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If you answered yes to either of these questions then we hope to see you Friday morning for our Principal’s Coffee and General PTA Meeting!  Starting at 9 am in the media center, our School Counselors will be talking about how we teach to the whole child here at Ballantyne. We aim to help them grow their brains academically, socially and physically all while teaching them techniques to maintain their mental wellness. Come and ask your questions and learn how you can help your students cope with the pressures of school and their outside world.  Once you have heard from our counselors and Principal Rogers and you have had your coffee, stay right where you are as we hold our 2nd General PTA Meeting of the year! While we will cover many topics, one that has come to the forefront of our agenda is celebrating all of the amazing cultures represented at Ballantyne. *Did you know that we have students from 24 different nations who speak an amazing 32 different languages?* We are such a wonderfully multi-cultural school and we need your help to brainstorm ideas to celebrate that. Please come and share your thoughts on how we can incorporate your nationality into our school year.  You do not have to be a member of the PTA to attend the meetings and share your thoughts but for any items requiring a vote you must be a paid member for your voice to be counted. Join now at [www.pay4schoolstuff.com](http://www.pay4schoolstuff.com)!  **It is Time for the Annual Friends & Family Thanksgiving Lunch!**  The annual Thanksgiving lunch is always one of the more anticipated events of the year. It is a time to take a break from your day to come enjoy spending time with your children while giving thanks for all that we have. Since the event is so popular, there are special instructions in place so please read carefully!  *Do my student or I have to participate?* No, we always encourage our families to come and enjoy this special lunch with their children but it is certainly not mandatory to attend. If you just want to spend time with your student without buying a lunch that is fine too – just let the volunteer who checks you in know. Students without a family member in attendance will eat their lunch, either packed or purchased, in their classrooms at a “friendsgiving” event with their classmates and a fun movie!  *Cost*: $4.50 per adult. **Adult tickets for lunch must be bought in advance – go to** [**https://osp.osmsinc.com/CMS**](https://osp.osmsinc.com/CMS) **and select “Ballantyne Elementary” to find the Thanksgiving Holiday Lunch item to add to your cart for each adult in your party.** Students can use their PayPams cafeteria accounts to buy their lunch and are charged the normal school lunch pricing.  *Where*: Ballantyne Elementary School Cafeteria  *When*: Thursday, November 21st, see times chart below:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Grade** | **Time** | | **Kindergarten** | **10:30 – 11:05 am** | | **1st Grade** | **11:05 – 11:40 am** | | **2nd Grade** | **11:40 – 12:15 am** | | **3rd Grade** | **12:15 – 12:50 pm** | | **4th Grade** | **12:50 – 1:25 pm** | | **5th Grade** | **1:25 – 2:00 pm** |   *Special Instructions:*   * Please arrive early for your scheduled lunch time as lines to check in will be long and we don’t want you to miss any lunch time with your student! * If you are a registered CMS volunteer you will be able to shorten your wait by getting in the volunteer line that does not require a computer check-in. If you would like to register now to be a volunteer please [click here](https://www.wearecms.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1425932&type=d&pREC_ID=1593233). * Make sure you have a photo ID – for the safety of our students **NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT A PHOTO ID.** * Make sure you buy your tickets beforehand if you want to eat lunch – tickets **will not** be sold at the door! * After you check-in and receive a badge you will join our “waiting room” to await the appropriate lunch time to enter the cafeteria. * As you can see, the lunch times are a bit longer to allow for longer lunch lines and to allow our students to enjoy more time with their families or with each other. * There will be two lines in the cafeteria to get your lunch. By keeping these lines separate it will hopefully make the process smoother for all:   + One line will be for families and their students so that you will receive your food and be able to sit down to eat together.   + The other line will be only for students who will be sharing a “friendsgiving” lunch with their friends in the classroom while watching a movie! * We really need volunteers to help the check-in process go smoothly. Please consider signing up for a time that you are not at lunch with your student to help out!   <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094eaba82cabfc1-thanksgiving>   * See below for the formal invitation:     We hope to see you all there!    **Bears Night Out at McAlister’s Deli!**  Make this Thursday a total day of rest by eating our Thanksgiving lunch with us during the day and then eating dinner out to support your school at night! McAlister’s Deli (next to Sprouts) is hosting our next BBNO from 5-9pm. Show this flyer and mention that you are with Ballantyne for your purchase to benefit the school. We hope to see you all there!    **We Promised, You Donated, We Deliver!**  After the conclusion of our capital campaign drive, the PTA and school administration sat down to figure out when your students will receive each of the incentives that they worked so hard to earn!  Here are the dates that we can share so far:   * **$7,500 Crazy Hair & Hat Day** – November 26th we want to see your craziest hair or hats! * **$10,000 Extra Recess** – the teachers are still working on a date that best fits everyone’s academic schedules along with the weather – we will announce this date soon! * **$12,500 Principal Car Decorating** – DONE! The students got to enjoy the finished product on October 29th! * **$15,000 Special Mascot** – our special visitor will be announced very soon! * **$20,000 Principal Hair Dye** – the students have voted, the votes have been counted, the dye has been bought…Monday, November 25th is the day – stay tuned for pictures of Principal Rogers and her “new do”!   Our 4 winning classes – Ms. Haston (1st place), Ms. Alfano & Ms. Alva (2nd place), and Ms. Oram (3rd place) - will be participating in their special event, a caramel apple decorating party, on December 5th. Congratulations to these classes for getting the highest percentage of donations in the entire school!  **Calling all 2nd – 5th Grade Singers for the Winter Program!**  Does your 2nd – 5th grader love to perform? Would they like to sing in the Winter Program celebrating Cultural Diversity? If so, read below for a message from Ms. Derry and sign up by tomorrow!    **Help BES Give Back with the No Shave November Food Drive!**  It is now November and the season of giving thanks. BES is giving back by supporting the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina through Friday, November 22nd.  As an added incentive to help our community, every day that we collect 300 cans of food, there are 4 of our male staff members who agreed not to shave their faces. Be sure to thank Mr. Morgan (3rd Grade), Mr. Butler (5th Grade), Mr. Ferreri (PE), and Mr. Greenwood (Dean of Students) for helping to inspire our students to grow their servant hearts!  On Monday, November 25th, the 4 classes with the most cans collected will get to choose a design for one of the staff member’s beards. On Tuesday, November 26th, the staff member will show his designed beard on the morning announcements. Start sending in those cans, Bears!    **FROM AROUND THE BEAR COMMUNITY**  **“Grow Our Game” Free Girls Basketball Clinic at Ardrey Kell!**  Girls (K-8) have two opportunities to improve their basketball skills in upcoming free clinics with the Ardrey Kell Lady Knights coaching staff and team!  [Click here for sign-up and more information.](https://www.cmsathleticzone.com/page/show/4984410-ardrey-kell-v-w-basketball)  *\*please note that this event is not sponsored by BES nor the BES PTA*  **Veterinary Community Event!**  A local Ballantyne Veterinary Clinic is hosting a fun event for kids that we thought might interest some of our students. See below for the flyer and [click here](https://www.facebook.com/DownDogVetClinic/photos/a.1899420593474983/2484554131628290?type=3&sfns=mo) for more information.  *\*please note that this event is not sponsored by BES nor the BES PTA* | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |     **FROM AROUND THE BEAR CAVE**  We had such a busy week at BES, here is just a sample of the fun things that make us the BES-T! Make sure you are following us on social media by clicking the links at the very bottom of this newsletter to see all of these pictures (and more) as they are posted for events all year long!  Our Boys had a “glowing” good time at the Mother-Son Glow Fun:      We celebrated our AMAZING staff with a soup and chili luncheon provided by our families and set up by the BES PTA Hospitality Committee:    We cheered on Principal Rogers and Ms. Upchurch as they got ready to run their very first marathon and half marathon…and they did it!    (photo credit: Ms. Street)  Finally, our flag football teams held their tournament this past weekend with one team coming home with the gold and the other bringing in the silver – way to go Coach Ferreri and all the players!    (photo credit: Coach Ferreri)    (photo credit: Kim Welch)    **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**  **Carpool Reminders!**    With the cold temperatures, there is always an increase in the number of students in our carpool lines and we want all of our Bears and their families to be safe for the holiday season so here is a quick reminder of our procedures:  1. Above is a picture of our carpool map (also on our website) - the yellow X's show the locations of our crossing guards and these are the only places where it is safe for you or your children to cross to school property.  2. The red arrows show the traffic pattern into the school. If you are entering from Lancaster Highway you must wrap all the way around the school (there is no left turn at the first intersection with Scholastic drive). If you are entering from Great Future Drive/Marvin Rd. then you **MUST** turn right to enter the carpool following the crossing guard instructions.  3. When you get near the end of the car pool line you **MUST** make the left-hand turn into the school parking lot (at the blue star on the map) to drop your student off in front of the school. **Students MAY NOT be dropped off on the sides of the school or near the bus lot to avoid turning into the parking lot**. This is unsafe for our students and any students who enter from a non-designated drop off area will be sent into the front office for their names to be noted.  4. When you enter the parking lot, please follow the instructions of the school staff as to how far forward you need to pull up before allowing your child to exit the vehicle. Moving cars all the way down the sidewalk allows more students to exit and makes the line move faster.  5. Please have your students exit the car on the driver's side of the car (sidewalk side) only so they are not exiting into traffic and the staff can ensure their safety. After drop off, please follow the black arrows on the map to exit the property - there is no exit onto Marvin Rd.  Thank you so much for following these rules each day to make the line move quicker, keep our students safe and get everyone into the warm building faster!    If you are looking for more information on transportation, visitation or dismissal please see the ***Important Reminders*** section on the [Bear Necessities](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/bear-necessities.html) page of the PTA Website.  **Digital Flyers on peachjar!**  This handy website is how the school is now distributing many of the community flyers that would usually come home in Tuesday folders.  Please [click here](https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/128397) to go to the peachjar website where you can see all of the current flyers or sign up to be notified each time a flyer is posted by the school. You can also access peachjar from the [BES school website](https://ballantyneelementaryschool.wearecms.com/) as well as the [Ballantyne PTA website](http://www.ballantynepta.com/).  **Order Your Spirit Wear Today!**  Remember to head over to our new online store to purchase your BES gear!    **Time to Relink!**  Relink your store loyalty cards by clicking the button below.    **Sign up to Paint the Birthday Rock!**  Do you want to celebrate your BES Bear by painting a special birthday message on the rock closest to the school? If so, then for only a $5 donation you can sign-up to paint the birthday rock!  On the Birthday Rock page of [BallantynePTA.com](http://www.ballantynepta.com/) you can see all of the Frequently Asked Questions about painting and payment as well as find the link to sign-up! |   **Stay Connected** |   Ballantyne Elementary PTA | 15425 Scholastic Drive, Charlotte NC 28277  Summer Rogers, Proud Principal | 980-343-0413  Bell Schedule 8:45 am – 3:45 pm  [www.ballantynepta.com](http://www.ballantynepta.com)  [ballantynelementaryschool.wearecms.com](https://d.docs.live.net/8a51a7da3a09ee20/ballantynelementaryschool.wearecms.com)  Brought to you by Ballantyne PTA Communications – for questions please email [ballantyneptacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:ballantyneptacommunications@gmail.com?subject=Bear%20Blast%20Question!)  You are receiving this email because you subscribed to the ListServ. Would you like to unsubscribe from this list?  [Click Here](http://cmslistserv.cms.k12.nc.us/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=dl437parentsall&A=1) |
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