



# Horizon Elementary PTA's News From the Eagle's Nest

Volume 3, Issue 8

May 2016

## Upcoming Events

- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, May 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Celebration May 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am**
- **Kindergarten Program, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Last Day of School - May 25<sup>th</sup> (half day)**

## Newsletter contest

The winners of our last newsletter contest of the year are Aiden Fidler, Max McGee & Andrea Williams. Thank you for playing, everyone!



Congratulations to Horizon PTA's past president **Chris Cornelius** for being elected as incoming President of the Madison City Council of PTAs!

## Visit PTA online:

- [HorizonElementaryPTA.org](http://HorizonElementaryPTA.org)
- [facebook.com/HorizonPTA](https://facebook.com/HorizonPTA)

## Horizon's PTA is Gearing Up for Another Great Year

Everyone in the Horizon PTA has enjoyed serving our Horizon school family this year as we worked toward our goal of making every child's potential a reality by engaging families, collaborating with the community and advocating for our students.

The PTA's new officers were elected at our May meeting, and this summer will begin working with the rest of the PTA Board to continue our efforts to enrich and support our school.

Returning Executive Board Members are President Mary Dougherty, VP of Programs Karen Purser, and VP of Volunteers Rebecca Colon-Franz. Our new Secretary will be Erin Cornelius, our new VP

of Membership will be Zack Childress, and our new Treasurer will be Katy Brown.

LeAnne Letize McGee will continue with Communications, Kristin Ott as Spirit Wear Chair and Fundraising, Jasmine "Jamie" Durham as Hospitality Chair, Betsy Allison as Room Parent Coordinator, Karen Clark as Spirit Night Coordinator, Michelle Shaunce as Awards Chair, Nan Tippie Highsmith as



Box Tops/Labels Chair, and Nikki Sheehan as Reflections Chair. Leigh Mcmillan will continue as Family Involvement Chair along with Michelle Winfrey. Our teacher representatives are Terrica Johnson and Brittany Morris.

PTA would also like to thank Deborah Edwards (pictured here) for her 7 years of service with the PTA! We wish her good luck as she moves on to help with the Discovery PTA next year.

For more information about each of these positions, and to learn more about the wide variety of programs and resources our PTA provides, please visit our About Us page at [HorizonElementaryPTA.org/about-us](http://HorizonElementaryPTA.org/about-us)

## The Birds of Prey Show Delighted Horizon Students

Raptor Trek recently visited Horizon to put on two birds of prey shows as a reward for our PTA meeting our membership goal for the year. The students enjoyed seeing multiple birds, including an owl, hawk, vulture and more. Thank you for supporting our PTA through your membership!



## Order your 2016/2017 School Supply Boxes Now

Want to avoid the hassle of shopping at the store for school supplies for the fall? Well, then simply visit [shopttkits.com](http://shopttkits.com) and enter "80057" in the account box, and you can place your order for all of the supplies your students will need next year. The supplies list was set up by our teachers and is easy and fast to use. All kits will be delivered to the classroom before school starts. Questions? Contact Kristin Ott at [kikott@knology.net](mailto:kikott@knology.net) **SCHO**



Dear Parents -

## Principal's Corner

It has been an exciting year of learning and growing here at Horizon. Together, we have accomplished so much. As we approach the end of another school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our families and volunteers for their dedication, time, generosity, and support of our efforts throughout the school year. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for partnering with us in the education of our children as we continue to 'inspire learners and leaders for a lifetime.'

To those of you who are leaving us for new places and to our sixth grade students who will be moving on to middle school, we wish you all the best.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in August.

Sincerely,

Rodney K. Richardson, Principal, and Tammy Jones, Asst. Principal





## In the Spotlight .... Mrs. Patti Bill Retires after 24 Years in Education

Mrs. Patti Bill retires this month after a career in education spanning 24 years – with 17 of them here at Horizon. Prior to becoming Horizon’s school guidance counselor for the past 10 years, she taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade here. She previously taught at both Liberty and Discovery middle schools.

Mrs. Bill fell in love with teaching when she was a 1st grader in Birmingham, thanks to her creative and loving teacher, Mrs. Bancroft, who inspired her. And it turned out that teaching ran in her family, for Mrs. Bill’s grandmother had been a teacher in the Montgomery area back in 1917!

After earning her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education (K-6) at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, Mrs. Bill began teaching in Madison City, and later earned a Master’s degree in School Counseling from the University of West Alabama.

From the time she first began teaching at Horizon, Mrs. Bill quickly learned how supportive the Horizon family is, and she has continued to appreciate that support throughout her entire career at our school.

“It has been an honor to be part of a faculty who loves children and the art of teaching,” she says. “When I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, I could always count on my team for ideas and support. The Horizon faculty has supported me as the counselor and is still a family that takes care of each other and our students.”

One of the reasons she became a guidance counselor was so that she could focus her time on teaching our students skills

that will help them grow not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. “I wanted to be able to put more emphasis on who they became (as people),” she says.

Among the many types of work she does to help our students each day, one of her favorite things is meeting with our students in whole groups every other week in her classroom. “I think the classroom teacher in me really comes out and I am at my best when working with classes on topics that address the whole child.” She especially enjoys working with 6<sup>th</sup> graders on more serious matters as she prepares them for the changes that middle school brings academically and socially. “I will miss teaching some of those lessons!” she says.

She will also miss all of the “hellos and hugs” she gets from her students each day. “That is what keeps me going.”

Retirement is Mrs. Bill’s next great adventure. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family - including husband Siegfried, daughters, Heidi and Hollye, sons-in-law Drew and Chad, and her sweet granddaughter, Emily. The whole family is already planning to take a trip together in September. She also plans to become more involved in church activities and other volunteer work. “I am looking for open doors,” she says. But first, she says her most immediate plan is to enjoy her morning coffee!

Mrs. Bill leaves Horizon’s students with an important piece of advice that she says they have all heard her say many times, “Choose your friends wisely, and be careful about how you spend your time.”



### ~~~~ Student’s Corner ~~~~

All year we have had students write newsletter stories for us about events going on at school and in the community. Thank you to all of you who have contributed! If any students (or parents) would like to write newsletter stories next year, please let your teacher know or contact the newsletter editor at [lletize@gmail.com](mailto:lletize@gmail.com)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choses Mr. Jimmy Holman as our Super Citizen for the Lady Liberty Program by Thais Arslanbekov and Emily Duong



This year, fifth grade participated in a program called Lady Liberty. It is a program which teaches kids leadership skills and patriotism. We learned that to be a super citizen, you don’t need specific qualities. You just have to help your community or do good deeds. Sometimes, there are so many super citizens that you don’t notice their actions! The super citizen for this year is Mr. Jimmy! We nominated him because he works hard every day to provide us with a clean and healthy environment. After narrowing down our choices to three: Mr. Jimmy, Officer Dawe, and Mr. Greg, our final choice was Mr. Jimmy, who said, “Out of all of the awards over the years, this one got me the most, because the kids chose me.” Lady Liberty taught us a lot of useful things and skills.

## Dream Chaser Little Free Library is Open! By Caroline Streling, 3rd grade

Many people may not know what a Little Free Library is, but luckily on 100 Sanoma Drive there is one. Little Free libraries look like big birdhouses and they have books for if you would like to get a book, donate a book or both. The library on 100 Sanoma was all started when the Strelings went to a park and found one. Since their oldest daughter, Caroline loved to read they decided to make one of their own. The library was opened on April 1st. We have already celebrated Beverly Cleary’s 100th birthday and Space Week. We have books for adults and children. “I wanted to encourage people to read more,” says Caroline. Stop by this summer and take a book! For more information check us out at [facebook.com/DreamChaserLFL/](https://www.facebook.com/DreamChaserLFL/)





## In the Spotlight .... Mrs. Annette Driggers Retires after 36 Years



After a 36-year career as a teacher, when Mrs. Annette Driggers says goodbye to her students and colleagues one last time next week, she will continue a tradition she has had since she was a young child. "I was that child who always cried on the last day of school," she says. "I still tear up when I say goodbye to the children in my class each year." This year the goodbye will be the most emotional of all.

Growing up in Doraville, GA, Mrs. Driggers absolutely loved school and was inspired by her teachers. The one she remembers the most fondly is her 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Crowell, who would have students sit in a circle and would call on them to read aloud. "I loved the adventures of *Dick and Jane*," says Mrs. Driggers of that special time in her life.

She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and a Master's Degree from Georgia State University, with both degrees being in Early Childhood Education and Child Development, and she has taught Preschool, Kindergarten, First and Second Grades.

As a young teacher, she wrote to Mrs. Crowell to thank her for teaching her how to read and to tell her that she became an educator. "She wrote me back - somehow I recognized her printing - and sent me a bookmark that she had made. She passed away shortly after that and I treasure her letter and bookmark," she says.

After teaching for 13 years in Georgia, Mrs. Driggers and her husband Dennis moved to Madison, where she taught for three years at Madison Elementary before coming to Horizon when it first opened. Other than leaving for a two-year stint at Rainbow Elementary, Mrs. Driggers has spent the remainder of her career at Horizon, and she has loved it here.

"Horizon's faculty and staff are an extension of our families. We share in joyous occasions such as births, adoptions, and marriage and heartbreaking times. It's so wonderful to have friends that you can count on," she says.

But it's Horizon's students who she will miss the most. "Kids are so honest and forgiving and adults could learn a lot from

children. "Being an Early Childhood teacher, and a hands-on teacher, I love the chaos and the messiness of young children."

Her favorite funny story about the "chaos" of teaching happened at her school in Georgia the year she was chosen Teacher of the Year, when a TV show visited her classroom to do a story on the life of a kindergarten teacher.

There she was with 18 very lively children, three TV cameras, directors, producers, and miles of cables, when unbeknownst to her a child named Billy pulled out a bucket of bullfrogs for Show and Tell. "The bullfrogs leaped about the room, the children were screaming and running, and I nearly had a stroke," she says, now being able to laugh at the experience.

But even with days like that one, Mrs. Driggers is grateful for each and every moment she has spent teaching in her classrooms. "I have loved being a teacher and I'm blessed to have had my career."

Mrs. Driggers doesn't have any firm plans for retirement yet, but knows one thing for sure - she will enjoy *not* having to come to school each day. She would also like to go on a few mission trips with her church and is looking forward to spending quality time with her parents who live out of town, and with her husband and daughters Baylee and Sadie. Baylee is a rising senior at UAB, majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Spanish, and is applying for Optometry School after graduation. Sadie is completing her first year at Auburn and is majoring in Electrical Engineering.

As Mrs. Driggers looks toward the years ahead, she is open to trying new things. "I think I'll just see what there is to do! I'm excited to see what is in store for me!!"

For Horizon's students, Mrs. Driggers leaves this piece of advice: "Be yourself. You were beautifully and wonderfully created. There is a purpose for your life and there is no one else like YOU."



## Farewell to Retiring Bus Driver Larry Wampler By Nurse Lisa Harmon

After serving Horizon Elementary for 16 years, Mr. Larry Wampler is retiring as one of our beloved bus drivers. He was employed by the Madison City School system in 2000 and has remained at Horizon his entire tenure. Mr. Wampler is not your average bus driver. He knows all of his students and takes pride in delivering and returning them safely. For years, he has delivered students from Discovery

Middle to school to employees at Horizon. However, Mr. Wampler exhibits a colorful personality and one has to be alert to his shenanigans. Frequently, he and his wife will deliver goodies to the office. Mr. Wampler enjoys his grandchildren and playing golf in his leisure time. As an avid Alabama football fan, he is an excellent Monday morning coach. Mr. Larry Wampler is a fixture at Horizon Elementary and will be missed by all.

## Field Day and AR Party

Last week, Horizon held Field Day and the "Big" AR Party. The rain moved the events indoors, but they were still so much fun! The gym and cafeteria had inflatables, games and dancing, Kona Ice spent the day with us and PTA sold concessions.





## HES Calendar May 2016



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Tammy Jones	3	4	5 •Muffins for Mom •Happy Birthday Ms. Morris	6 •Happy Birthday Mr. Richardson •Happy Birthday Mrs. Meyer (5/7)
Teacher Appreciation Week – May2-6				
9 •PTA meeting 6:00pm •Happy Birthday Mr. Allen	10	11	12 •Field Day/AR Party	13 •Spirit Night at IHOP (5/14) •Happy Birthday Mr. Durham (5/15)
16	17	18 •Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	19 •5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social 3:00-5:00pm	20 •6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Celebration 8:00am
23 •Kindergarten program 8:30-9:30am	24	25 •Last Day of School/ Half day	26	27
30	31			

### Happy Birthday to our June and July Birthdays!

Mrs. Harbin – 6/11, Mrs. Hastings – 6/25, Mrs. Williamson 7/6, Mr. Holman 7/12, Ms. Hagood – 7/13, Mr. Judd Wright - July 15, Ms. Mofield – 7/16, Mrs. Maynard – 7/18, Mrs. Chance – 7/22, Mrs. Rivera – 7/23, Mrs. Molly Wright – 7/27, Mrs. Estes – 7/31

### Space Week was Out of This World!



Horizon Elementary enjoyed an exciting Space Week from May 9 - 13. In its 21<sup>st</sup> year at Horizon, Space Week is a celebration of the science and careers related to space exploration. Gifted Specialist Elizabeth Bero and PTA volunteer Karen Purser coordinated this outstanding educational week of activities.

Students listened to guest speakers from NASA and other local aerospace contractors speak about Missions to Mars, the International Space Station and Robots. They also visited a portable planetarium brought to Horizon by James and Carolyn Brelsford, which let students sit in an inflatable dome to watch a digital simulation mission to Mars as well as explore constellations and planets.

The PTA hosted activities for every grade level: Kindergartners launched film canisters using Alka-seltzer

tablets; 1st graders created their own constellations and launched straw rockets; 2nd graders created and flew Unidentified Flying Objects; 3rd graders learned about variables in rocket propulsion with a Mentos candy and cola demonstration; 4th graders built and tested paper airplanes; 5th graders constructed protective capsules for water balloons, and tested them with the help of the Madison Fire Dept. who brought the ladder truck along; and those 6th graders who were not away at Space Camp learned about ablative materials from Mrs. Alexander.

The Huntsville Area Rocketry Association (HARA) launched model rockets for the entire student body on Friday afternoon, and Dynetics brought a suitcase rocket exhibit.

### Congratulations to our February and March students of the month



Congratulations to our Students of the Month for February and March! For **February – Habit 6 – Synergize**, our winners were: Jesse Daniel, Winston Wyatt, Robert Mo, Thomas Emmons, Mason Bond, Kaelan Hunt, Malcolm Phillips, Stacie Romaero, Sawyer Chance, Penny Durham, Tera Jackson, Emma Rettie, Noah Serafin, Cooper Johnston, Alexis Hamilton, Samantha Horton, Naima Jattan, Michael Schmauch, Marley Goree, Patrick Bruce, Trinity Thompson, Jordyn Fields, Naomi Madkins, Peyton Free, Ben Conway, Octavia Bankhead, Diane Pham, Sheradyn Avettant, Reilly Stilwell, and Hunter Lamps.

For **March - for Habit 7, Sharpening the Saw**, our winners were: Caleb Pavao, Layla Yates, Brianna Fidler, Emma Wright, Joseph Powell, Alex Nguyen, Elizabeth Tedrick, Marlee Mitchell, Oscar Nichols, Grace Hyatt, Will McGuire, Evan Meier, John Wright, Lauren Bell, Takara Stoops, Juan Lopez-Aguillon, Morgan Davis-Beavers, Hayden Chance, Hayes Harrison, Kaden Rickard, Jack Baumbach, Amelie Golos, Lucas Guerra, Peyton Free, Ashlyn Shipley, Matthew Pimmel, Ashley Baragona, Parker Runnion, Aspen Melgar, Malik Sales, and Austin Revera.

**Congratulations to our April Volunteer of the Month, Tanya Murray**

**Have a safe and fun summer everyone!**