



Bel Aire Website

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

A NOTE FROM MS. CALA

Recalling that the 'E' in C.L.E.A.R. stands for *empathy*, I would like to encourage families to talk about **Halloween costume choices** - specifically, if a preferred costume depicts another's culture. In the past, we have asked students to avoid costumes with weapons or violence. As our school and our district work toward universal equity and inclusion, it is important to broaden our message, and consider the impact some well-intended costume choices can have with regard to **cultural appropriation**.

In the simplest of terms, cultural appropriation occurs when a halloween costume includes culturally significant aspects of another's culture without the wearer's understanding of, or reverence for, its history and meaning. And admittedly, the more I read about cultural appropriation as it relates to Halloween, the more I see how complicated the issue is, and how easy it is to misunderstand. Even a seemingly benign Disney costume can be an example of cultural appropriation.

I have included a sampling of articles below plus a video link, and I highly recommend taking the time to read/view them. I am also summarizing some of the **key points** here:

- Culture is not a costume.
- Respecting others' feelings or culture always supersedes a costume choice.
- Educate yourself on the meaning of a cultural symbol before deciding to include it as part of a costume.
- If you're not sure if a costume includes a culturally significant symbol, do some research for better understanding.
- Intent is not the same as impact. Well-meaning people can still disrespect other people and cultures.

Additional Resources:

- Video: [My Culture is Not Your Costume](#) (from Teen Vogue)
- Article: [Is your Child's Halloween Costume an Example of Cultural Appropriation](#) (from US News)
- Article: [How to Avoid Cultural Appropriation](#) (from Best Life)
- Blog post: [Moana, Elsa, and Halloween](#) (from Raising Race Conscious Children)

For some, it may feel easy to dismiss this conversation as being overly politically-correct about something that has always been *just* a fun celebration. Instead however, consider that communities are strengthened when we recognize habitualized behaviors that are disrespectful or unkind. My hope is that we can use this Halloween as an opportunity to have critical conversations with our children that raise awareness about equity, inclusion, culture, and race.

Sincerely,

Lexie Cala

Principal, Bel Aire Elementary

UPCOMING DATES

- **Thursday, October 10** | 5th Grade Level Meeting with Dr. Gold - 8:30-10:00am, BA SDR
- **Thursday, October 10** | PTA Parent Ed: Should I Be Worried? 7:00-8:30pm, **Mill Valley Middle**
- **Monday, October 14** | No School - Staff Development Day
- **Tuesday-Thursday, October 15-17** | Bel Aire Book Faire, 8:30am-4:00pm, BA MPR
- **Wednesday, October 16** | Bel Aire Book Faire Family Night - 4:00-7:00pm, BA MPR
- **Thursday, October 17** | Coffee Chat with Nancy Lynch - 8:30am, BA SDR
- **Thursday, October 17** | The Great Shake-Out Earthquake Drill (10:17am)
- **Thursday, October 24** | Bel Aire Fall Festival - 5:00 - 6:30, BA Blacktop
- **Thursday, October 31** | Halloween Parade
- **Friday, November 1** | Dia de Los Muertos Gallery Walk, 7:30-8:15am - BA Library
- **Friday, November 1** | End of Trimester 1

SAFETY REMINDERS

Unfortunately, we already need to revisit morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up safety. Please read the following very carefully:

- Walking, biking, bus-riding, and carpooling are recommended and preferred every day.
- Bel Aire does not have a “car line” in front of the school. The bottom of the driveway is not safe for drop off and pickup. Please park your car at least one block away from the school.
- Never wait, drop off, or pick up in or near the crosswalk or in a lane of traffic.
- For everyone’s safety, please refer to the Safe Routes to School [map](#) and follow the recommended routes:
 - **Motor Vehicles (AM & PM):** To ease congestion and prevent children from crossing the street in front of vehicles on Karen Way, we recommend: Blackfield → Cecilia → Leland → Karen Way.
 - **Pedestrians (AM & PM):** Use sidewalks and crosswalks. The breezeway by Cecilia and Clair Way is best for pedestrians only.
 - **Bicycles AM:** Blackfield → Karen Way
 - **Bicycles PM:** Karen → Leland → Cecilia
- **Family vehicles are strictly prohibited on the driveway from 7:30-8:30 and from 2:00-3:00 (1:00 -2:00 on Wednesdays).**

THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKE-OUT

On October 17 at 10:17, Bel Aire students will participate (along with thousands of students throughout the state) in the [California Great ShakeOut](#) Earthquake Drill. This is an opportunity to practice how to protect ourselves during an earthquake. Emergency management experts and preparedness organizations all agree the “[Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#)” is the best safety response during earthquakes (learn why [here](#)).

This drill will not be a surprise to students, so please talk about emergency preparedness with your children. You may even take this opportunity to review your plan should an earthquake occur while your family is home using the [7 Steps to Safety](#) from “Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country.”

Bel Aire staff will be reviewing detailed emergency procedures on **Monday, October 14**. I encourage parents to use this opportunity to refer to the district’s notice to parents about what to do in the unlikely event of a disaster or emergency during a school day [here](#).

At Bel Aire, please note the following:

- Safety is our priority.
- Patience and respect is important for the safety of all students.
- Calling the school and showing up impedes the efforts of first responders.
- We will notify parents when it is safe to pick up students.
- Students will be supervised and safe until they are released to parents.
- Once the student release process begins, parents should report to “*Student Request*” tables along the parking lot side of the MPR with proper ID.

Superintendent's Coffee Chat: School District Safety and Security Measures

Date: Thursday, October 17

FALL FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Bel Aire Fall Festival. The event was such a success last year, we are running it again!

This is a PTA-sponsored event, and there are many opportunities to help. If you are interested in volunteering, please look for a volunteer *sign-up genius* coming soon.

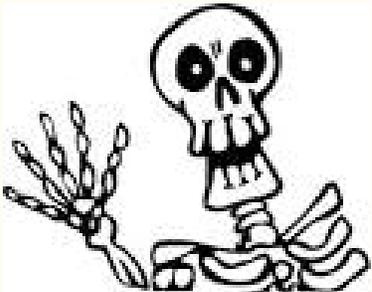
EVENT DETAILS:

- **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 features a grid layout. At the top, it says 'BEL AIRE FALL FESTIVAL' with decorative leaves. Below this are three icons: a popcorn bucket, '2ND ANNUAL', and a pumpkin. The next row contains 'THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 5:00-6:30PM' and 'BEL AIRE BLACKTOP AND FIELD'. The third row has icons for 'ADMIT ONE', a food stand, and leaves. At the bottom, it states 'FREE EVENT | SPONSORED BY THE BEL AIRE PTA' and lists 'FOOD • CRAFTS BOOTHES • GAMES PRIZES • FUN!' and 'FOOD & SPIRIT WEAR AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE'.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES



Halloween's Coming - Planning Parties and Costumes

Bel Aire celebrates Halloween with either a fashion show or a parade on the Bel Aire campus, depending on the weather.

Parties: Holiday, and Other

In accordance with RUSD wellness policy, we allow 4 parties a year that may feature 1 sweet treat: Halloween, Winter Holiday, Valentine's Day, and end-of-year. Class party planners should plan healthy treats featuring only one sweet treat and be mindful of allergies in the classroom. Please help us guard the health and

safety of other students by bringing only nut-free treats.

Bel Aire will have a Halloween parade, if it doesn't rain.

Costumes:

Please read Ms. Cala's note above about costumes. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join the fun at the end of the day, but may not wear masks nor make up that obscures facial identification. Please do not enter the student zone. Parents are asked to stand in the designated parent zone for viewing and photo taking. To ensure a safe and happy experience for everyone, please review the following guidelines:

1. Students may wear or bring their costumes to school, and must be able to get in and out of them without assistance.
2. Costumes must be in good taste, culturally-sensitive, and age-appropriate.
3. No weapons, or wheels, allowed.
4. Students must be able to walk in their costumes.
5. Masks are allowed for the parade only.
6. All makeup and hair sprays and color must be applied at home. Students are not allowed to bring these items to school.
7. If your child has PE on Wednesdays, he/she must bring appropriate shoes and clothes for running and participating in PE.

Bel Aire Spelling Bee: WINNERS

Twenty-six students ascended the stage to compete in this year's Bel Aire Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Kiran A., Yali D-P., Lila H., and Sebastian L., who are our champion spellers! These

top spellers have qualified to participate in the South Bee regional competition on October 16. We wish them great s-u-c-c-e-s-s!

The Regional Spelling Bee at Old Mill Elementary School in Mill Valley on October 16th.

The winners of regional spelling bees will go on to compete in the county-wide spelling bee on November 2, 2019, at MCOE.



Sincerely,

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



Children for Change is in full swing at Bel Aire!

Zero Waste Marin came in last week to do an assembly with the students about how to properly sort their trash, recycling and compost here at Bel Aire. Our custodians have even commented about how conscience the students are being at lunch to make sure everything is getting sorted properly.

Zero Waste also came to do individual class follow up visits last Friday to talk about the importance of recycling and composting properly and where our waste is going! Please continue to support our program by packing zero waste lunches, and talking to your children about how they are making change for good! C4C is continuing to advocate and educate our school about Zero Waste via the Bel Aire TV show on Wednesdays as well.

On Thursday, October 24th, we will have our Fall Festival Night from 5:00-6:30 at Bel Aire. C4C will have several tables set up where you can see some of the ideas students are putting to action! Come on by and see how our students are making a difference and helping the environment.

Lastly, our Wednesday meetings will continue to focus on the environment but will begin to make a transition into our next unit of study which will focus on hunger. This is a unit that is captivating and will bring even more awareness to our community. Stay tuned and thank you for your support!

Coming Up Soon!

Change for Good Weekend - October 26 and 27. This is when our incredible community comes together to support the local community!! All sorts of opportunities to get out into the community and make a difference with family and friends. Restore Ring Mountain, Cook and Dine at Mill Street Shelter, make toys for animals at the Marin Humane Society, Make sack lunches for St. Vinnie's, Support Downtown Streets with socks, towels, coins and baked goods, Join a beach clean up, Plant at Oma Village and have a BBQ with the residents, and so much more! Sign up [here](#).



BEL AIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

FROM THE BEL AIRE PTA

BEL AIRE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is
OCTOBER 15th - 17th

Family Night - Bring the whole family out to shop all the latest titles at Family Night on Wednesday, October 16th from 4-7pm.

JOIN THE BEL AIRE PTA FOR

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

OCTOBER 15-17
8:30 - 4 PM

AS ALWAYS, THERE
WILL BE BOOKS AND
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

- REED LEVEL BOOKS
- BEL AIRE LEVEL BOOKS
- DEL MAR LEVEL BOOKS
- COOKBOOKS + BEST SELLERS
- HOLIDAY GIFTS AND MORE!



FAMILY NIGHT

OCTOBER 16TH
TACO TRUCK, PIZZA + CONCESSIONS
4 - 7PM

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE BEL AIRE LIBRARY

eWallet - Students will be able to shop the Book Fair during their recess. Forgot to give your child money for the fair? No need to worry - [Scholastic's new eWallet](#) is live, and it's an easy digital payment option so kids can go cash free! Parents can easily create a Book Fair eWallet and set a spending limit for their student. After the Fair, any unused funds are released back to the cardholder. It's so easy!

All 4 Books - In addition to raising money for the library, we will be collecting donations to buy books for Gilead House, an organization that helps homeless single mothers achieve stability and financial independence. Be sure to bring in spare change or donate at the registers!

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>

UNICEF Boxes will be sent home on October 25th.

Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF is a fun way to empower kids to help their peers in need around the world. You can be a superhero for millions of children in need this Halloween by supporting our students coin collecting.

Boxes should be returned to the Front Office by Monday, November 4th. For more information visit <https://www.unicef.org/>

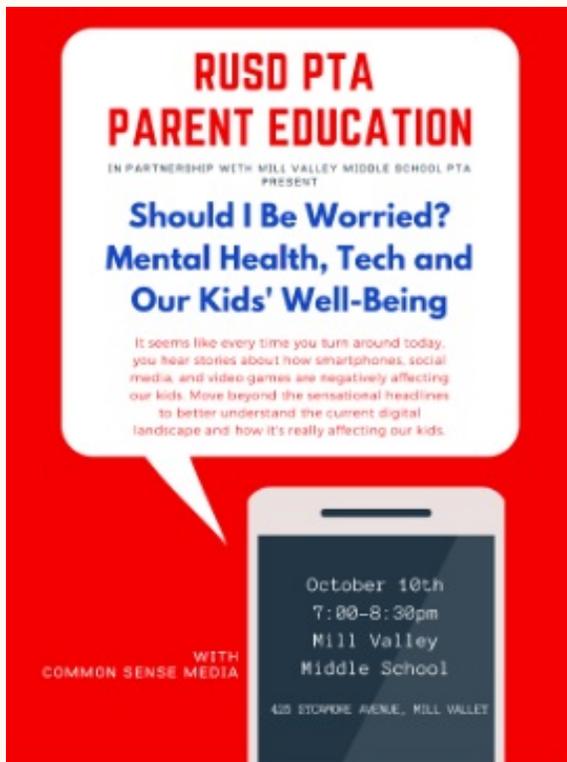
GOOD EGGS is donating 5% to Bel Aire

Visit schools.goodeggs.com and enter our school code **belaire** before placing an order. And as a reminder, new customers will receive \$20 off their first Good Eggs order.

5% donated back to Bel Aire October 1 through November 30th!

From RUSD PTA

Join the [PTA today](#) and take advantage of the free [Parent Education](#) events offered to all members. For more information about membership, including confirming your membership status, please [visit our website](#).



PTA Parent Ed:
Technology and Kids' Well-being.

October 10, 7:00-8:30pm

Please note that this event takes place at Mill Valley Middle School.

THE FOUNDATION FOR REED SCHOOLS

Upcoming Events:



PLEDGE DAY IS THIS FRIDAY!

Thank you to all the families who have participated so far! **Our goal is 100% participation in the annual Family Giving Campaign!**

Last week, you received a copy of the 2019-20 Foundation for Reed Schools brochure containing comprehensive information about our operations, how we raise funds for RUSD and how the district allocates those funds annually. Please have a look! We welcome any questions and comments you may have.

This year, we have, once again, made a \$2 million commitment to RUSD, \$1 million of which is due in January! This year it will cost RUSD **\$1,510 per student** to fund our teachers and programs.

Friday we will be having a Parent Phone Bank Brunch. Come down and join us from 9am-12pm

at the Tiburon Lodge, OR **save a fellow parent a call and [donate](#) or [pledge](#) today!**

Families who [pledge](#) or [donate](#) on or before Friday will automatically be entered into our Pledge Day Raffle to win Regatta Gala, Fashion Show, and Tiburon Night at the Giant's tickets!

If you have specific questions about your donation or are interested in participating in our Scholars' or John Reed Circles, please visit our [website](#) or contact our Participation Chair, Annie Defesche, adefesche@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting the Foundation and know that early donations and pledges save valuable volunteer time and reduce fundraising costs. **Join a Community of Givers and invest in our schools!**



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