



greetings &
salutations!



10.21.22

Happy Friday Ruskin Families,

I hope you have had an amazing week! We have been busy at Ruskin this week with the Book Fair, participating in the Great Shakeout Earthquake drill, learning about caterpillars and hearts in the science lab and wearing pink in honor of Cancer Awareness. The students in Mrs. Athwal's TK class were learning about the number 2 this week.

Our annual Halloween Parade will be taking place on Monday, October 31st at 8:30 AM. It will be held out on the blacktop and parents will be allowed to attend this year. For safety, please make sure to stay out of the building unless you are signed in and are an approved volunteer. All are welcome out on the blacktop during the parade. Thank you.

The district is always finding ways to enhance school safety. In keeping with this theme, we now have a new sign in procedure for visitors. When you come into the front office there is an ipod on a stand that you will need to access. **Please have your driver's license or government ID available to scan.** You will then take a picture and it will print out a label for you to wear with your picture on it. Ruskin is 1 of only 4 schools in the district to have this safety feature already in place.



Diwali, Festival of Lights



Diwali is the Indian “Festival of Lights”. This year Diwali will be celebrated on October 24th. It is a holiday that celebrates the triumph of good over evil. It started as a religious holiday but now it is a large cultural event that is widely celebrated in North America with special foods and sweets. See some of our Ruskin students celebrating in the pictures below. Also, here is a short [video](#) that explains about this beautiful festival.



Here is 3rd grade Ruskin student Samiha and her 3 year old sister Rahini celebrating Diwali last year.



Inbha in 3rd grade celebrating with her family.

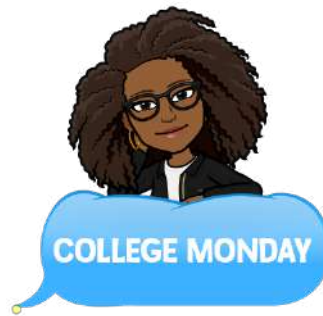


Ryan (2nd Grade) celebrating Diwali with his brother.



Varun Mukka and family attending a Diwali party





COLLEGE MONDAY



This week's College Monday feature is San Diego State University, my alma mater. San Diego State is a beautiful college campus located in the heart of San Diego, California. It is a public university. It is a research university and is the third oldest of all the schools in the California State University (CSU) system. It is an HSI or a Hispanic Serving Institution and is on target to become an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander serving school. That means that they commit to enroll a significant percentage of students from these minority groups. Their International business program is 13th in the nation. They are in the Top 57 nationwide for ethnic diversity of students. They have

bachelor degrees in 97 areas, master's degrees in 84 fields and 23 doctoral degrees. For fun, they have surfing classes, a bowling alley and even a trolley on campus!!! That trolley came long after I attended! How cool is a trolley on campus?! Go Aztecs!!!!



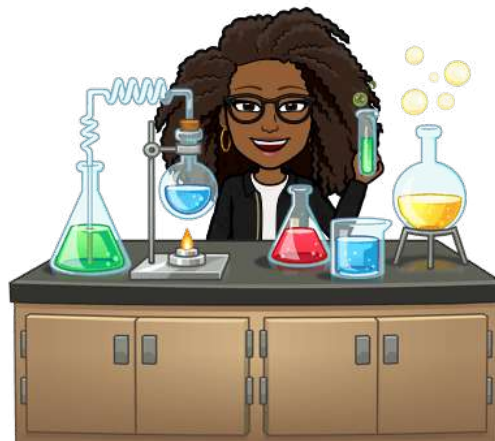
Mrs. Kawasaki in her University of California San Diego shirt (Different amazing school, in the UC system). Mrs. Murray in her Stanford shirt.



Pink for Cancer Awareness

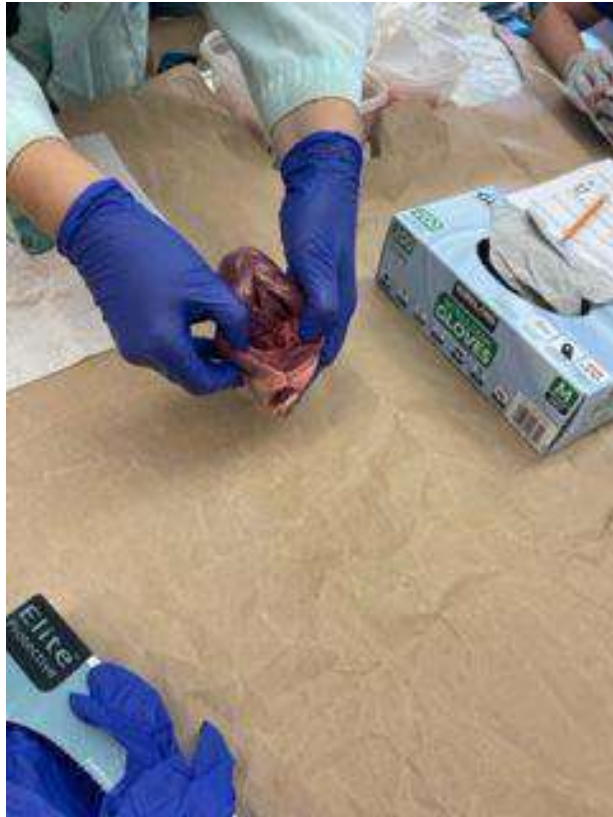
It was a sea of pink on Thursday as students and staff participated in our Stand up to Cancer Spirit Day. This Spirit Day hits home as we have staff members and their family members who are in the battle against cancer themselves. This Spirit Day was designed to bring awareness and support to the fearless survivors and to those courageous soldiers who have unfortunately lost the fight.





Science Lab

This week 5th graders explored pig hearts and learned how the human heart pumps blood throughout the body. They also learned how to find and take their pulse in various stages. Third graders learned how birds adapt to their environment by what food they can catch and eat, depending on their beaks. First graders learned about light and reflection with mirrors.



Fifth graders exploring pig hearts



Third graders learning about bird beaks



Mrs. Munoz's 1st graders explored how light can reflect using mirrors.

After School Science Program

We have some Piedmont high school students that are hosting an after school science program. They are working with students to inspire them to explore the world around them and develop a passion for STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics). They will learn fundamental science concepts, explore real-world applications and experience hands on learning. The registrations for class filled up quickly and the kids were very engaged.



Safety Patrol Students and Traffic Safety Reminders



The crossing guard students continue to do a courageous and dutiful job in getting families across the street safely. Please remember to **stop behind the cones** when you see the students put up the stop signs. This is required to keep a safe distance between

vehicles and the students. Please note that we now have a volunteer parent to assist us at the horseshoe to remind parents that **there are no left turns out of the horseshoe.** Thank you Ms. Hong. **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 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 crossing guard holding the stop sign up
- Please do not make U turns in the middle of the street
- 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)





THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our book fair has been full of cheerful students oohing and ahing over the myriad of books that were on display. Ms. Vargas and helpers were hard at work to ensure that students were able to pick out books that fit their interests and budget.



Third grade students in Mrs. Burns class enjoying the Book Fair



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 attached flyers or reach out to Duy Tran, Human Resources Manager at dtran@busd.net or 408-923-1851.

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

2 pm - 4 pm	2 pm - 4 pm		2 pm - 4 pm	2 pm - 4 pm
-------------	-------------	--	-------------	-------------

OLD NEWS

Starting this school year, at this time, the district will no longer be offering the weekly surveillance on site COVID testing. If your child has symptoms, we will be sending them home with a district provided home test kit. **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/l/busd_2022 Then bookmark/use this link to upload all home test result(s) at 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 Menu 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 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 a spectacular weekend!

Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire, Principal

(and guest starring Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Kawasaki in the Bitmojis)

Office Staff

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

