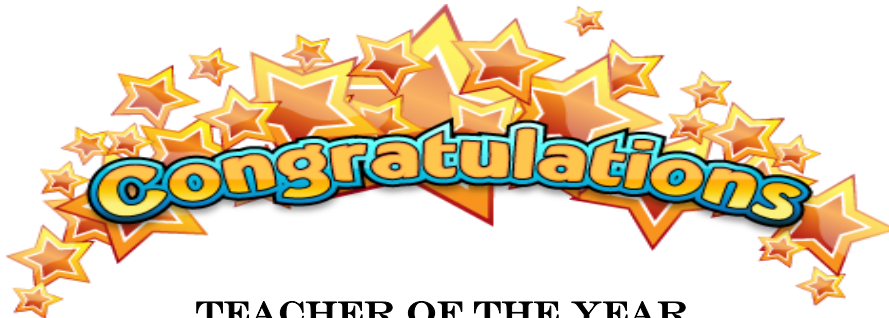


# VALRICO ELEMENTARY



## HAWK'S NEST NEWS



### TEACHER OF THE YEAR

*Mrs. Jamie Hinson, 5th Grade Teacher*

### IDA S. BAKER AWARD

*Mrs. Lynsey Gauley, Media Specialist*

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

*Mrs. Mary Beth Melnik, Kindergarten Paraprofessional*

The Valrico faculty and staff have selected these recipients to represent all of the super individuals at our school.

Thank you to our winners for allowing us to acknowledge your hard work and dedication to our students, faculty, and staff!

### School Board

Nadia T. Combs, Chair  
Henry "Shake" Washington,  
Vice Chair  
Lynn L. Gray  
Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D.  
Karen Perez  
Patricia "Patti" Rendon  
Jessica Vaughn

### Interim Superintendent of Schools

Van Ayres

### Tricia Simonsen Principal

### Heather Bisesto Assistant Principal



**Hillsborough County**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Preparing Students for Life



### Parent-Teacher Conferences

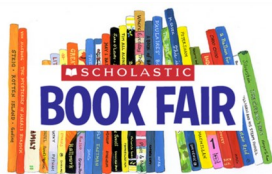
Our fall 2023-2024 school year conference night will be held on *October 5 from 3:00-8:00 p.m.* Parent-Teacher Conferences are an important opportunity where we can sit down and discuss your child's progress in school. Please be on the look out for information

from your child's teacher regarding your individual Conference details. You can also request a conference. We encourage parent involvement! *Note: The Patrol Induction will take place on Conference Night from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.*

Valrico Elementary School  
609 S. Miller Road  
Valrico, FL 33594  
(813) 744-6777  
<https://hillsboroughschools.org/valrico>

*Every day*  
**COUNTS!**

School success starts  
with attendance



## Save the Date for our Book Fair!

**October 23rd–October 27th**

Students who are prepared to make a purchase will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair during school hours. Flyers with prices and information on how to setup an eWallet will be sent home with students. If you send cash, please send enough money with your child to cover sales tax. Tax is not included in the flyer prices.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during **Book-O-Ween** on October 26th from 5:00-6:15.

Remember, all purchases benefit our school.



You may also shop online at:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/fairfinder.html>



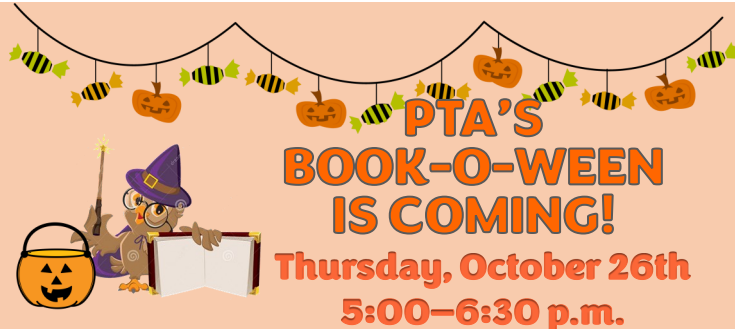
## Annual Yearbook Cover Contest

Theme:

**Sunshine State of Mind**  
Contest Dates: October 9-23

### RULES:

- \*Must be created and drawn by students.
- \*Artwork should be consistent with this year's school theme.
- \*Entire paper must be colored with marker, crayons or colored pencils. (If colored pencils are used, please make sure images are dark and outlined.)
- \*Artwork must be on a white sheet of copy paper (8 1/2 x 11).
- \*Design must be drawn in the **PORTRAIT** setting.
- \***Absolutely NO WORDS** written on the picture.
- \*Students must write their first and last name AND teacher name and grade **on the back in PENCIL**.
- \*\*We will be choosing a cover AND a picture for EACH grade level collage page. So each grade will have a winner.\*\*



## PTA'S BOOK-O-WEEN IS COMING!

**Thursday, October 26th**  
**5:00–6:30 p.m.**

Wear a costume based on a character from one of your favorite books. There will be awards given on Friday's Morning Show for the best book character costumes.



\*We would greatly appreciate your donations of store bought bags of individually wrapped, non-chocolate candy to hand out at Book-O-Ween. Please send candy in to your child's teacher prior to October 23rd.

## NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS® Explore the Arts and Express Yourself

The time is here for students to consider entering the PTA Reflections Program. Students may enter one or more of the following categories. Thank you for supporting this awesome program by encouraging students to participate. The theme for 2023-2024 is *I am Hopeful Because*. The deadline for student submission is **October 20, 2023**.

Below are the categories and a brief explanation of submission requirements. If students are interested in a particular category, contact Mrs. Jackson (art teacher) or the Valrico PTA ([valricoptaboard@gmail.com](mailto:valricoptaboard@gmail.com)) for detailed submission requirements and appropriate forms that are required for submission.

- ◆ Dance Choreography - requires recording a video file and submitted on a USB device.
- ◆ Film Production - requires recording a video file and submitted on a USB device.
- ◆ Literature - format requires a PDF file on a USB device.
- ◆ Music Composition - audio file submitted on a USB device.
- ◆ Photography - format includes JPEG, JPG, GIF or PNG submitted on a USB device.
- ◆ Visual Arts - 2D artworks submitted on substantially mounted substrate (no larger than 24x30 including matting).



## PTA Tropical Color Fun Run Fundraiser

**Our PTA Color Run Fundraiser was a HUGE success!**  
**Together we raised over \$40,000!!!**

Thank you to all our families for supporting this wonderful PTA fundraiser! Students had an amazing time at our Tropical Color Fun Run! A portion of the money raised will go right back to teacher's classrooms! Additionally, funds will support PTA activities & programs as well as school technology. We would like to give a special shout out to our top class and top student earners! Way to go, Hawks!

THANK YOU TO OUR Color Fun Run Sponsors

**BRENDA WADE**  
Signature Realty Associates

**SouthState**

**HiTech AUTOMOTIVE**

**State Farm**  
Melissa Seively, Agent  
[www.StateFarmInsurance.com](http://www.StateFarmInsurance.com)

for making it possible for all students to participate!

Thank you also to our local business partners who contributed:  
Chick-fil-a, Rita's Italian Ice, Urban Air, Lowe's, Home Depot, Dick's Sporting Goods, Winn Dixie, & Pirate Ice!

**AND THE WINNERS ARE...**

**AUBRIANA JOHNSON**  
3RD GRADE MRS. KUBLER'S CLASS **\$1,800!**

**CHARLOTTE FIGUEROA**  
2ND GRADE MRS. OLIVARES' CLASS **\$1,790!**

**GABRIELLA LIMA**  
5TH GRADE MRS. ASHLEY'S CLASS **\$1,445!**

**CLASS PIRATE ICE PARTY WINNERS**

**TEAM OLIVARES \$2,982.50**  
2ND GRADE

**TEAM KUBLER \$2,494.85**  
3RD GRADE



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TERRIFIC KIDS!

Teachers recognize one student from each class every month in honor of positive character traits.

The character trait was **FRIENDSHIP**. ("Using your words and actions to show others you care.")

Russel Morris  
Kaiyah Vinson  
Leia Caine  
Valkyrie Colindres  
Olivia Sams  
Hurshell Bonner  
Lily Darnier  
Easton Baerwalde  
Cindy Ixim Hernandez  
Alexa Louissaint  
Erica Colon

Angelina Petrova  
Samuel Stewart  
Julia Leiva Carballo  
Jaiden Rajan  
Cosette Madaris  
Lynnox Brooks  
Easton Nething  
Amelia Andres  
Aaron Narvaez  
Kaylee Pyle  
Sarah Chickadel

Aryia McCaskell  
Liam Matthews  
Carson Pulcifer  
Jasmine Khanali  
Aiden Pierre  
Sophia Santos  
Delaney McLafferty  
Lydia Crockett  
Kennedy Peters  
Rylan Leasure  
Jaziah Acevedo

Bella Medina  
Johan Bonachea  
Emmerson McDonough  
Ahmiya Beal  
Christian Machado Salazar

## VALRICO CELEBRATES RED RIBBON WEEK OCTOBER 23-27

During Red Ribbon Week, our Hawks will be in a Sunshine State of Mind! We will learn about making good choices for a happy and healthy life and being kind to others. Please join us by participating in our Sunshine State of Mind Red Ribbon Spirit Days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wear your favorite pair of jeans	Wear your favorite Sunglasses	Wear your favorite Team attire	Wear your favorite Sunshine attire	Wear your Silliest Socks

Parents please label personal items with your child's first & last name (lunchboxes, water bottles, jackets, bookbags, etc.). This makes it easier to return lost items to the owner. Thank you!



## Valrico PTA Corner

### Volunteers Needed!

OCT 23-27  
SCHOLASTIC  
BOOK FAIR



Thank you to our students, parents, teachers, staff, & sponsors for helping us to exceed our fundraising goal!  
Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to this super fun event! We couldn't have done it without you!



### HOODIES Available Now!

Order online or purchase at Skate Night!



2023-2024  
**YEARBOOK**

Pre-order your yearbook now! \$20

SCAN FOR STORE



**FOLLOW PTA ON FACEBOOK**  
FOR UPDATES ON JUBILEE, SPIRIT NIGHTS, YEARBOOKS, SCHOOL EVENTS, ETC.  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8kmdxj>

Valrico Parents:  
We hope you will  
participate in this year's

## GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN!

Thursday, November 16



We are looking for volunteers to share a hobby, explain an aspect about your career, or teach a lesson (virtually or in-person). If you would like to be part of this wonderful experience for our students, simply contact the front office by October 27. Registration info will be sent home with students soon. Thank you!

# OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Chorus Practice (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 Art Club (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 	3	4 Drum Ensemble 1:55-3:00	5 <b>Conference Night</b> <b>3:00-8:00 p.m.</b> Patrol Induction @ 6:30 in Multipurpose Room	6           5th Grade Coupon Card Fundraising ends Tropical Spirit Day	7
8	9 Chorus Practice (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 Art Club (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00  <b>YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST BEGINS</b>	10 Vision Screening KG, Gr.1, Gr.3  <b>PTA Spirit Night 5:00—8:00</b>	11 Drum Ensemble 1:55-3:00	12 <b>End of 1st Grading Period</b>	13           VES / School Colors (Navy & Silver) Spirit Day	14
15	<b>NON-STUDENT DAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	17           Hearing Screening KG & Gr.1	18 Drum Ensemble 1:55-3:00 Hearing Screening KG & Gr.1	19  <b>SPIRIT NIGHT 3:00—8:00</b>	20           5TH GRADE FUNDRAISING ENDS <b>PTA Reflections Submissions Due</b> Bucs or NFL Spirit Day	21
22 <b>Book Fair All Week 23rd - 27th</b> 	23 Chorus Practice (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 Art Club (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 <b>YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST ENDS</b> SAC Meeting 1:20 Virtual  <b>Wear Your Favorite Jeans Day!</b>	24 <b>Wear your favorite SUNGLASSES!</b>	25 Drum Ensemble 1:55-3:00 November Parent Newsletter posted online <b>Wear your favorite TEAM attire!</b>	26 <b>BOOK-O-WEEN 5:00-6:30 p.m.</b>  Lost & Found Items on Display during school day & at Book-o-ween <b>Wear your favorite SUNSHINE Spirit attire!</b>	27 <b>Terrific Kids Student Recognition</b> Crazy Socks Spirit Day	28
29	30 Chorus Practice (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 Art Club (Gr 4 & 5) 12:55-2:00 (Last Day until 2024) 	31 				