THANK YOU, PTA!
We would like to recognize all of our families that have supported the Valrico PTA! Thank you for all you do to provide our students with the best opportunities & curriculum resources possible! Special recognition to our PTA Executive Board: Cassy Timken, Kourtney Geary, and Michele Purner for the many hours they dedicate to making a difference!
Dates to Remember for Testing:
4/24 & 4/25: VPK STAR Testing
5/1: FAST ELA Testing - Grade 3
5/2: FAST ELA Testing - Grades 4 & 5
5/3: FAST ELA Make-Up Testing - Grades 3, 4, 5
5/7: FAST Math Testing - Grades 4 & 5
5/8: FAST Math Testing - Grade 3
5/10: FAST Math Make-Up Testing - Grades 3, 4, 5
5/14: SSA (Statewide Science Assessment) - Grade 5
5/15: SSA Make-Up Testing - Grade 5

Tips for Successful Testing Experience:
- Please ensure your child arrives to school on time.
- Safeguard sleep: Make sure your child gets enough sleep the night before the assessment.
- Plan for a well-balanced and healthy breakfast.
- Visualize a positive outcome: Attitude affects test scores. Think positively and don’t embrace failure.
- Stay positive: Your child can be influenced by your reaction to testing time.
- Give him or her positive send-off in the morning.
- Don’t Stress: Our stress can spill over to our children.

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Come join us as we celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against cancer. VES will be participating in Relay for Life on May 3rd, from 6:00PM—12:00AM. Our Valrico Singing Stars will be performing in the Opening Ceremony. The event will be held at The Strawberry Festival Fairgrounds located at 303 Berryfest Drive, in Plant City. Hope to see you there!

HUGE SHOUT OUT TO COOPER FERNANDES
On April 4th, fourth grader, Cooper Fernandes, went up against all 4th grade Finalists in Hillsborough County and came in 3rd place at the 4H Speaking Competition with his speech “How To Spice Up Your Cooking”. Way to go, Cooper! That is quite an accomplishment!

Is your child missing an item?
All items in our Lost & Found will be on display outside the cafeteria on May 15. Please encourage your students to look for their lost items after their lunch period. This will be the last Lost & Found for the 2023-2024 School Year. Any unclaimed items will be donated.

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!

Manager-Diane Kelley
Production Coordinator—Beatrice Cardenas
SNS Staff—Dora Avel&es, Christine Bonito, Diana Cherkaski, Bonnie DeBissie, Gladys Macias, Blanca Pagan, Brenda Riggal, Jaynis Vega

Thank you Nurses
Diane, Gina, & Erica!

NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY
Wednesday, May 8th
Teachers recognize one student from each class every month in honor of positive character traits.

April’s character trait is **Patience.** ("Waiting until later, for what you want now.")

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### Attendance Recognition

The following classes (by grade level) had the highest attendance percentage for the months of **March:**

- **E Hawks:** Mrs. Duval, 95.9%
- **Kindergarten:** Mrs. Koch, 95.4%
- **First Grade:** Mrs. Hannaford, 97.5%
- **Second Grade:** Mrs. Gladbach, 95%
- **Third Grade:** Mrs. Kubler, 96.2%
- **Fourth Grade:** Mrs. Rudd, 97.3%
- **Fifth Grade:** Mrs. Dabney, 96.6%

*This class had the highest monthly attendance.*

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**Florida VPK at Hillsborough County Public Schools**

Hillsborough County Public Schools is offering a FREE educational Summer VPK program for children entering Kindergarten in 2024.

Plan to take advantage of the **FREE 30-day summer program** at a Hillsborough County Public Schools campus near you.

Give your child a jump start into kindergarten!

**Child must have previously attended a VPK program during the school year.**

**Summer 2024 Dates:**
- June 3 – July 24, 2024
- Monday-Thursday, 7:00 am – 5:30 pm
- Monday-Wednesday; July 1-3, no school; July 4 and July 5

**Locations:**
- Ballast Point
- Bing
- Buckhorn
- Hammond
- Hunter's Green
- Jackson
- Lambo
- McDonald
- Mitchell
- Morgan Woods
- Morton
- Oak Grove
- Robinson
- Summerfield
- Thompson
- Wimauma

**Register NOW in two steps!**

1. Go to elchc.org to start the registration process and apply for the REQUIRED Certificate of Eligibility (COE).
2. Bring your certificate to the VPK school to finalize the process and secure a summer VPK seat at that site.

To apply online, parents will need the following:
- An active email address
- A digital copy of proof of your child's date of birth and proof of your Florida residency
- Access to a printer to print out your VPK Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

**Child must be 4 years old on July 31, 2024 or before September 1, 2024.**

**VPK questions? Call our VPK Hotline**

**(813) 272-4516**

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**Ready Freddy wants to help YOU get ready for Kindergarten!**

Visit readyfreddy.org for free tips and ideas!
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<th>SUN</th>
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<td><strong>FAST Testing</strong> 7:40&lt;br&gt;Gr. 4 &amp; 5 (Reading)</td>
<td><strong>FAST Testing</strong> 7:40&lt;br&gt;Gr. 4 &amp; 5 (Reading)</td>
<td><strong>FAST Makeup Testing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gr. 3, 4, 5 (Reading)</td>
<td><strong>Neon Spirit Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Teacher &amp; Staff Appreciation Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Early Release Day!</em></td>
<td><strong>PTA General Meeting</strong> 6:00PM</td>
<td><strong>FAST Testing</strong> 7:40&lt;br&gt;Gr. 4 &amp; 5 (Math)</td>
<td>Thank you Nurses Diane, Gina &amp; Erica!&lt;br&gt;<strong>FAST Testing</strong> 7:40&lt;br&gt;Gr. 3 (Math)</td>
<td><strong>PTA Skate Night</strong> 5:00-7:00</td>
<td><strong>FAST Makeup Testing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gr. 3, 4, 5 (Math)</td>
<td><strong>Favorite Sport Spirit Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Happy Mother's Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Early Release Day!</em></td>
<td><strong>VPS/Peeps Graduation</strong> 9:00</td>
<td><strong>SSA Testing Grade 5 (Science)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SSA Makeup Testing Grade 5 (Science)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gr. 5 Trip to Universal Studios</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:45am-6:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Camo Spirit Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;in honor of Armed Forces Day</td>
<td><strong>ARMED FORCES DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 21 &amp; 22</strong>&lt;br&gt;Last Chance!&lt;br&gt;<em>Limited Quantities</em>&lt;br&gt;PTA Yearbooks will be sold in the Guidance Suite&lt;br&gt;<strong>While Supplies Last</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:10-7:40&lt;br&gt;$30 CASH ONLY</td>
<td><strong>Gr. 5 Field Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:30 - 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Last Day to Pay for Lost Books or Request Refund for Found Books</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>11:00 High School Seniors (Former VES Students)</strong> Graduation Celebration</td>
<td><strong>Gr. 5 Clap Out - 11:10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gr. 5 families to enter front gate between 10:30 &amp; 11:00 with pink pass</td>
<td><strong>Last Day of School Dismissal at</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:25am</td>
<td><strong>GES Spirit Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Memorial Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>April’s highest participant count for Chick-fil-A Spirit Night was Mrs. Gladbach’s class! They won an ice cream party courtesy of Chick-fil-A!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Newsletter posted online</strong></td>
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MAY 6 - 18: See details in newsletter.