



Bel Aire Website

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

A NOTE FROM MS. CALA

This is an exciting week at Bel Aire, as we are participating in **two** powerful programs: [Start with Hello Week](#) and [Character Day](#)!

Start with Hello Week

Last Friday, I introduced students to a new program, *Start with Hello*, during my weekly Bel Aire TV Show segment: *Cala's Corner* (you can see the slides I shared [here](#)). *Start with Hello* is a fun and simple program designed to prevent social isolation. Program founders are concerned by the “growing epidemic of social isolation” in our schools and communities and go on to say that “students who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence, and/or depression and as a result, may pull further away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others.” *Start with Hello* teaches students a simple three-step approach to reduce social isolation: (1) See someone alone, (2) Reach out, and (3) Start with hello. Program resources include helping students identify *social isolation* versus *healthy alone time* and classroom activities support students in practicing their own unique “hello style.”

We are participating in this nationwide movement because I want all students to feel welcome, accepted, and safe at Bel Aire. It is my hope that our participation in *Start with Hello Week* will raise awareness in our community so that we may fulfill the program’s mission “to empower young people to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness.” Ask your students what they are learning about this movement in the classroom and what they have already done (or plan to do) to help connect with and include others.

Character Day

On Friday, Bel Aire is joining over 4 million people in all 50 states (and 125 countries) by participating in the sixth annual Character Day initiative. This is Bel Aire’s fourth year participating in Character Day, a program designed to promote the importance of developing character strengths (like **empathy** and **resilience**).

Incidentally, this year’s Character Day focus happens to be well-aligned with the *Start with Hello* goal around improving personal connections. Specifically, this year, Character Day focuses on the relationship between character and **technology**. Students will consider the ways in which technology enhances our character development and also the ways in which “unplugging” can enhance our character.

Families are encouraged to continue with Character Day on **Saturday, September 28** by committing to unplugging from all screens and all devices for **24 hours**. I encourage all parents to view this two minute video: [Dear Parent](#). And while the video is geared toward slightly older students, I will be

sharing the student companion video ([Dear Student](#)) on Friday during my *Cala's Corner* segment. Families particularly dedicated to achieving a tech/life balance may consider participating in the [4-Week Tech/Life Balance Challenge](#).

As technology continues to become more ubiquitous, and our students are beginning to explore social media platforms, it is important for families to take time to have conversations about their priorities, their values, and their shared commitments as they relate to technology use. I hope that our participation in both *Character Day* and *Start with Hello Week* can inspire some thoughtful dialogue within your family.

Sincerely,

Lexie Cala

Principal, Bel Aire Elementary

UPCOMING DATES

- **Friday, September 27** | *Character Day*
 - **Wednesday, October 2** | *International Walk and Roll to School Day*
 - **Wednesday-Friday, October 2-4** | *Bel Aire Spelling Bee*
 - **Thursday, October 3** | *4th Grade Level Parent Meeting with Dr. Gold - 8:30-10:00am, BA SDR*
 - **Friday, October 4** | *Run 4 Reed*
 - **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](#)*
 - **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** | *The Great Shake-Out Earthquake Drill (10:17am)*
 - **Thursday, October 24** | *Bel Aire Fall Festival - 5:00 - 6:30, BA Blacktop*
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Mid-Trimester Progress Reports

Believe it or not, we are approaching the mid-point of our first trimester. Halfway through each trimester, teachers complete a progress report for any student not making expected progress in any area. Teachers will complete a short form which then automatically generates and emails the report to parents on **Friday, October 4**.

Progress reports are a brief notice summarizing any areas where a student may benefit from additional support. The note will include interventions in place at school and suggestions for at-home support as well.

Progress reports are not a formalized, summative reporting of grades. They are intended to support a home-school partnership to improve student progress prior to end-of-trimester report cards.

Students demonstrating expected progress in all areas **will not** receive a progress report.

Bel Aire Spelling Bee: October 2-4, 12:10-12:40pm

Next week, the 4th and 5th grade winners of their individual classroom spelling bees will be facing off in the Bel Aire Spelling Bee. Winners will qualify to compete in the South 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.

Say it with me..."Children for Change! Change for Good!" For those of you who are new to Bel Aire, Children for Change is a wonderful program that empowers youth to be global change makers with the knowledge, empathy and confidence to make a positive impact in their world. We believe that children innately want to do good. Our



program provides opportunities for students to demonstrate just that.

We meet every Wednesday at lunch recess, and have Idea to Action workshops after lunch. Everyone is always welcome. Right now, we are studying the environment, and working with Zero Waste Marin to become a Zero Waste School. Students have already come to me with ideas on how to get the word out about how to sort our waste in

the proper bins. They are coming up with alternatives to ziplock baggies in order to promote Zero Waste lunches at Bel Aire. I am in awe of their excitement and ideas!

Children for Change also offers volunteer opportunities to get involved with your families after school. Check out our volunteer calendar [here](#).

If you would like to learn more about Children for Change, visit our site [here](#) and you can always email me with questions as well. Thank you for all of your support, and a special thank you to the Reed Schools Foundation for supporting this program!

Sincerely,

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

Student Comfort Kits are due this FRIDAY September 27th.

Student Comfort Kit instructions and ziplock bags were sent home with your child approximately 3 weeks ago. Please be sure and turn these in no later than the scheduled due date of this Friday, 9/27. Should you need a replacement bag or instructions please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you!

Wednesday October 2nd is International Walk, Bike, Bus, Carpool to School Day

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

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

Introducing the Good Eggs Fundraiser!

Good Eggs is a grocery delivery service that delivers fresh groceries and meal kits, with many organic options.

How do families enroll?

To enroll in the fundraiser, parents need to visit schools.godeggs.com and enter the code before placing an order. You only need to do this once at the beginning of the fundraiser. 5% will be donated back for all subsequent orders starting on October 1 (through November 30). And as a reminder, new customers will receive \$20 off their first Good Eggs order.

Our school's code is: belaire

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

Save the Date - BEL AIRE BOOK FAIR - OCTOBER 15 - 17th

Bring the whole family out to support the Bel Aire school library at the Scholastic Book Fair in the MPR.

Shop all the latest titles at Family Night on Wednesday, October 16th from 4-7pm.

Students will be able to shop the Book Fair during their recess. Look out for more information to come on [Scholastic's new eWallet](#) to make easy, cash-free purchases.

RUSD PTA PARENT EDUCATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MILL VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA
PRESENT

Should I Be Worried? Mental Health, Tech and Our Kids' Well-Being

It seems like every time you turn around today, you hear stories about how smartphones, social media, and video games are negatively affecting our kids. Move beyond the sensational headlines to better understand the current digital landscape and how it's really affecting our kids.

WITH
COMMON SENSE MEDIA



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:

RUN FOR REED
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4,
4:30-8:00pm



Join this kick off to our Family Giving Campaign!

1. REGISTER your runner!
2. Buy your limited edition HAT!
3. Have it all brought to your door with HOME DELIVERY!

For all of the above, click [here!](#)



PLEDGE DAY

OCTOBER 11

PLEDGE DAY, October 11TH

After Run for Reed, get ready for Pledge Day! We have a goal of 100% participation by RUSD families to get us to this year's \$2M commitment to the district. This money funds specialists in art, music, technology, Spanish, and more... 20 of our 90 teachers! Join our generous community and invest in our schools! Early donations and pledges save valuable volunteer time and reduce fundraising costs. Every pledge is meaningful! Please pledge/donate on [our website](#).

Would you like to help us secure donations by volunteering for our Dad's or Mom's phone bank, 10/7 or 10/11? Please contact Annie Defesche: adefesche@gmail.com

BEL AIRE SCHOOL

we are:

C.L.E.A.R.

COLLABORATIVE • LEARNERS • EMPATHETIC
ASSESSMENT-CAPABLE • RESILIENT

2019



2020

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