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The classes with the highest percentage of students with a donation in their name at the end of the campaign will win a special prize from the PTA. In addition to this “pole position” prize, individual classes and grade-levels may be running competitions…so get those donations in today!    This week our Pole Position winning class is: **Ms. Compton’s 5th Grade Class** with a 22% participation rate! Thank you!    For even more fun, we are also tracking total school donations and we will be giving back fun incentives as we pass each of the milestones! Our Ballantyne Motor Speedway graphic below will always keep you up to date on what incentives we have earned, which are coming next, and how much further we have to get to that finish line by November 1st!  Look for it here each week and on the Bear Necessities page of the PTA website by [clicking here](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/bear-necessities.html#campaign)!  Our total campaign donations are currently: **$4,942**    Please take the time to visit our capital campaign page on the website to learn more and make your donations at <www.pay4schoolstuff.com>!  ​  **Remember** - we are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Charity and many of your employers will match your donations to the PTA. Please [click here](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/corporate-matching.html) to learn how to “double your donation”! Once those matches are approved, make sure you send proof to [ballantynepta@gmail.com](mailto:ballantynepta@gmail.com) so they can count for your student towards incentives.      **There is still time left to shop our Fall Book Fair!**    Here is a reminder of the remaining shopping schedule:  *Tuesday October 8th: 8:15 – 2:00 pm – Sales Open*  *Wednesday October 9th – TEACHER WORKDAY - NO SCHOOL, FAIR IS CLOSED*  *Thursday October 10th: 8:15 – 2:00 & 5:30 - 8:00 pm – Sales Open for School & Curriculum Night*  *Friday October 11th: 8:15 – 2:00 pm – Sales Open, Fair Breakdown begins at 2:00 pm*  During the dates of the fair, media center specials classes will be held in the individual classrooms. Since student’s will not be coming down to the book fair during their media class time, the fair will be open to all students and families to shop every day before school and at appropriate times during the day with a pass from their teacher. Parents and family members are welcome to shop at any time during the day or join their Bears before the bell rings, during the student’s lunch period, or during Curriculum Night on October 10th. [See our website for more FAQ’s](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/bear-necessities.html).  **Curriculum Night – You Asked and They Listened!**  So many parents have mentioned that they really want to understand the curriculum that their students are learning each day and ways that they can supplement that learning at home. Our school administrators heard you and, this year they are offering a Curriculum Night!  This Thursday, October 10th you will have a choice of two sessions to attend to learn about all of the wonderful ways that your students are accelerating their learning each day at BES and what you can do to continue growing their brains at home.  Session #1 – 6 to 6:30 pm  Session #2 – 7 to 7:30 pm  Please pick whichever slot works best for your schedule. Make sure you stop by to say hi to us at the Fall Book Fair before, during, or after your session!  **Mark Your Calendars for BBNO at Jersey Mike’s!**    On Thursday, October 17th from 4-8pm we will have Ballantyne Bears Night Out at Jersey Mike’s at Stonecrest. You will want to mark this one down because, if you time it right, you might even have a very “Proud” and special guest making your sandwich for you! We will give you more details in next week’s Bear Blast but you won’t want to miss it and we hope to see you there!    **It is Time for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest!**    Does your child enjoy art, music and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films and taking photos? Then let them have fun unleashing their inner artist with PTA Reflections!  This year’s theme, “Look Within,” calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts. Students can submit any non-digital entries to their homeroom teacher, any digital entries must be submitted to [ballantynereflections@gmail.com](mailto:ballantynereflections@gmail.com).   ​All entries must include an entry form and be returned by October 25th. For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships by [clicking here](https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/awards).  To find our more and download entry forms, visit the Bear Necessities page on the PTA Website.    **Free Girls Basketball Clinic at Ardrey Kell!**  See the source image  Ardrey Kell High School and their Health/PE teacher and women's basketball coach, Jeff Buseick, are having a free basketball clinic for K-8 girls on October 12th.  [Click here](https://ballantynepta.weebly.com/community-news.html) to see the flyer that outlines all of the information, including a link for sign-ups. The deadline to sign up is **THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH**!  **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! |  |  | | --- | |  |     **FROM AROUND THE BEAR CAVE**  Here are a few of the fun things that happened to our Bears this past week!  Our first day of book fair sales saw many excited students in line to pick up a copy of their favorite titles. Thank you to our amazing Book Fair chairs and volunteers for setting up such a wonderful space to get our Bears excited about reading!        Our 5th Grade Academy focuses on leadership. Students are leaders of their learning, leaders of their behavior, and leaders in the school and the community. Some of our 5th Grade Academy Scholars are supporting an important cause and raising money for pediatric cancer. Here is their website. Please consider donating by stopping by their table during the Book Fair or [clicking here](https://whippediatriccancer.funraise.org/fundraiser/renee-dillon?fbclid=IwAR1eACoGG75CEnd-T3VDlcoa2HNZN6Yv6h4txcDTFf4qxPrhcf9KVSGu_yI).      Our National Walk or Bike to School Day was a huge success! Thank you to CMPD for helping us safely cross, the Charlotte and Carolinas Fire Departments for bringing the fire truck and Blaze the Fire Mascot, and CMS for organizing bus safety demonstrations and bringing fun treasurers for our participants!      **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**  If you are looking for 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. |   **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!)  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