



Bel Aire Website

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A NOTE FROM MS. CALA

I referenced empathy in the last newsletter, but would like to revisit it again. I joked with my staff, that at first, I really just needed a good 'E' word to complete my vision for the C.L.E.A.R. theme this year. But then, the more I dig into empathy, the more I become convinced that it might be one of *the most important skills* we practice with students. If you believe I'm over-stating its importance, or if you want to learn more, then I really hope you'll look into the additional resources I'm sharing below. For those of you short on time, here is a summary of some **key points** from the resources cited below:

- Empathy is a skill, that with practice, can be strengthened.
- Practicing empathy improves pro-social and inclusive behaviors.
- Empathetic classrooms experience improved learning (due to more efficient classroom management and student collaboration).
- Practicing empathy improves school connectedness (which is linked to improved attendance, less risky behaviors, and even a decrease in substance abuse in older students)
- Empathetic communities see lower rates of bullying, aggression, disciplinary actions, violence, exclusionary behaviors, and chronic absenteeism.

Additional resources:

- Video: [Brene Brown's 3 min Empathy video](#) (from RSA shorts for *Brené Brown*, brenebrown.com)
- Article: [Empathy? In Denmark They're Learning It in School](#) (from *Morning Future*, The Adecco Group, April 26, 2019)
- Parent Resources: [Parenting Changemakers](#) (from *Start Empathy*, October 6, 2015)

I encourage you to browse through the resources above for a more comprehensive look at empathy and why it's so important.

Sincerely,

Lexie Cala

Principal, Bel Aire Elementary

UPCOMING DATES

- **Thursday, October 24** | *Bel Aire Fall Festival - 5:00 - 6:30, BA Blacktop*
- **Thursday, October 31** | *Halloween Parade @ 1:50*
- **Friday, November 1** | *Dia de Los Muertos Gallery Walk, 7:30-8:15am - BA Library*
- **Friday, November 1** | *End of Trimester 1*
- **Monday-Friday, November 4-8** | *Parent Teacher Conference Week - 12:10 dismissal*

WATER UPDATE

We have some good news to share about water at Bel Aire! Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) notified RUSD that re-testing samples taken after pipes and faucets were replaced came back with no lead detection. All common area drinking fountains will now be put back into service after lines are flushed. New hydration stations will still be installed, so **please send students with reusable water bottles.**

YOUTH TRUTH SURVEY

In [last week's Headline News](#), Dr. Lynch shared information about an upcoming opportunity for all RUSD students and families to provide feedback about their school experience. The survey will be open from October 28 through November 8. Next week, Dr. Lynch will provide login information for families to begin completing the survey. Families can complete one survey per child. Students will complete the short survey in their classroom unless parents opt out. Please read [this letter](#) for more information about the survey and about how to communicate any preference to excuse your student from participating in the survey.

BEL AIRE FALL FESTIVAL

Tomorrow, Thursday, October 24, 5-6:30pm

Join us for games, face-painting, guessing jars, a photo booth and fun!

Learn about C4C.

Spirit wear will be on sale.

(PLUS - a lollipop for anyone who wears or buys spirit wear!)

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Date:** Thursday, October 24
- **Time:** 5:00 - 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Bel Aire Blacktop & Field
- **Cost:** The event (admission, games, activities, etc.) is **free**, although *food* and Bel Aire *spirit wear* will be available for purchase.



The poster for the Bel Aire Fall Festival 2nd Annual event is a collage of icons and text. At the top, it says 'BEL AIRE FALL FESTIVAL' with decorative leaves. Below that, '2ND ANNUAL' is written in a pink box. The date and time 'THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 5:00-6:30PM' are in an orange box. The location 'BEL AIRE BLACKTOP AND FIELD' is in a dark brown box. Other icons include a popcorn bucket, a pumpkin, a ticket that says 'ADMIT ONE', a food stand, and leaves. At the bottom, it states 'FREE EVENT | SPONSORED BY THE BEL AIRE PTA' and lists 'FOOD • CRAFTS BOOTHs • GAMES PRIZES • FUN!' and 'FOOD & SPIRIT WEAR AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE'.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES



UNICEF Boxes coming home this FRIDAY October 25th.

Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF! Please return boxes to the Front Office by Monday, November 4th. For more information visit <https://www.unicef.org/>

Bel Aire will have a Halloween parade at 1:50, if it doesn't rain.

And finally, Halloween is an exciting time for kids, and we want to be sure they are having fun safely. Here are some [Halloween Safety Tips](#) from the Center for Disease Control.

Bel Aire Spelling Bee: WINNERS

Congratulations to the finalists in the South Bee regional competition on October 16.

- Theo T., 6th grade, Del Mar Middle School – first place
- Reyes L., 6th grade, Del Mar Middle School – second place
- Yali D-P., 5th grade, Bel Aire Elementary School – third place
- Lila H., 5th grade, 5th grade, Bel Aire Elementary School – fourth place

These RUSD students are eligible to compete in the Marin County Elementary Spelling Bee Championship on Saturday, November 2, 9:30am, at the Marin County Office of Education.

IN A WEEKEND FULL OF BIG HEARTS
AND HELPFUL HANDS

CHANGE FOR GOOD WEEKEND

WE'RE BRINGING OUR C4C COMMUNITY TOGETHER
TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR BROADER COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

10am-1pm: Restore Ring Mountain with Marin County Parks

1-3pm: Make toys for shelter animals at Marin Humane

3:30-5:00 Sack lunch making for St.Vinnie's

5:15-8:00pm: Cook and Dine at Mill Street Shelter

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10am-12pm: Bake Sale for Downtown Streets Team

10am-12pm: Baker Beach clean up with Surfrider Foundation

9am-12pm: Help plant and beautify Oma Village



WWW.CHILDREN4CHANGE.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO VOLUNTEER



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



BEL AIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

FROM THE BEL AIRE PTA

LUNCH BUNCH Volunteers Wanted

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. Sign up to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084AABAA2EA6FC1-belaire>

GOOD EGGS is bringing treats to our Bel Aire Teachers!

If 10 orders are placed using our Bel Aire school code (belaire), fall treats will be sent to our hardworking teachers.

Applies to both new and returning customers, all orders must be placed for delivery between 10/21-10/27.

Good Eggs will send treats (like baked goods) to our teachers to enjoy during breaks at school.

VISIT: schools.goodeggs.com and enter our school code **belaire** before placing an order.

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From RUSD PTA

Measure E ballots are out!

Measure E, the local parcel tax measure for Reed Union School District, is on the ballot this November. Measure E would renew the District's expiring local parcel tax that today accounts for 10% of the District's budget and funds the equivalent of 23 teachers each year. Measure E would renew the existing rate and structure at \$589 per parcel with a 3% annual increase and would be in place for 12 years. All funds would stay local and no funds could be taken away by the State. Election Day is November 5, 2019. To pass, the measure must be supported by 66.7% of those who vote.

WE ARE PROUD TO FUND 20 OF THE 90 RUSD TEACHERS



JOIN OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY AND INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS!

[Donate or Pledge Today!](#)

2019-20 RUSD Family Directory A-Z online app sales via BluPods coming soon!



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