

Valrico Elementary

Hawk's Nest News

Celebrate Literacy Week Bookmark Contest Winners

Congratulations to the following students for their amazing 1st place bookmark creations. Way to go Hawks!



EHawks

Irelyn Lugo, Mrs. Wiebler, EHawks

VPK

Dylan Sanchez, Ms. Kathy, VPK

K

Eliana Wandell, Mrs. Queen, K

1st

Julie Caldwell, Mrs. Dittebrand, Grade 1

2nd

Elizabeth Dodson, Mrs. Smith, Grade 4

3rd

Jordyn Purner, Mrs. Hinson, Grade 5

4th

5th

FLORIDA 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING PROGRAM WINNERS

The Florida 4-H Public Speaking Program is a school enrichment curriculum in public speaking for Grades 4 & 5. Students write and deliver a public speech between 2-3 minutes in length on any topic. Here are the winners for the Florida 4-H Speeches and their topics. First place winners (denoted with a *) in each grade level will go to the regional competition in March.

4th Grade Winners

- 1st Place* **Hayla Ponto** in Mrs. Brocato's Class: *Taylor Swift and Her Story*
 2nd Place **Dawson Usher** in Mrs. Smith's Class: *How to Get Out of Doing Your Chores*
 3rd Place **Henry Tanner** in Ms. Hall's Class: *Is Long Distance Running Safe for Kids?*
Zachary Kirk in Mrs. Rudd's Class: *Sports Are Good for You*
Avery Guillet in Mrs. Velazquez's Class: *How to Prepare for a Hurricane*

5th Grade Winners

- 1st Place **Teyla Black** in Mrs. Hinson's Class: *Fruits Vs. Vegetables**
 2nd Place **Skylar VanVaerenbergh** in Mr. McClellan's Class: *Being a Female Sports Reporter*
 3rd Place **Bryce Curry** in Mrs. Manigold's Class: *My Golden Retriever and Why You Should Get One*
Sloan Cheong in Mrs. Ashley's Class: *The History of Egyptian Mythology*
Luke Pulcifer in Mrs. Devine-Martin's Class: *Roller Skating*
Colin Stevens in Mrs. Young's Class: *Reasons I Like Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series*



School Board

Jessica Vaughn
Chair

Karen Perez
Vice Chair

Nadia T. Combs

Lynn L. Gray

Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D.

Patricia "Patti" Rendon

Henry "Shake" Washington

Superintendent of Schools

Van Ayres

Tricia Simonsen Principal

Michelle Vick

Assistant Principal



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life

Valrico Elementary School
609 S. Miller Road
Valrico, FL 33594
(813) 744-6777

www.hillsboroughschools.org/valrico



Attendance
Matters

Make every day count!
School success starts
with attendance!



RELAY FOR LIFE COIN DRIVE

We will have a Coin Drive for Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer research from March 4 – March 13. All students are encouraged to bring coins for a Boys vs. Girls friendly competition. Collections will be taken each morning in the courtyard from 7:10-7:40am. If our goal of \$1400 is met, we will celebrate schoolwide with a Crazy Hat Day on Friday, March 14!

Thank you for supporting this great cause!

Want to join VES at Relay for Life or Donate?

Relay for Life will take place at Raymond James Stadium beginning March 8th at 3PM and ending March 9th at 5AM.

For more information or to donate to the American Cancer Society through TEAM VALRICO ELEMENTARY, visit www.tinyurl.com/3865r792



The following students will be representing Valrico Elementary School at the district SLAM Showcase on March 5th.

◆ **Juliette Anglin**

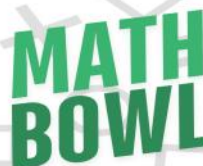
Mrs. Abraham's 2nd Grade Class

◆ **Shine Roche**

Ms. O'Sullivan's 3rd Grade Class

◆ **Skylar Basham, Yamiel DeJesus, and Jace Smith**

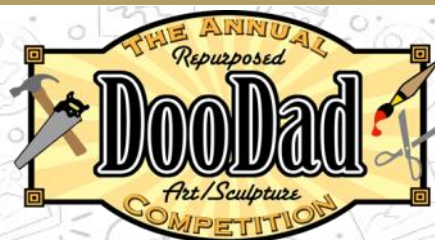
Mrs. Hinson's 5th Grade Class.



Our Second Grade Math Bowl Team will compete at The Trinkle Center on March 5th.

Rijash Shah in Mrs. Abraham's Class
Logan Chambers in Mrs. Gladbach's Class
Terran Rice in Mrs. Gladbach's Class
Blair Barrow in Mrs. Gladbach's Class
Amalia Velazquez in Ms. Olivares' Class

GO TEAM!



Art Club Students participated in the Annual Repurposed DooDad Competition.

2 team sculptures were awarded Honorable Mention and they received Cash Prizes!

Skylar Basham
Isabella Borruso
Jackson Owens

Finnley Rice
Dylan Yurcus
for "Wind, Waves, Water"

Zoe Santiago Colon
Lydia Crockett
TJ Dittebrand
Jasmine Khanali
Jordyn Purner
for "Seashells"

WELL DONE!

Fine Arts Festival & More!

We are thrilled to announce that four of our Valrico Hawks will be a part of the Fine Arts Festival All County Chorus. The students were selected by audition to represent our school in a performance at the Straz Center, together with the finest young musicians in our county on March 12. Way to go **Monique Pitcher**, **Emmanuel Ruiz-Velazquez**, **Aryia McCaskell** & **Bree Barkley**!

4th grader **Penelope Maclin** & 5th grader **Tiffany Sacerio** will have artwork on display at the Fine Arts Festival. **Nikki Vu**, also from 5th grade will have artwork at the Youth Art Month event at the Tampa Museum of Art. We are proud of our talented Hawks!





The School Advisory Council (SAC) has released the 2025-2026 school year ballot for Parent/Business Partner Representatives.

The purpose of SAC is to assist the principal in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Please see the last page of our Newsletter to print and cast your vote. Return your vote to the front office by March 28, 2025. If you are having trouble printing, please ask the front office for a copy. Thank You!

NOMINATE A TEACHER



Irish 31 Pub House and Eatery, their iCare Foundation, and a handful of carefully selected community partners, are proud to present the 8th annual Cheers to Public Service Awards celebrating the Influential, Reliable, Impassioned, Selfless, Humble teachers that have an undeniable impact on our youth!

For more information or to nominate a teacher, please visit www.irish31.com/cheers.



No School on
Monday, 3/3/25

No School for
Spring Break
Monday, 3/17/25
through
Friday, 3/21/25



Spring Individual
Photos are on
Friday, March 7th

Every child will be photographed on this day. Preview pictures will be sent home in a few weeks with an option to buy or return the package.

No need to pre-pay!



FLORIDA PREPAID

COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

Focused on encouraging families to save as early and affordably as possible, our partner Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans has reduced Prepaid Plan monthly prices for newborns and infants to the lowest in more than a decade.

Prepaid Plans allow families to lock in the cost of college with fixed monthly payments. A risk-free 1-Year University Plan now starts at just \$29/month for the Prepaid Plan Open Enrollment period from now - April 30, 2025. The reduced prices result in savings of up to \$850 per plan for a 1-Year University Plan – up to \$3,400 in savings for four years.

Prepaid Plans are made to fit growing families:

- Use in-state or nationwide at public, private, trade and technical schools
- Complements scholarships and financial aid
- Transfer to another student or cancel anytime
- Earnings grow tax-free

Every child deserves higher education. Florida Prepaid's goal is to make it possible for every Florida family to save simply and affordably.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/4ggFndV>



DON'T FORGET!

Daylight Savings begins
on March 9th

**Turn clocks
1 hour
AHEAD**

Valrico
PTA news!



Facebook!
Instagram!
Email Us!



BUY YOUR
Yearbook

yearbook
yearbooks
on sale
\$25 March 31!



jubilee will be...

SO MUCH FUN
HUGE thank you
to all of our amazing
volunteers & sponsors!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
CHOICE WINDOW OPENS MARCH 10th—MARCH 28th						
2	STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL DAY NO SCHOOL for VES REFLECTIONS District PTA Reflections Ceremony @ HCTA 5PM-7PM	4 Relay for Life Coin Drive Begins 3/4 	5 Student Literacy & Media Showcase District SLAM Showcase Grade 2 Math Bowl @ The Trinkle Center	6	7 PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 9:45 Spring Picture Day COLLEGE SPIRIT DAY	8 RELAY FOR LIFE Relay for Life @ Raymond James Stadium BEGINS 3PM
9 Relay for Life ENDS @ 5:00AM Daylight Savings Time Begins Set clocks 1 hour ahead	10 CHOICE WINDOW OPENS 3/10/25 FINAL ELP SESSION FOR GRADE 4 Grades 4 & 5 FINAL Art Club 1:55—3:00 p.m.	11	12 Grade 2 Field Trip District Fine Arts Festival @ the Straz 7PM	13 Relay for Life Coin Drive Ends 3/14 Grade 1 Field Trip 5th Grade Yearbook Ads Due	14 ESE & Grade 3 Field Trip CRAZY HAT SPIRIT DAY	15
16	17 Saint Patrick's Day					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 April Newsletter posted on website	27 Grade 4 & 5 District 4H Speaking Competition 6PM	28 Terrific Kids Ceremony for Applicable Students END OF 3RD GRADING PERIOD TROPICAL SPIRIT DAY	29 CHOICE WINDOW CLOSES Fri., 3/28/25	30 5th Grade End of Year packets sent home PTA Yearbook Final Sale Begins BUY YOUR Yearbook	31



2025-2026 School Advisory Council Ballot

Parent/Business Partner Representatives

Meikah Stokely

Jorge Rodriguez

Kelly Rice

Jennifer Cao-Navarro

Katherine Branin

_____ Yes, I approve the individuals above.

_____ No, I do not approve the individuals above.

**Please return ballot to the Main Office by March 28, 2025*

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.