

## VALRICO ELEMENTARY

HAWK'S NEST  
NEWSCelebrate 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—Karolina Iturbide (Mrs. Douglas' Class)
- ♦ 1st—Fal Sidahmed (Mrs. Dittebrands'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)

School Board

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Hillsborough County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Preparing Students for Life

## 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-Martin'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



Valrico Elementary School  
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(813) 744-6777  
<https://hillsboroughschools.org/valrico>

Every day  
COUNTS!   
School success starts  
with attendance



We are so proud of the students who represented VES in the HCPS S.T.E.M. Fair this year! Congratulations to **Caleb Neely** from Mr. Jackson's class for placing **OUTSTANDING** at the district level and we had two groups that placed **EXCELLENT at the district level**. Our first group, **Jayline Baltazar, Siyona Dudia, Gabriella Lima, & Adela Nolasco**, and our second group, **Nariah Cox-Bohn, Sofia Machado, Bella Medina, & Emma Toth** are from Mrs. Ashley's class! Great job, everyone!

Good luck to the following students that representing Valrico Elementary School at the district **SLAM Showcase** on March 28th!



**Zoe Morales** from Mrs. Morrill's 2nd Grade Class  
**Allison Rhine** from Mrs. Lorentzen's 3rd Grade Class  
**Myla Barringer & Ainsley McDonough** from Mrs. Dabney's 5th Grade Class

# Florida VPK



**READY FREDDY**  
wants every  
child to be  
ready for  
Kindergarten!

## 2024-2025 School Year

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.



## 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!

## What are 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](http://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.**



## 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.

**Where Can I Nominate An I.R.I.S.H. (Influential, Reliable, Impassioned, Selfless, Humble) Teacher?**

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



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](mailto:Bernice.Miranda@hcps.net).



## SHARE WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT VALRICO

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**.



# Kiwanis Terrific Kids

In recognition of demonstrating  
a positive attitude,  
good character,  
and responsible citizenship.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY TERRIFIC KIDS!

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.")

Willow Pettus	Caroline Alderman	Jaxon Scaglione	Ethan Corlett
Yuri'el Green	Drayson Bosquez	Mayra Gomez-Gomez	Madden Pinkney
Avery Allen	James McGinnis	Aubrie Couch	Domani Josphe
Adalae Wells	Ryleigh Kirland	Kalia Sledge	Josue Lopez
Violet Martin	Dallas Wallace	Juliet Pelillo	Jeremiah Paugh
Brennan McKenna	Ava Rivera	Yalissa Rivera	
Melanie Martinez	Axel Geary	Teyla Black	
Sophia Chang-Diaz	Mason Olivares	Lauren Leyva Contillo	
Beckett Hundley	Elisa Diaz	McKenzie Dewbrew	
Kaci-Ann Sheldon	Reagan Mosley	Angel Serrano Borrego	
Nolan Soucy	Lincoln Mitchell	Ava Smith	



## Attendance Recognition

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

E Hawks: Mrs. Wiebler	93.6%
Kindergarten: Mrs. Graser	92.7%
First Grade: Mrs. Pyka	93.4%
Second Grade: Mrs. Gladbach	95.2%
Third Grade: Mrs. Miranda	93.1%
Fourth Grade: Mrs. Abraham	93.8%
Fifth Grade: Mr. McClellan	95%*

\*This class had the highest monthly attendance.



## PTA Corner

### Yearbook



LAST CHANCE TO  
PRE-ORDER YOUR  
YEARBOOK FOR  
**\$25 EACH**

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE!



DON'T FORGET  
TO PURCHASE  
A 5TH GRADE  
DEDICATION IN  
THE YEARBOOK!

Thank you to our families, volunteers, community members, Sponsors & Donors for supporting PTA at another fantastic

## JUBILEE



Be a part  
of the  
PTA  
Team!

Fun opportunities to get involved in a major or minor way! Help with Special Events, Media Center, & Cafeteria! Contact PTA to be added to "Volunteer Opportunity" emails.

PTA store: [valricoelementary.memberhub.com](http://valricoelementary.memberhub.com) Email: [ValricoPTABoard@gmail.com](mailto:ValricoPTABoard@gmail.com)

## SPRING Picture Day

Spring Individual Photos are on  
Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
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!**

## NO SCHOOL

-Monday, March 4, 2024  
-Monday, March 11, 2024  
through  
Friday, March 15, 2024  
-Friday, March 29, 2024

March 10th, 2024



Spring Forward  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

# MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Relay for Life Coin Drive Begins 2/27 			1  <b>Spring Individual Portraits</b>  Dress Your Best Or Strawberry Spirit Day	2
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!	4  Family Online Survey Opens  	5	6	7 Relay for Life Coin Drive Ends  FINAL ELP 1:55-3:15 Gr. 2 (ELA & Math) Gr. 4 (ELA)	8 PTA Executive Board Meeting 9:00  5th Grade Yearbook Ads Due  Crazy Hat Spirit Day	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins  Set clocks 1 hour ahead	11	12	13	14	15	16
17   2nd Choice Application Period for 2024-2025 Closes	18  <b>Students Return Welcome Back!</b> 5th Grade End of Year packets sent home	19  <b>PTA Spirit Night 5:00-8:00</b>	20 <b>End of 3rd Grading Period</b>	21	22  Family Online Survey Closes  <b>Terrific Kids Student Recognition</b>  Wear Yellow Spirit Day	23
24	25  <b>BUY YOUR Yearbook</b> PTA Yearbook Final Sale Begins	26	27	28	29	30
31			April Parent Newsletter posted online			