



Bel Aire News Flash

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

Dec. 24-Jan. 7 - Winter Break NO SCHOOL
Jan. 8 - First Day of School in the New Year

[Link to Calendar](#)



A Note from Ms. Cala

Dear Bel Aire Families,

As the end of the calendar year draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon Bel Aire's progress toward improving our **impact** on our *learning*, our *relationships*, and on the *world*. This is a lengthy note, but I hope you will take the time to at least skim through some of our impressive achievements as we close 2018.

Before I do that however, I need to express my sincere gratitude for this school community. As many of you know, my son recently developed some unexpected, and still largely unexplained, health issues. While my modified schedule for part of November and December did not impact all of you, it did for many, and I would like to express my appreciation for your patience, your understanding, and for your support. I have been deeply touched by the outpouring of well-wishes.

With regard to revisiting our theme of IMPACT, I offer the following reflections, recognition, and resources:

Impact on Learning

Bel Aire students are showing great gains in both academic achievement and in becoming more self-regulated learners. Of particular note is the work students continue to do to improve their ability to *self-assess* and in developing characteristics of a “*good learner*.”

As a reminder, students are continuing to answer the three essential questions (*Where am I going?*, *Where am I now?*, and *How will I get there?*). To support students, teachers are carefully articulating learning intentions, clarifying success criteria, delivering specific feedback, and holding regular conversations about what it means to be a good learner (i.e., those qualities that embrace growth, risk-taking, and challenge over compliance-producing behaviors).

Bel Aire is blessed with the highest quality educators with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. To support students in their learning trajectories, we spend many hours each week collaborating with colleagues, analyzing data, sharing best practices, reviewing research, reflecting upon our practice, and preparing exceptional learning opportunities for our students.

I would especially like to recognize **Ms. O’Leary, Ms. Malone, Dr. Artis, Ms. Corsiglia, Ms. San Galli** and **Ms. LeClair** for their leadership in our *High Impact Teaching & Learning* department. This department is leading our staff as we continue to explore research-based, high impact practices. I would also like to recognize **Ms. Conde, Ms. Shanley, Dr. Gold, Ms. Conlon, Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Sanchez**, and **Ms. Chitsaz** for their leadership in our *Student Intervention* department which meets weekly to troubleshoot specific learning obstacles that face some of our students.

Impact on Relationships

Bel Aire has continued to deepen our work as it relates to improving relationships and making connections. We sent three 4th grade classes to a week-long **MOSAIC** camp in the fall, and we will be sending an additional four classes in the spring. We have bolstered our *Mosaic Peace Ambassadors* club that meets voluntarily at lunch to spread peace, improve empathy, and teach conflict resolutions skills throughout campus.

As a Peace Ambassadors spin-off, this year we have also organized a 5th grade team of volunteers to act as *Bel Aire Buddies* on the playground. These 5th graders wear designated vests with our playground slogan (“*Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Fair, We are Citizens of Bel Aire*”), and actively look for students who appear to be alone or need help engaging with a game, an activity, or with other students. This can include inviting students to join various lunch-time enrichments on camps (including reading in the library, attending Lunch Bunch, visiting our Design Lab, or joining a student club), inviting students to join a game, or simply taking a walk or having a conversation with a new friend!

Bel Aire staff supports our students’ social-emotional growth every day and in every classroom via individual, targeted support in addition to group activities to promote team-building, build empathy, and resolve conflicts. Additionally, at this point in the year, our classrooms have all completed the **Second Step Anti-Bullying Program** as well as **Common Sense Media’s Digital Citizenship** program.

I would like to extend a special recognition to our *Social-Emotional* department that lead our efforts in this area. They include: **Mr.**

Davis, Mr. Gist, Mr. Krauthamer, Ms. Morphy, Ms. Tuatagaloa, Ms. Bjeldanes, and Ms. Bontz.

Impact on our World

Our *Children for Change* group continues to grow in popularity and impact. If you haven't already, please consider taking a moment to explore [Bel Aire's chapter](#) of [Children for Change](#). I similarly encourage you to read their update below in this newsflash.

I also offer this [Citizen Kid](#) blog from the [Confident Parents Confident Kids](#) site as an additional resource for parents looking to deepen their child's connection with their world. This particular entry suggests that the holiday season is replete with opportunities for promoting *social awareness, extending connectedness, contributing to our communities, and practicing citizenry*.

Ms. Carin Rhodes leads an extraordinary team of teachers in our *Service Learning* department and is supported by **Mr. Grebil, Ms. Dianne Rhodes, Ms. Sobhani, Ms. Jackson, Ms. McDonald, Ms. McKay,** and **Ms. Brigulio** in helping Bel Aire students make an impact in their community and beyond.

There are countless others whom deserve a special acknowledgement this holiday season, and you, **our parents**, are at the top of that list! Thank you for all you do to support our already incredible school, our staff, and our students.

And please join me in a well-deserved acknowledgement of the many others on campus who help us thrive. They include our *custodial staff* (**Marc Ciolino, John Cutting** and **Jesus Dominguez**), our *district office support staff*, our *Technology* department led by **Mr. Evan McKay**, our *instructional coaches* (**Emma Lima, Tara O'Connor, Laura Pisani, Scout Smit, Tammy Nygard, Deanne Wilson, Kim Abella, Michael Van Bebber, Allison Geisler, Alan Rossi, Debra Jordan, Danielle Gloystein, Margaret Tibbits,** and **Kate Curnow**), our *school nurse* (**Ms. Shagheyegh Farasati**), our *district TOSAs* (**Paul Devoto** and **Ashley Williams**), the rest of our *Specialists* team (**Ms. Caldwell, Mr. Jacobson,** and **Ms. Balfe**) our *Superintendent*, **Dr. Nancy Lynch**, and of course our lovely *front-office staff* **Ms. Barkoff** and **Ms. Nazarian**. This is one strong village!

I encourage all of you to take time to reflect upon our first few months of school, and the last few months of 2018. I hope you note many of the successes that I have, can join me in recognizing our incredible incredible community, and share my excitement for our continued success and upcoming accomplishments. Bel Aire is such an exceptional place, and we have so many things and people to celebrate.

Sincerely,
Lexie Cala
Principal

With Much Gratitude: May Your Winter Break Be Happy, Healthy, and Restorative.

At this time of year it's nice to reflect on all life's blessings. The Bel Aire family wants to thank all the parents that help make day-to-day life easier or nicer here at school.

Thank you to all the individual parents who do the little things to honor, support, or help our staff and students.

Thank you to all the parents who help in big and little ways: serving lunch, running lunch bunch, library help, book club help, Math club help, helping run the play, sell spirit wear, room parents, and many, many more tasks that make Bel Aire such a great place to be.

Thank you, Bel Aire PTA, all you do, and for first Friday coffee and nibbles. It brightens

our day immensely. Thank you, Foundation for all your hard work keeping our Specialists' programs running: PE, Library/Media, Spanish, and Art, to name a few.



Children for Change

Children for Change has had a very busy month of December! We had countless donations for our **Adopt a Family** giving project. Thank you so much to all who participated in making the holidays brighter for these local families.

We have also gotten our Ideas to Action workshops running each Wednesday afternoon. Students have been coming weekly to get their thoughtful ideas well planned out and put into action. It is so impressive to see them at work!

Wildcare will be visiting our C4C meeting on Wed, Jan 9th to talk about how they are helping displaced animals since the Camp Fire. We know this will be such a meaningful visit for our C4C crew. Wildcare is always looking for donations. If you're able to help with donating paper towels, wheat germ, or other supplies on their list [here](#), we would greatly appreciate it! Thank you to Student Council for their generous cash donation! Have a wonderful holiday break!



Kyle Tiernan's Draw Along Assembly

You may have noticed that your students came home with some amazing drawings last Friday! That is because we had an awesome draw along assembly with Kyle Tiernan! The students loved learning how to draw some of their favorite animals and gained a lot of confidence in drawing too! Thank you so much to the PTA for sponsoring this wonderful assembly for Bel Aire Students!

THE FOUNDATION
FOR REED SCHOOLS



Sincerely,

Mrs. Carin Rhodes
Library and Digital Media Specialist
Bel Aire School
Specialist Team Coordinator
Children for Change Lead Coordinator
<http://belairemediacenter.weebly.com/>

Lost and Found

Please send your students to locate their missing items. We are overflowing! All items will be bagged and go to charity at end of day this Friday.



Thank you for participating in the Adopt A Family of Marin Holiday Program!

Thank you to Bel Aire families for participating in this year's Adopt A Family of Marin Holiday Program. Adopt A Family works to prevent homelessness and promote stability for Marin families throughout the year. Your support of the Holiday Program made this holiday season so much brighter for ten families in Marin County. Thank you for making an impact!

Safe Routes to School

We can still think about green transportation even when the weather is colder! Join us for Walk and Roll Wednesdays and mark your calendar for these fun upcoming events (rain will reschedule):

Wednesday, January 9 - Walk and Roll Pencil Day

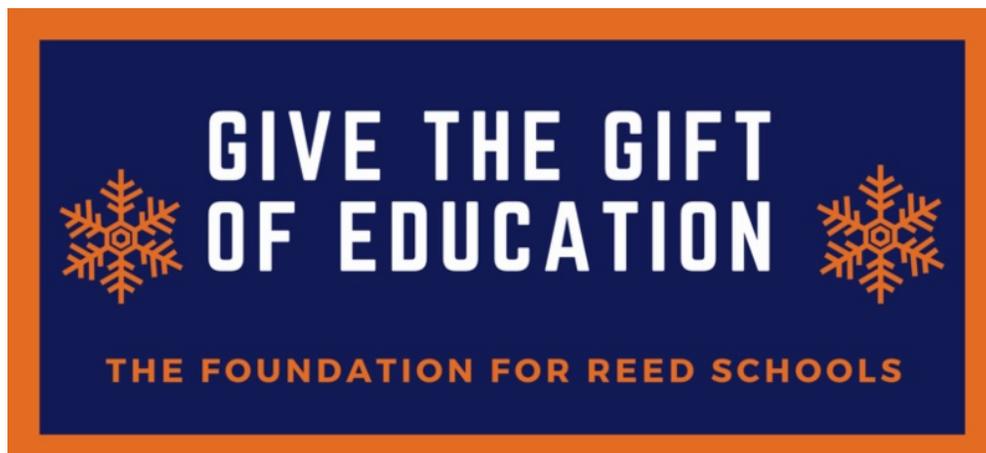
Birthday Books - Order by January 31

Don't miss out on the chance to celebrate your child's birthday and support the Bel Aire Library with a Bel Aire Birthday Book! You can still participate even if the birthday has passed, but the deadline to order is January 31. To place an order or learn more about the birthday book program [click here](#).

FROM THE RUSD PTA

A big THANK YOU to those families that have joined the PTA! Not sure if you have paid your PTA dues? Please check the list below. It's not too late to join! Your contribution of \$30 helps to support field trips, assemblies, monthly teacher appreciation events, parent education events and more. Please sign up today by clicking [here](#).

[Follow us on Instagram @RUSDPTA to see your PTA in action!](#)



JOIN THIS GENEROUS COMMUNITY OF GIVERS AND INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS!

Half of our \$2 million commitment to RUSD is due on January 15th
Donate by December 31st to take advantage of the 2018 tax deduction.
Donations of appreciated stock should be initiated no later than December 21st
Our goal is 100% Family Participation!

DONATE or PLEDGE TODAY!

ATTENTION HOLIDAY SHOPPERS:

Remember to use [AMAZONSMILE](#) and [eScrip](#) to benefit RUSD this holiday season!
Visit our [website](#) to sign up!

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR 2018-19 DIRECTORY YET?

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