



Bel Aire Website

**C**ollaborative • **L**earners • **E**mpathetic • **A**ssessment-Capable • **R**esilient

## A NOTE FROM MS. CALA

Happy New Year, and welcome back! I hope all Bel Aire families are enjoying a peaceful start to 2020 and a smooth re-entry into school (and all those other responsibilities we sometimes pause during a long break). To help get you and your family off to a positive start to 2020, please take a look at the following:

### Bel Aire Staff is Ready for 2020!

As you know, Bel Aire teachers returned a day earlier than students to engage in some meaningful professional development and important preparations. Sometimes families wonder what we do on a “Staff Day” or a “Teacher Work Day,” so here’s a little glimpse of January 6, 2020:

In the morning, we gathered as a school to talk about ways we can ensure every single Bel Aire student is receiving appropriate levels of **support** and establishing strong **connections**. As part of this process, we literally looked at lists of all 430 Bel Aire students and held follow-up conversations in our grade-level teams. In the afternoon, teachers spent time preparing for the return of students.

### New Playground Update

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to the Foundation for Reed School's *Raise the Paddle* event last spring. At the event, Bel Aire requested donations to modernize our playground equipment. This fall, we discovered that prior to replacing the structure itself, we need to begin with some unforeseen structural renovations, including a new retaining wall. Rest assured, we have not abandoned the project or repurposed the generous donations, however progress has been delayed due to this larger infrastructure project. In the meantime, the current structure is safe and in use. I will continue to share information as I receive it.

### Please Join Us in The Great Kindness Challenge 2020!

As part of our continued effort to build the ‘C,’ ‘E,’ and the ‘R’ in C.L.E.A.R. (*collaboration, empathy, and resiliency*), Bel Aire is again joining millions of *students* in thousands of *schools* in over 100 *countries*, in the [Great Kindness Challenge](#) (TGKC). TGKC is an annual, one-week challenge that encourages all members of our school community to **complete as many purposeful acts of kindness as possible**. As schools and families around the world participate in TGKC, we want to contribute to the ripple effect we hope is felt across our community, our country, and beyond.

Families play a critical role in our efforts to spread kindness, and as such, I would like to encourage all families to join the Great Kindness Challenge - [Family Edition](#). Participation is fun, simple, and free. If the week of **Jan 27 - Jan 31** doesn't work for your family, pick a better week; acts of kindness can continue year-round!

Using a [50-item family checklist](#), families are challenged to complete as many acts of kindness as possible over the course of the week. To facilitate your participation, please consider these additional resources and inspiration:

- **View** the Great Kindness Challenge - Family Edition [video](#)
- **Register** your family and browse additional resources at: <https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/familyedition/>
- **Review** a [sample Act of Kindness Checklist](#) or create [your own checklist](#). There's even a [Junior Edition checklist](#) available.
- **Download** TGKC [iOS app](#) or the [Android app](#).
- **Be inspired** by additional ideas on the [Random Acts of Kindness site](#).
- **Schedule** your kindness activities (here's a [sample calendar template](#)) with the family.
- **Share** your family's acts of kindness on social media with the hashtags [#GreatKindnessChallenge](#) or [#GKCfamily](#)

According to TGKC site, at the heart of this project is “the belief that **kindness is strength**. We also believe that **as an action is repeated, a habit is formed**. With TGKC checklist in hand, students have the opportunity to repeat kind act after kind act. **As kindness becomes a habit, peace becomes possible.**”

And if you're wondering: yes, there is [science](#) supporting the belief that kindness improves our **happiness, relationships, self-esteem, and health**.

With that, please join us for this important event. And if you do, please share your experience with us (via email or in person). I would *love* to hear family stories and see pictures from this fun and fulfilling event.

Sincerely,

**Lexie Cala**

Principal, Bel Aire Elementary

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## UPCOMING DATES

- **January 16 | Deadline for PTA Nominating Committee Interest**
- **January 20 | No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **January 27-31 | GeoBee Competition - 12:10-12:35pm**
- **January 29 | PTA Parent Ed: Mindful Parenting of Teens - 7:00-8:30pm - Mill Valley Middle School Library**
- **February 17-21 | NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Break**

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## National Geographic Geo Bee at Bel Aire

January 27-31, 12:10-12:35pm, Bel Aire MPR

Bel Aire 4th and 5th graders will compete each day. Audiences welcome. Please come early, park off-campus, and sign in the office.

## C4C

Children for Change continues to study hunger in our world, and even right here in Marin! Students are brainstorming ideas on ways to use all of your food and learning about gleaning. If you don't know what gleaning is you can check out the video [here](#). Today we learned about the 4 industries that waste the most food. They are: hotels, grocery stores, agriculture and.....SCHOOLS. Remember, Bel Aire is working towards ZERO WASTE. Please be mindful when packing lunches to use

reusable containers, reusable water bottles, and ask your child to bring home food they don't eat. [Here](#) are some tips.

[Here](#) is a link to our volunteer opportunities. These are open for all families, not just members of C4C. If you're looking for a way to get involved in some service learning with your family this is a great opportunity!



**BEL AIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**

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## FROM THE BEL AIRE PTA

### Happy New Year!

New Year Resolution: attend a Bel Aire PTA meeting. We would love to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 8:30am. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Volunteer Opportunities: [Lunch Bunch](#)

Thank you to our parent volunteers for helping to keep the lunch bunch room open. Lunch bunch is a quieter place for kids to hang out during lunch recess. It is staffed by parent volunteers. We need parent volunteers each day to watch over the kids while they play with board games, legos or art during the recess time. [Sign up](#) for one day or several throughout the year. Thank you!

### Seeking 2020 PTA Nominating Committee Candidates

The RUSD PTA is seeking PTA members to serve on the 2020 Nominating Committee for the PTA Executive Board. The committee will be comprised of five members and one alternate with knowledge of all three school sites and their volunteer communities. The names of those expressing an interest in serving on the committee will be voted upon by the PTA membership through a confidential online survey.

Meetings of the Nominating Committee will be held in February and March with the goal of delivering a final slate by late March. Open board positions to be filled include Del Mar Site Chair, Bel Aire Site Chair, Reed Site Chair, Executive Vice President, District Treasurer, and Auditor.

*\*\*If you are interested in being a Nominating Committee candidate, please contact [Wendy Martin](#) by January 16th.\*\**

**Upcoming Parent Ed - "Mindful Parenting of Teens" - January 29**

[Register here to attend the "Mindful Parenting of Teens" event](#)

# RUSD PTA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MVMM PRESENT

## Mindful Parenting *of teens*

**JANUARY 29TH**

7pm - 8:30 pm

**MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

*Mindful Parenting helps you have less conflict and more moments of connection with your teen*



*Wynn Burkett, executive coach and author of the book, *The Power of Mindful Parenting*, will provide information on teen development to explain why they act the way they do and teach simple mindfulness skills and practical tools to help parents stay calm and stay connected during the tricky adolescent years.*

REGISTER AT <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindful-parenting-of-teens-more-connectionless-conflict-with-your-tweenteen-tickets-86447905011>

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**THE FOUNDATION FOR REED SCHOOLS**



# THE FOUNDATION FOR REED SCHOOLS

REED SCHOOL \* BEL AIRE SCHOOL \* DEL MAR SCHOOL

## \$1 MILLION DOWN, \$1 MILLION TO GO!



THE FOUNDATION  
FOR REED SCHOOLS

REED SCHOOL \* BEL AIRE SCHOOL \* DEL MAR SCHOOL

January 15 20 20

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

Reed Union School District \$ 1,000,000

One million dollars and 0/100 DOLLARS

MEMO

Rob Leonard

We were able to deliver our first \$1 million check to  
RUSD this week - **THANK YOU DONORS!**

Now, \$1 million to go...

If you haven't already, please consider donating today.

Our goal is 100% family participation!

**DONATE HERE**

BEL AIRE SCHOOL

*we are:*

# C.L.E.A.R.

COLLABORATIVE • LEARNERS • EMPATHETIC  
ASSESSMENT-CAPABLE • RESILIENT

2019



2020

**C**ollaborative • **L**earners • **E**mpathetic • **A**ssessment-Capable • **R**esilient