking in children.

Ways to encourage positive thinking in children:

Teach and Encourage Positive Self-Talk: Self-talk is our inner dialogue. When feeling threatened, sometimes self-talk turns negative (“I can’t do this”; “I’m not smart enough”; “I don’t have enough friends”). Beliefs about popularity, competition, and perfectionism can lead to more stressful thoughts. It is important to be able to change negative thoughts to more positive encouraging thoughts (“I can do this” or “I can try to do this”; “I’m intelligent and I can figure this out”; “I have friends”)

Teach Reframing: reframing is a way to think about negative thoughts in a more positive way, which can lead to feelings of less stress and more optimism. It’s more important that reframed thoughts are believable and realistic; they don’t have to be purely positive. For Example:
Worry thought: I’ll probably mess up all my lines in my speech.

Purely positive reframe: Everything will be fine!
Believable and realistic reframe: I practiced my speech a lot. I might mess up a line or two, but most people won’t even know. I can keep going.

Encourage Optimism: Optimism is not thinking that everything is always going to be great. It is about thinking that something good is coming, fostering self-efficacy and resilience.

Listen empathically: Listening to your child’s concerns, without dismissing them, is an important first step. Gently ask follow-up questions to uncover the underlying thought causing worry or frustration.

Model Positive Thinking: One of the best ways to help children develop healthy thinking patterns is to model it as a parent. Children are constantly learning from those around them, picking up on how adults frame events in their life. If you’re more positive they will be too.

Celebrating our School Lunch Heroes



As mentioned last week, 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 was featured last week. This week we feature Ms. Emily who has worked in the district for 15 years. Thank you for all you do!



PTA

PTA- Upcoming Events

- Author visit with Matt LaPena canceled
- Happy Birds Assembly- May 20th
- Year-End Event Ruskin Evening of Fun- May 31st



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.

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. All clothing not claimed will be donated at the end of the year.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- **Assembly at flagpole May 20th 8:30**
- **Happy Birds Assembly May 20**
- **BMX Assembly May 28**
- **Ruskin Evening of Fun Event May 31 5-7 PM**

Traffic Reminders



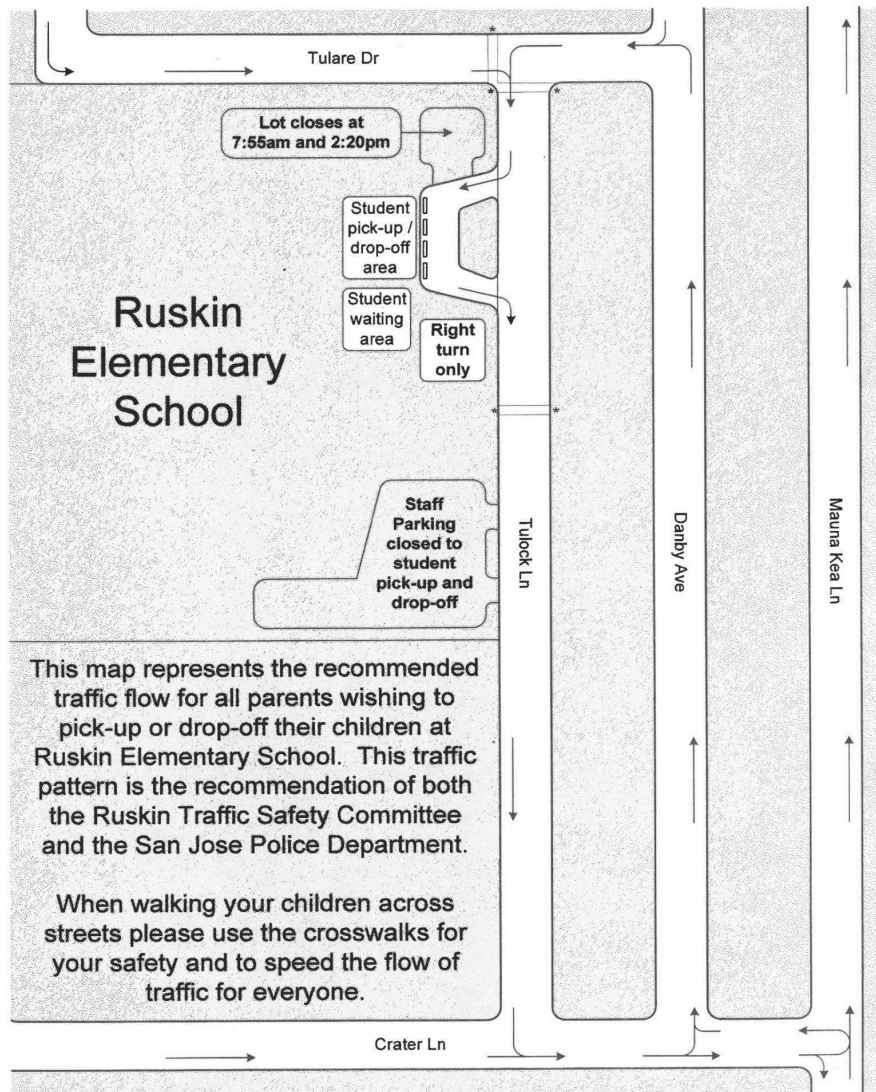
Parents, please remember, NOT to park in the horseshoe. It is made for cars to move in and out of quickly. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help out with traffic safety, please contact the front office at 408-923-1950 or email me at Lblackshire@busd.net.

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.

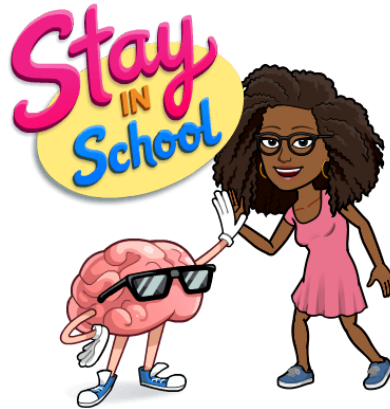


[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[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
- 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

408-839-8366

Right At School (Room E1)

www.Rightatschool.com 855-287-2466



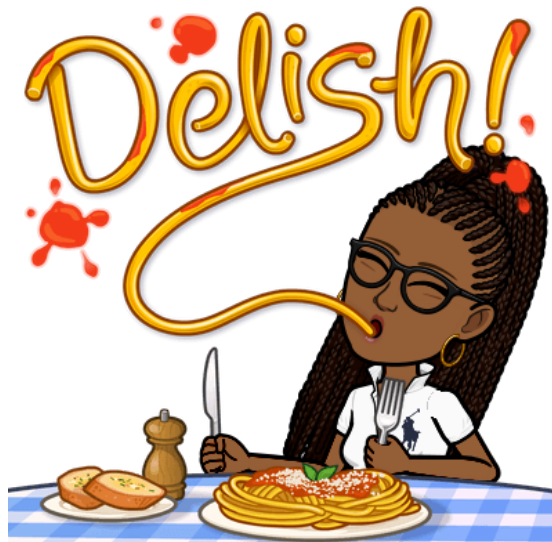
Student Nutrition Services

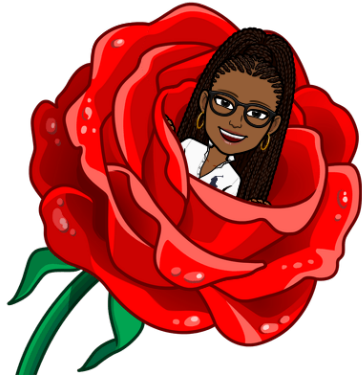
School Nutrition Services is hiring Food service substitutes to help out in the kitchen. If you are interested, please log onto edjoin.org and look under Berryessa Union School District. School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California's Universal Meals program. Each student 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 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 phenomenal 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