|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Issue 03 | September 10 2019** |     **The Bear Blast**  **Welcome to the weekly PTA school newsletter – the best place to get the most up to date news and information for**  **Ballantyne Elementary School!**    **Upcoming Events**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **September 12th** | **5:30 pm -** [**Watch Dogs**](#WatchDogs) **Information Meeting**  **6:30 pm -** [**PTA Welcome**](#PTAMeeting) **Meeting** | | **September 13th** | **8 am - Character Bear Awards**  **BES Spirit Day – Wear Your favorite BES shirt!** | | **September 18th** | **7:15 am - School Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting** | | **September 19th** | **4:30 pm - Room Parent Meeting Choice #1** | | **September 20th** | **9:30 am – Room Parent Meeting Choice #2** | | **September 26th** | **Fall Picture Day for All Students**  **(**[**click here**](https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/) **for more information)** |     **A Message from the PTA President:**  Thank you to all families who have signed up via [pay4schoolstuff.com](http://www.pay4schoolstuff.com) to become PTA Members. We value your input to your school and community and hope you become active in volunteering where it fits your schedule. We want to highlight some opportunities within the PTA that we are urgently seeking volunteers to fill. Please reach out to us via [ballantynepta@gmail.com](mailto:ballantynepta@gmail.com) or catch us in person on **Thursday, September 12th** at the PTA Welcome Meeting at 6:30pm if you would like more information.  **Book Fair** – This is one of our most valuable activities we do at the school. It promotes a love of reading and gives kids a chance to get a new book or two for their collections. It’s also one of our important fundraisers and directly impacts your child’s classroom in many ways. We have one chairperson in place already, but one more chairperson is needed to make this, and future, book fairs possible. If you love books and have time to donate to a great cause, we’d love to hear from you. We have our fall fair coming up in early October, so time is of the essence!  **Assistant Treasurer** – Our wonderful treasurer, Ashley Linderman, is in need of an assistant to help her with various operations necessary to keep our financial operations running smoothly. This is a great opportunity for a working parent with some flexibility during weekdays, but is not a time-consuming role.  **Popcorn** – After last week we had several volunteers step up to fill our first “Popcorn Friday” of the year, thank you! We continue to need volunteers for each month of popping. Please consider looking at the sign-up for the full year and committing to a 3-hour window that gives so much joy to the students and staff! [Click here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054ba9a92fa1fd0-ballantyne) to sign-up!  Thank you to all parents who volunteer at BES. We are a success due to the efforts of all members of the school community and we are so grateful for all you do!  For all other volunteer opportunities remember to visit the sign-up list page on [The PTA Webpage](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/all-pta-sign-ups.html)  *Brooke Fortier*  *PTA President*     |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |   **Have you completed your PTA checklist?**  In your students’ folders the first week of school, you should have received a blue PTA checklist to help you start the year. You can scan the QR code on the form, type in the web addresses on the paper or click below for a list of digital links.  Help us help your child by:   1. Becoming a member of the PTA – this does not require you to volunteer, it only gives you a voice and a vote at each of our general meetings. Become a member for only $10 per adult and let your voice be heard! 2. Donating to our annual campaign – our fall fundraiser does not ask you to sell anything, we only ask you to give to show your support of what we do for your child every day at BES! *“Giving is not just about making a donation – it is about making a difference” – Kathy Calvin* 3. General Volunteer Sign-Up – sign up once and hear about various opportunities throughout the year – only pick the events that fit into your schedule!     **You Asked, We Listened!**  We have received feedback that sometimes using Pay4School to register for PTA membership and pay for fees is confusing. We heard you and we are here to make things easier for you!  If you [click here](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/pay4school.html) to go to the PTA website, you will find a new page dedicated to a tutorial on Pay4SchoolStuff! It is found under our “Fundraising” menu. If this page does not solve your issues then please reach out to us at [ballantynepta@gmail.com](mailto:ballantynepta@gmail.com) or come visit us at the PTA Welcome meeting on Thursday and ask your questions in person!  **First General PTA Meeting of the Year!**  This Thursday at 6:30 pm, immediately following the Watch Dogs meeting, will be the PTA Welcome Meeting in the Media Center. Come meet the PTA board and school administration, ask questions about the school and make your vote\* count in approving our budget for the school year!  \*Although EVERYONE is welcome at the meeting, only registered PTA members are able to vote on issues and budgets. If you have not registered please go to [www.pay4schoolstuff.com](http://www.pay4schoolstuff.com) TODAY!  **What is Watch Dogs?**  Watch D.O.G.S stands for Dads of Great Students and it is an innovating program being used by schools across America which helps them to be positively impacted by the committed investment of fathers and father-figures in their students’ lives. The goal with the program at BES is for dads to spend at least one day this school year at BES to be that positive role model.  Dads, step-dads, grandads, uncles and adult brothers are all welcome to join us on Thursday night at 5:30 for some pizza and an informational meeting. Computers will be available to sign up and register as a CMS volunteer.  If you have not sent it in already, make sure you drop off your RSVP to the school by **TODAY** and we hope to see you there on Thursday!  **Register for Clubs!**  Does your child love art, playing chess, music, languages, drama or sports? If so, then they can continue those passions through all of the various clubs offered before and after school at Ballantyne Elementary!  Please visit the “Clubs” page on [www.ballantynepta.com](http://www.ballantynepta.com) to find out more information and to register before your child’s favorite club fills up!    **Order Your Spirit Wear Today!**  Did you see that this Friday is our first BES Spirit Day of the school year but when you went into your Bear’s closet, none of the old shirts fit? Are you new and your Bear needs some BES flare to show off on future spirit days?  If so, then head over to our new online store to purchase your BES gear today! Remember the delivery time is within two weeks of ordering so order now so you have your gear for next month’s spirit day!    **Fun Opportunity for 4th and 5th Graders**  **See the source image**On Wednesday, September 18th at 9:00 am, author Scott Reintgen will visit our school and host an assembly for our 4th and 5th graders.  He will show and talk about his novel Saving Fable.  4th and 5th grade students received order forms in their Tuesday folders if they would like to preorder the book for him to sign. Make sure you return your completed form to take advantage of this opportunity.  For additional questions please contact our Media Specialist, Ms. Cooper at  [anne.cooper@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:anne.cooper@cms.k12.nc.us)  **Time to Relink!**  Did you know that every year you have to relink your store cards to Ballantyne Elementary for the school to continue to receive benefits? Head over to our Fundraising page and scroll to the bottom to get links to Publix, Harris Teeter and Amazon Smile.    **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! |  |  | | --- | |  |   **Bookmark the PTA Website!**  Save [BallantynePTA.com](http://www.ballantynepta.com/) on your home screen today and you will thank us tomorrow!  Enjoy easy access to important links, keep up with the school calendar, explore volunteer opportunities and so much more, with ease, from the palm of your hand!      **IMPORTANT REMINDERS!**   |  | | --- | | * **Visitors -** Parents, grandparents, and visitors are required to sign in at the front office and show a photo ID every time they visit BES.   This is true for picking up a child, eating lunch with your child or attending any school events. * **Paperwork –** Make sure you have filled out and returned all of the required forms sent home by your teacher for the school and the class. * **Walkers & Bike Riders -** If your child is a walker/biker then you must complete a walker form. If you are meeting your child to walk, you will meet across the street from the front playground. There will be staff to help you find the location. You will not come onto campus. In the afternoon, if you have indicated that your child will walk/bike home and someone is not there to meet the child by 3:45 pm, they will return to the school building. You must then come into the school by the front office to pick up your child. If your child is able to walk home alone a form must be turned in stating this even if they are walking with a sibling or a friend. Bike riders will not be permitted to bike home until 4 pm after the carpool traffic has cleared. * **Tardies** - We know it is sometimes hard to readjust to a school schedule following the summer but please remember our bell time is 8:45 am. Student drop off will begin at 8:10 am each morning but NOT before. The tardy bell will ring promptly at 8:45 am. If your child is not in the building by the bell, parents must park and walk their child into the school. After buzzing in, the parent must sign the child in as tardy and then the child will receive a tardy pass and proceed to class. * **Classroom Observation** - All classroom observations visits must be arranged with the teacher at least 2 school days ahead of the requested visit time. An administrator must be made aware of the visit and a BES staff member will accompany the parent throughout the observation. Visitors must follow the school safety policy and sign in with a photo ID to receive a visitor badge that must be worn for the right side of the chest for the entire visit. * **Transportation Changes** - All changes in transportation MUST be in writing. We will not accept verbal changes from a student or a phone call. Please make sure to send written communication to your child’s homeroom teacher, the front office, and before/after care (if applicable) any time there will be a change. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule. | |   **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) |