



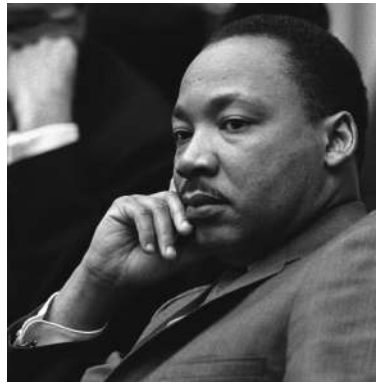
1.13.23

Happy Friday Ruskin Families.

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope your Winter Break was everything you wished for! I want to first start off by saying thank you to all the generous families for the thoughtful Christmas gifts, cards and well wishes. It warmed my heart to open the packages and to know that they came from a place of kindness and a spirit of giving. It was all very much appreciated. After spending Christmas here with my family, I spent a little time on the East Coast. I came home in time for New Year's Eve and had a pajama party with my bestie and binge watched a few shows on Netflix while in front of my fireplace. It was a truly rewarding vacation. I pray time spent with family and friends or time spent relaxing was fulfilling. I'd love to hear about how you spent your winter vacation. The kids have been sharing their awesome experiences with me.

I hope you have been staying safe and dry during this torrential weather. The students have spent many days inside during rainy lunch and recess. It was a nice break in the weather Thursday to spend time outside. Please continue to stay as safe as possible and allow yourself extra time when coming to school.

This Monday is a holiday. observance of Dr. Martin Dr. King was the using non violence to people in our country. He equality; all things we are today. He wanted people to of their skin but by the Please enjoy this [MLK video](#) celebrating this important perspective. Also, here is a [Scholastic video of a book about Dr. King](#). Please take the time to learn about, honor or remember Dr. King on this day of observance. Happy 3-day weekend!!!



There will be no school in Luther King, Jr's birthday. quintessential example of advocate for the rights of all stood for peace, love and currently still in need of be judged "not by the color content of their character". on why we have a holiday hero. It is from a kid's

For safety reasons, please do not walk through the multi purpose room. We are still a closed campus and parents are not allowed inside the main building unless they are an approved volunteer and have checked into the office.





### **Reminder: Weekly COVID Testing at Ruskin**

Please be reminded that we will have a tester on site each **Friday** at Ruskin. The testing will be on an AS NEEDED basis, not general testing for everyone. If a student or staff is sick or needs a negative test to return to work/ school, the tester will be available.

### **Recognition of Safety Patrol Students and Traffic Safety Reminders**



Hi Parents! We again need your help. **PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THERE IS NO PARKING OR DRIVING THROUGH THE STAFF PARKING LOT. ALSO PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE CONES THAT ARE PLACED THERE FOR A REASON.**

If possible, please try to stay clear of parking near the crosswalks. It makes it very difficult for students to cross safely as drivers cannot see clearly. Recently, a parent almost hit his **OWN** kids with his vehicle while his children were using the crosswalk. It is very hard to see people if you are backing up into the crosswalk. Thank you to our amazing Safety Patrol students that are keeping our school community safe.

Thank you LL so much for keeping our school community safe !! **We still need more parent volunteers. As always, if you would like to volunteer to help with traffic, please contact the office at (408) 923-1950.**

Here are some traffic reminders:

- **Please stop behind the cones wherever you see the Safety Patrol students.**
- Please do not make U turns in the middle of the street
- Please do not cut off other cars to pull in and drop your child off
- Please don't walk across the parking lot
- Please **NO left turns** out of the horseshoe. There is a posted sign.
- **There are no bikes or scooters allowed past the gates. Please wear a helmet.**
- Please do not leave your cars unattended in the horseshoe
- Please do not park in the bus zone in front of the school
- Please stop at **ALL** four corners of the crosswalk when you see the
- Please have your child ready to hop out to minimize the wait time
- Please do not double park and let your students out in the middle of the parking lot or street
- Please be courteous and do not park in or block neighbor's driveways
- Come early, park on the Tulare side and walk in
- Walk your child to school, if possible (it is good quality time )

# Traffic Signs from PTA



## CALLING ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO SPEAK A SECOND LANGUAGE



Are you the parent of a student who is bilingual, trilingual ? What an amazing opportunity you have to cultivate your child's language skills. We work very hard here at Ruskin to make sure we are meeting the language needs of all our second language students. We really need your help and input in how the language program is made available to all students. If you have any questions, inputs, suggestions or are just curious about how the language program works, consider being a part of the district ELAC committee. ELAC stands for English Language Acquisition Committee. It meets a few times a year and it is made up of parents and staff from around the district. Each school is supposed to have a parent representative. It is VERY informative. That information is then shared with the principal and School Site Council. At this time Ruskin does not have a parent representative. We are in desperate need of one. We need the district to know that our parents take this topic seriously. If you would like to be our parent representative, please reach out to me at [LBlackshire@busd.net](mailto:LBlackshire@busd.net). Thank you.

### Lunar New Year Celebration - **Canceled**

Unfortunately, we will have to cancel our Lunar New Year performances, due to lack of volunteers. We appreciate Ms. Pham for spearheading this celebration, Mr. Lee and any of you that reached out and were willing to assist as needed. Thank you so much.



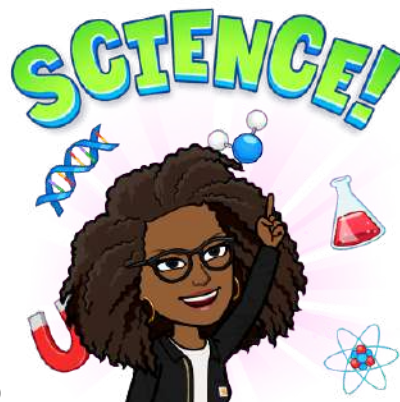


## COLLEGE MONDAY

# UC SANTA CRUZ

This week's College Monday feature is University of California Santa Cruz. It is located locally in beautiful Santa Cruz, CA. It was founded in 1965 as a teaching and architecture school. The campus is beautiful; surrounded by forest, creeks, neighborhoods and a ranch. "The university has five academic divisions: Arts, Engineering, Humanities, Physical & Biological Sciences and Social Sciences." The school also has a unique joint program with UC Hastings that enables UC Santa Cruz students to earn a bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor law degree in 6 years. It normally takes 7. UCSC students are known for their political activism. They have a very active student government and student body. Their mascot is the banana slug. Take advantage of the close proximity of the school and go pay the beautiful campus a visit.

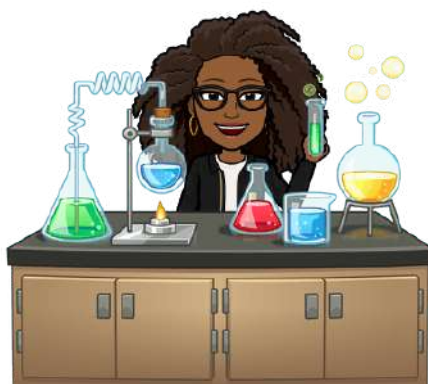




## Science Lab and STEM Night Info

Ms. Athwal's TK students had their introductory science lab this week. They learned what to expect in the lab and took a tour of the lab and explored all the science displays there. The kindergarteners learned about their eyes and their sense of sight. The second graders explored how to separate solid particles.

**The Ruskin STEM Night will be on February 3, 2023 at 6:30pm. Space is limited, so please turn in your registration forms to reserve your spot.**











# OLD NEWS

## YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The yearbook committee is still looking for volunteers to design and create yearbook pages. If you are interested, please send an email to Ms. Melani at [mmontez@busd.net](mailto:mmontez@busd.net). Thank you.

## SUNSHINE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM CLOSED JANUARY 23RD IN OBSERVANCE OF LUNAR NEW YEAR

If your child attends the Sunshine after school program, please note that they will be closed on January 23rd in observance of Lunar New Year. Please make sure to make other arrangements for child care that day.



## KEEP ILL KIDS AT HOME

The **district nurse** has sent out a document detailing what to do if your child is ill with specific symptoms, especially with vomiting or diarrhea, as mentioned in last week's newsletter. Here is a document that highlights what to do when your child is experiencing various symptoms.

[KEEP ILL KIDS AT HOME DOCUMENT](#)

## COMMUNITY COVID 19 TESTING INFO

We are excited to partner with Campus Clinic to bring Community COVID-19 testing to our district. This testing opportunity will be open to everyone in our community. **Staff and students can expect to receive an email from Campus Clinic within the next several days inviting you to register for COVID-19 testing that will include step-by-step instructions.** You may have already received this email. Community sign up will be done at the sites. Please see the testing schedule below. Student and staff testing will be at the sites listed below and community testing will be held in the parking lot. If you have any questions please see the attached information or reach out to Duy Tran, Human Resources Manager at [dtran@busd.net](mailto:dtran@busd.net) or 408-923-1851.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
<b>District Office</b> Lobby 7 am - 4 pm	<b>District Office</b> Lobby 7 am - 4 pm	<b>District Office</b> Lobby 7 am - 4 pm	<b>District Office</b> Lobby 7 am - 4 pm	<b>Morrill BYC</b> 7 am - 4 pm
<b>Piedmont</b> Staff and Students 7 am - 1:30 pm Community - Parking Lot 2 pm - 4 pm	<b>Sierramont</b> Staff and Students 7 am - 1:30 pm Community - Parking Lot 2 pm - 4 pm	<b>Morrill BYC</b> 7 am - 4 pm	<b>Piedmont</b> Staff and Students 7 am - 1:30 pm Community - Parking Lot 2 pm - 4 pm	<b>Sierramont</b> Staff and Students 7 am - 1:30 pm Community - Parking Lot 2 pm - 4 pm

Weekly testing at school sites started in December. **Per district policy, if your child has a fever or has vomited, THEY MUST STAY HOME UNTIL THEY ARE FEVER FREE OR VOMIT FREE FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT MEDICATION.** A negative test result must be uploaded into the system. **All District issued COVID-19 home tests results must be reported to Primary Health. You must re-register EVERY school year.** Please register at: [https://my.primary.health//busd\\_2022](https://my.primary.health//busd_2022) Then bookmark/use this link to upload all home test result(s) at [https://my.primary.health/appointment\\_recoveries](https://my.primary.health/appointment_recoveries) Masks are not required but strongly recommended.

COVID vaccination is no longer a requirement for volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering on campus, on field trips, with traffic or in any capacity, please make sure to fill out an **updated** district volunteer form. They are listed here, in the school office or district office [volunteer form 10 A](#) [volunteer form 10 B](#)

[volunteer 10 C FAQ](#). Please keep in mind that **NOW** you do not need to be COVID vaccinated (although it is highly recommended). You do need to have a current TB test and pass the criminal background conducted by the district in order to directly work with students. We welcome all interested volunteers!!!

## UPDATED STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES INFO



Student Nutrition Services has a newsletter with updates for parents. It is [here](#) for your convenience. For convenience, school breakfast and lunch menus may be downloaded from the [SNS Menus webpage](#). You can also sign up to receive them automatically by email by clicking [here](#) or on this image:



\* menus are subject to change, depending on product availability

- Please email [sns@busd.net](mailto:sns@busd.net) or call 408-923-1875 or 408-923-1879 if you have any questions.

## Truancy

Some of you may have received a truancy letter this school year. Truancy occurs when your child is late to school 31 minutes or more and/or they have an absence without a **VALID** excuse (one that is approved by the [CA Department of Education on Truancy](#)). The link explains the definition of truancy, list valid excused reasons for absences and list the policies and procedures we must follow in accordance with state law. **Please note, family vacations are not deemed as a valid excused absence by the state of California, even if you call the office and let us know. They will be marked as UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.**

Should you wish to take a family vacation during school time, you may want to consider applying for an **Independent Study Contract**. This contract allows you to miss a **MINIMUM** of 5 days of school and receive full credit of absences and school work if you follow these guidelines:

- Apply 2 weeks in advance in the office
- Must be in good standing with attendance
- Get approval from the Principal
- Be absent from school for 5-10 days
- Complete ALL the schoolwork assigned by the teacher
- Turn schoolwork in on time via contract
- Will not be granted at the start of school or the last 6 weeks of school



Have an amazing three day weekend ! Stay dry!!!!

Sincerely,  
LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal (and Co-starring Ms. Kimberly)

## **Office Staff**

- **Office Hours** 7:30-3:30 **Office Phone** 408-923-1950
- LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal 408-923-1950 [LBlackshire@busd.net](mailto:LBlackshire@busd.net)
- Melani Montez, Administrative Secretary [mmontez@busd.net](mailto:mmontez@busd.net)
- Kimberly Yee, School Clerk [kyee@busd.net](mailto:kyee@busd.net)