Our annual Relay for Life Coin Drive was huge success! We far exceeded our goal and raised over $1400 during the week of the coin drive. WOW—way to go Valrico Hawks! Our area’s annual Relay for Life event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3rd at the Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds. Many of our own staff and families will be at this event to walk as cancer survivors or family members of survivors. Please come join our team on this evening for such a worthy cause. Thank you for your support!

We are incredibly proud of our two Valrico Hawks that competed in the Florida 4-H Public Speaking Regional Competition. Fifth grader JARRIANA THOMAS came in 2nd PLACE with her speech titled “Fear” and Fourth Grader COOPER FERNANDES came in 1st PLACE with his speech titled “How to Spice Up Your Cooking”. They will both go on to compete at the district level competition on April 4th.
Our business partners play an integral part in the success of our school. Valrico Elementary wants to give thanks and appreciation to the following business partners for your donations and support during the 2023-2024 school year:

- Beef ‘O’Brady’s - Valrico
- Beaver’s Contracting Services
- Brandon Rotary
- BubbaQue’s
- Chick-fil-A - Valrico
- Chili’s
- Floor & Décor
- JTB Stoneworks LLC
- Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon
- Rita’s Italian Ice Valrico
- Seeds of Hope
- The Stuffed Cookie
- Undershepherds

VES volunteers are the BEST! It’s your time to SHINE!

Our volunteers are cordially invited to the Volunteer & Business Partner Recognition Breakfast!

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 8:00 AM

**WHERE:** Valrico Elementary Media Center

**WHY:** To say “thank you” to our valuable volunteers/business partners

**RSVP:** By April 12th to alisa.ashley@hcps.net

**BOOK FAIR**

Coming Soon!

**April 22 - 26**

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.

Online ordering available April 19-May 7:

www.scholastic.com/bf/valricoelementaryschool

**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFETY INFORMATION**

A Total Solar Eclipse will occur on April 8th. It will appear partially to the Tampa area beginning at 1:43pm and ending at 4:15pm with maximum view at 3:00pm.

Please visit “Announcements” section on the Valrico Elementary School website www.hillsboroughschools.org/Valrico to view safety information about this awesome event. Thank you!

**Planning a Move? Not Returning for the 2024-2025 School Year?**

We need to know! If your family is planning a move before the end of the school year or you know that your child will not be attending Valrico Elementary School next year, please contact our office as soon as possible. Thank you!
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH TERRIFIC KIDS!

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

March’s character trait is Peace. (“Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.”)

Quinn Black          Bryson Jackson       Deikan Morgan          Karter Wyatt
Karolina Iturbide    Annabelle Fernandes  Nathan Joseph          Fabian Escobar
Kirby Grayson        Johan Otting         Amiyah Bean            Marco Ortega
Owen Farber          Hayden Purner        Jay Kubler             Alexis Galicia-Hernandez
Hailey Giarusso      Liam Alexander       Fabian Gomez Gomez     
Yarelys Ontiveros    Aruuke Baktybekova   Cooper Fernandes       
Amalia Velazquez     Oliver Stroble       Ilima Masri            
Paige Russ           Khiara Garcia-Rivera  Finnley Rice          
Mila Metziere        Gianna Ocasio        Claire Georgi          
Maxey Joseph         Carter Sweat         Amauris Manjarres      
Leon Estevez         Jase Eads            Sofia Machado          

Friendship consists of loyalty, honesty, and forgiveness. These are qualities that all children have, including those with autism. April 2nd is World Autism Awareness day. Please support our autism community here at Valrico Elementary by wearing BLUE on Friday, April 5th for Autism Awareness Spirit Day. This is the perfect opportunity to reach out and connect with a new friend. Your friendship and compassion may be the piece of the puzzle they are searching for.

April’s Character Trait

Attendance Recognition

The following classes (by grade level) had the highest attendance percentage for the month of February:

E Hawks: Mrs. Wiebler 91.9%
Kindergarten: Mrs. Queen 94.4%
First Grade: Mrs. Hannaford 93.4%
Second Grade: Mrs. Gladbach *96.1%
Third Grade: Mrs. Kubler 95.5%
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rudd 96.0%
Fifth Grade: Mrs. Hinson 94.6%

* This class had the highest monthly attendance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March’s highest participant count for Chick-fil-A Spirit Night was Mrs. Hannaford’s class! They won an ice cream party courtesy of Chick-fil-A!</strong></td>
<td>1 Early Release Day! Chorus Practice 12:55—2:00</td>
<td>2 Early Release Day! FAST Writing Test Gr. 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Lost &amp; Found Items on display during lunch periods. Please encourage your child to check.</td>
<td>5 PTA Executive Board Meeting 9:00</td>
<td>6 PTA Yearbook Final Sale Ends Wear BLUE for Autism Awareness Spirit Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Early Release Day! Report Cards Available Online Rising 5th graders job applications OPEN for next year Chorus Practice 12:55—2:00</td>
<td>9 PTA Spirit Night 5:00—8:00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Inspirational Day Wear An Inspirational Shirt</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 PM3 STAR Reading Testing this week (K-Gr. 2)</td>
<td>15 Early Release Day! Chorus Practice 12:55—2:00</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 Volunteer &amp; Business Partner Appreciation Breakfast in the Media Center 8:00AM</td>
<td>19 Deadline for rising 5th graders to submit their job applications for next year Purple Up! Spirit Day Wear Purple in honor of Military Children’s Month</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 PM3 STAR Reading Testing this week (K-Gr. 2)</td>
<td>22 Early Release Day! Progress Alerts Go Home This Week Chorus Practice 12:55—2:00</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Secretaries Appreciation Day VPK STAR Testing May Parent Newsletter posted online</td>
<td>25 VPK STAR Testing</td>
<td>26 Terrific Kids Student Recognition MLB Spirit Day</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>29 Early Release Day!</td>
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2024-2025 School Advisory Council Ballot

Parent/Business Partner Representatives

Genise Crockett  Jorge Rodriguez
Kelly Rice  Jennifer Cao-Navarro
Katherine Branin  Kelly Rice

_____ Yes, I approve the individuals above.

_____ No, I do not approve the individuals above.

*Please return ballot to the Main Office by May 6, 2024.

Note: If you are not able to print this form, please email your SAC Ballot response (Approve or Not Approve) to Bernice.Miranda@hcps.net.