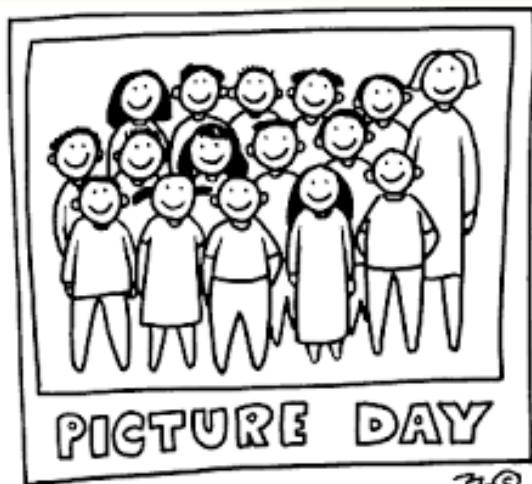




Bel Aire Website

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Picture Day is Tomorrow, September 12th

All you need is a smile!

Student proofs and online photo ordering information will be sent home by email approximately three weeks after the photo date. Make-up picture day is Oct. 23rd.

A NOTE FROM MS. CALA

Dear Bel Aire Families,

Thank you for joining me in the MPR for Back-to-School Night on August 29th. Several of you requested some of my slides, so I am including them as a PDF [here](#). As promised, I also intend to use this biweekly News Flash as a forum for digging deeper into some of the key concepts. While the letter 'L' is not chronologically first in our 2019•2020 **C.L.E.A.R.** theme, I thought it appropriate to dive into what at first seems almost too obvious: *learning*.

Learning & The Learning Pit

Learning is hard. If we are doing something we can already do, then we are not learning; we are practicing. Learning requires us to leave our comfort zone and stretch our ability. I like to use the example of learning to ride a bike, because what happens as we're learning to balance? We wobble. And as James Nottingham (designer of the *Learning Pit*) points out, the same thing is required of deep learning. Nottingham refers to this as *cognitive wobble*. This is one of the reasons I think the Learning Pit metaphor is so powerful in helping students understand the learning process and develop appreciation for the cognitive wobble. If you have 10 minutes, please take a look at this animated exploration of the [Learning Pit](#), narrated by Nottingham.

Talk with your child about what it means to be a **good learner**. While compliant behaviors are important (e.g., following rules, completing tasks, etc.), dig deeper into the dispositions and mindsets that support *learning*. These include a student's ability and inclination to:

- take risks,
- be curious,

- accept challenge,
- make mistakes,
- persevere,
- self-regulate,
- elaborate,
- organize,
- synthesize,
- monitor learning strategies,
- and of course: jump into the *Learning Pit*.

Smarter Balanced Scores

One data point in monitoring your child's learning was just mailed home. If you have a child in grade 4 or 5, you should have recently received your child's 2019 CAASPP score report. This is the rigorous state test our 3rd through 8th graders take in the spring. You can always reach out to the school for questions, but I highly recommend you visit: [Understanding Smarter Balance Scores](#). This site walks you through the score report and provides details about the test (including sample questions).

I'm excited to partner with you all this year as we work to be C.L.E.A.R. Please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment with me if you're ever interested in exploring any of these ideas a little further.

Sincerely,

Lexie Cala

Principal, Bel Aire Elementary

UPCOMING DATES

- **Thursday, September 12,** | *5th Grade Outdoor Ed Parent information Meeting (7:30-8:00am)*
- **Thursday, September 12** | *Picture Day*
- **Friday, September 27** | *Character Day*

Third Grade Percussion Ensemble

Percussion ensemble is a wonderful opportunity for 3rd graders to learn to play xylophones, drums, and a variety of other percussion instruments.

Third graders meet with Mr. Gist every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in the music room (M6).

Third grade percussion ensemble will perform three times during the year: Holiday Concert; Open House; Spring Sing.

The Bel Aire music program is supported by the Foundation for Reed Schools.



BEL AIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

FROM THE BEL AIRE PTA

Student Comfort Kits Please Return to Classroom by Friday Sept 27

Comfort Kit instructions and ZipLoc baggies were sent home with your child on August 30th, 2019. Comfort Kits are to be used in the event of an emergency that requires students to shelter in a place of safety for an extended period of time. The contents of the Comfort Kit serve the purpose of entertaining and reassuring your child while s/he awaits your arrival after an emergency. Refer to the Comfort Kit instructions for further details.

Please remember to write, in permanent marker, your child's name, teacher's name, and room number on the outside of the baggie.

Lunch Bunch - Volunteers Needed

Beginning Wednesday, September 11th, we will open up a classroom during lunch recess for kids wanting a quieter place to hang out. We are seeking 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.

Save the Date for International Walk (or Bike, Bus, Carpool) to School Day - Wednesday October 2nd!

Contact [Jena Watson](#) if you are interested in helping with this event. We need parents and students to greet walkers/bikers and to staff tables with SR2S goodies

Benefits of biking to school:

- It's fun!
- Biking helps reduce traffic and is good for the environment.
- It's great physical activity.
- Student riders arrive at school alert and ready to learn.
- It instills safe bicycling skills.

Best Routes for AM & PM - Please refer to the Safe Routes to School [map](#).

- **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

From the RUSD PTA

Please Support the PTA by Joining Today!

With your annual membership dues, the PTA helps provide assemblies, field trips, field days, parent education programs, teacher appreciation events, and so much more. Check out the [membership page](#) to find out more about PTA programs.

ChoiceLunch

Lighten your backpack load and order nutritious lunch for your students from [Choicelunch](#). A portion of every lunch purchased through Choicelunch is donated to the RUSD PTA. Order today at www.choicelunch.com

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

THE FOUNDATION FOR REED SCHOOLS

Upcoming Events:



RUN FOR REED
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th
DOWNTOWN

Join us for the annual RUN FOR REED kick off to our Family Giving Campaign and RACE TO \$2 MILLION! Run for Reed is a 1 mile and 5K race followed by a post-race celebration for all on Main Street. [Event Info and Registration Here!](#)

PLEDGE DAY, October 11th

We have once again made a \$2m commitment to RUSD, and our goal is 100% participation in the annual Family Giving Campaign! Join our generous community and invest in our schools! Early donations and pledges save

valuable volunteer time and reduce fundraising costs.

PLEDGE WEEK

OCTOBER 7 - 11



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