Celebrate Literacy Week
Bookmark Contest Winners

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

- Pre-K/E-Hawks—Lesli Roblero-Perez (Mrs. Wiebler’s Class)
- K—Karollina Iturbide (Mrs. Douglas’ Class)
- 1st—Fall Sidahmed (Mrs. Dittebrand’s Class)
- 2nd—Hayden Purner (Mrs. Morrill’s Class)
- 3rd—Taylor Combs (Mrs. Coffey’s Class)
- 4th—Celine Faraj (Mrs. Abraham’s Class)
- 5th—Isabella Martinez (Mrs. Ashley’s Class)

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 district competition.

4th Grade Winners
Jacob Aldrich in Mrs. Velazquez’s Class: Why Roberto Clemente is My Favorite Baseball Player
Adrianna Arango in Mrs. Smith’s Class: Why It’s So Hard Being a Big Sister
Sloan Cheong in Mrs. Manigold’s Class: Strawberries
Cooper Fernandes in Mrs. Daugherty’s Class: How to Spice Up Your Cooking!*
Deacon Owens in Mrs. Abraham’s Class: The History of Basketball
Natalia Velazquez in Mrs. Rudd’s Class: Volleyball is the Best Sport

5th Grade Winners
Jaziah Acevedo in Mrs. Hinson’s Class: Homework
Jelitza Buechner in Mrs. Devine-Martín’s Class: Bug On or Bug Off?
Angel Serrano Borrego in Mrs. Ashley’s Class: Is It Worth It to be Vegan?
Jarriana Thomas in Mr. McClellan’s Class: Fear*
Gunnar Trevillian in Mrs. Dabney’s Class: Battle of the Villains
**RELAY FOR LIFE COIN DRIVE**

We will have a Coin Drive for Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer research from February 27 – March 7. 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 10. If our goal of $1800 is met, Mrs. Ashley will have her hair cut on our VES Morning Show and donate it to Locks of Love!

**READY FREDDY**

wants every child to be ready for Kindergarten!

Valrico Elementary is pleased to announce that we will be offering Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. We will be accepting 10 VPK children to join our iPEEPS classroom for a wonderfully inclusive and adaptive educational experience. The class size will remain small and instruction will be provided by a certified teacher. There is no fee for the VPK time frame (7:40-12:00). Extended day options are available for an additional fee. Stop in to fill out an application now-March 8th. Seats are limited and will be assigned based on a “prioritized” wait list. Families will be notified in mid to late March if their child has been accepted.

**Hillsborough Choice Options?**

Hillsborough Choice options are parental choice options. Families can apply to a variety of magnet programs, School Choice options, virtual school, or a Career & Technical Education program. To learn about the options our district offers, visit the Hillsborough Choice Options website at www.hillsboroughschools.org/choice. For more information, contact the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692. The second application period opened on February 26th and closes on March 17th. The district will notify families of their choice status in early April. NOTE: If your child is already here on Choice, there is no need to reapply.

**What is Irish 31’s CHEERS to Public Service?**

**What Is It?**
Since 2018, Irish 31’s iCare Foundation (501c3) and the Cheers to Public Service initiative have recognized 1,816 educators working tirelessly in our Hillsborough and Pasco county school districts. Of those 1,816 teachers nominated and publicly recognized by the iCare Foundation, 125 have been awarded with $1,000 each, for a total giveback to date of $125,000!

**How Does It Work?**
A typical Cheers to Public Service awards cycle consists of three phases – Nominations, Voting, and Winner Selection – and runs from January through May.

We invite the community to help us identify world-class educators by visiting irish31.com/cheers and nominating a teacher that has impacted their life, or the life of a loved one.

**SAC**

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is inviting you to nominate new members for the 2024-2025 school year. The purpose of SAC is to assist the principal in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). If you would like to contribute to the success of our school and students by serving on SAC, or would like to nominate someone to serve, please email Mrs. Miranda by March 10: Bernice.Miranda@hcps.net.

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**SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT VALRİCO**

The Insight “Family” Survey will launch on Monday, March 4, 2024. Survey feedback will measure families’ perceptions of school performance and the extent to which schools are taking actions to involve families in their child’s learning and their experience(s) with your school culture. All parents with an email address on file will receive a survey link. Feel free to call the office at 744-6777 to provide an email if you haven’t already done so. Paper surveys are not available. The survey period will close on Friday, March 22nd.
Teachers recognize one student from each class every month in honor of positive character traits. 

**February’s character trait is Kindness.** (“Showing others they are important by what you say and do.”)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Attendance Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>E Hawks</td>
<td>Mrs. Wiebler</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Mrs. Graser</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Grade</td>
<td>Mrs. Pyka</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Grade</td>
<td>Mrs. Gladbach</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>Mrs. Miranda</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Grade</td>
<td>Mrs. Abraham</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth Grade</td>
<td>Mr. McClellan</td>
<td>95%*</td>
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*This class had the highest monthly attendance.*
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<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
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<td><strong>Wear Yellow Spirit Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dress Your Best Or Strawberry Spirit Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5th Grade End of Year packets sent home</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Relay for Life Coin Drive Ends</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2nd Choice Application Period for 2024-2025 Closes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Relay for Life Coin Drive Begins 2/27</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final ELPS 1:55-3:15 Gr. 4 &amp; 5 (Math)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final ELPS 1:55-3:15 Gr. 2 (ELA &amp; Math) Gr. 4 (ELA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>PTA Executive Board Meeting 9:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>5th Grade Yearbook Ads Due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PTA Spirit Night 5:00-8:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family Online Survey Closes</strong></td>
<td><strong>PTA Spirit Night 5:00-8:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>End of 3rd Grading Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>Terrific Kids Student Recognition</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wear Yellow Spirit Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PTA Yearbook Final Sale Begins</strong></td>
<td><strong>End of 3rd Grading Period</strong></td>
<td><strong>April Parent Newsletter posted online</strong></td>
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**February’s highest participant count for Chick-fil-A Spirit Night was Mrs. Dabney’s class! They won an ice cream party courtesy of Chick-fil-A!**