



Horizon Elementary PTA's New From the Eagle's Nest

Volume 3, Issue 5

February 2016

Upcoming Events

- February 15 - Spirit Night (and Day) at IHOP from 9am-11pm.
- February 19 - Bring Your Family to School Day.
- February 22, 6:00pm - PTA General Meeting. PTA Spirit Wear t-shirts will be available for sale. Horizon's Theatre Kids will also be performing in honor of Black History Month.

Join us for National PTA's "Bring Your Family to School Day" on Friday, February 19

To celebrate our PTA's commitment to building strong partnerships between families and school, Horizon students will be inviting their families to join them for lunch on February 19th as part of our **Rock the PTA with a K.I.S.S. (Kids Invite Someone Special) event.** More information will be sent home soon. We hope to see you there!

Congratulations to our December Newsletter Contest winners

Jordan Kubecki, Robert Kil, Root Belay, and Grace and Jake Shaunce all found the exact number of cans 2nd grade donated to Downtown Rescue Mission. This month's contest is to let us know which teacher's classroom will be transformed into your favorite country for International Night. Email your answers to the editor at lletize@gmail.com. Thanks for playing!

Visit PTA online

- HorizonElementaryPTA.org
- Facebook.com/HorizonPTA

Horizon's PTA Reflections Arts Contest winners!

Congratulations to all of Horizon's talented student artists who participated in the PTA Reflections Arts contest! The winners from our school-wide round are as follows:

In **Primary Visual Arts** (K-2nd grade) - 1st Place was awarded to Tatum Johnson, 2nd Place to Ethan Johnson, 3rd Place to Emilie Tesseneer, and 4th Place to Isaac Fleming.

In **Intermediate Visual Arts** (3rd-5th) - 1st Place was awarded to Prashika Paudel, 2nd Place to Sydney Truesdail, 3rd Place to John Allison, and 4th Place to Mason Truesdail.



In **Intermediate Photography**, 1st Place was awarded to Hayden Purser, 2nd Place to Jake Ellis, 3rd Place to Gibson Purser, and 4th Place to Jake Shaunce.

In **Middle School Photography**, the winner was 6th grader Alia McGee. Bryson Tesseneer earned an Honorable Mention.

In **Middle School Visual Arts**, Natalia Johnson earned an Honorable Mention.

Three of our students went on to win awards at the **City PTA level**, and one of our students is currently competing at the **State level!**

At the City PTA level, Emilie Tesseneer and Prashika Paudel both received Honorable Mention, while John Allison's entry won 1st Place and is currently competing at the state level.

Students will be awarded with ribbons at our March PTA meeting. Middle School winners will be honored at Discovery's PTA meeting on Feb 11th.

PTA Membership Drive - Just 50 more members needed to bring the Birds of Prey Show to Horizon



Our award-winning PTA is as successful as it is thanks in large part to the support of your families, our teachers and the community. With your support we are able to do amazing things for our students and school.

But did you know that by joining the Horizon PTA for only \$7 per person, you also tap in to the resources of the Alabama PTA and the National PTA? That's right! And what that means is that our children have representatives at the local, state and national PTA levels advocating for their best interests.

It all starts right here at Horizon, where our goal is to have one voice for every child in our school. As an incentive to reach our membership goal for the year, if we get just 50 more new memberships by February 29th, PTA will bring the Raptor bird show to our school this spring for all students to enjoy!

So, please join our PTA, and please ask your family members, neighbors, friends and local business to join. The cost is just \$7 per person.

Membership forms can be downloaded at HorizonElementaryPTA.org/membership.



Save the Date for International Night Thursday, March 10th

Work is already well under way to transform our classrooms into over 30 countries from around the world. And as always, this unique community event promises to be AMAZING!

This year's countries will be - **Kindergarten:** Brazil-Pavao; Ireland-Beshere; Egypt-Coker; Japan-Ellis; Mexico-Ragan. **1st Grade:** Jamaica-Hodges; Argentina-Weaver; Germany-Barnes; Venezuela-Wright; England-Cooper. **2nd Grade:** Bahamas-Chance; USA-Driggers; China-Adkins; Australia-Speer; Denmark-Miller. **3rd Grade:** New Zealand-Prater; Bermuda-Datcher; Madagascar-Hulvey; Italy-Morris; France-A. Williams. **4th Grade:** Sweden-Meyer; Nicaragua-Forman; Greece-Clardy; Russia-Durham. **5th Grade:** Costa Rica-Harrison; Israel-Johnson; Azerbaijan-Hernandez. **6th Grade:** Puerto Rico-Smith; Switzerland-Runnion; Austria-Alexander; Liechtenstein-Matthews.

Please check with your child's teacher to ask how you can best help him or her get prepared for this fabulous and fun-filled family event. And please make plans to "tour the world" at Horizon come March 10th.



In the Spotlight ... Getting to know Horizon's Principal, Mr. Rodney Richardson



The youngest of seven siblings, Mr. Richardson grew up in a close-knit, loving family in East Cleveland, Ohio. He spent his days with friends riding bikes around the neighborhood, playing basketball, football and baseball, and surviving the "tough love" his three older brothers sometimes showed him. Anchored by strong parents who instilled important values like education, family and community service, the Richardson family was focused on preparing for the future and making a positive difference in the world.

One of the most important values Mr. Richardson remembers from his childhood is how passionate his parents were in teaching the importance of education. "My parents were always pushing and instilling in me that without your education you have nothing." This strong focus on education combined with being surrounded by positive educators throughout his life led Mr. Richardson to choose a career in education. "For as long as I could remember, I always wanted to be a teacher and coach."

At Alabama A&M University on a basketball scholarship, Mr. Richardson was an all-conference player on a team that won its division each year and made it to the Division II Elite 8 and Finals twice. During those years, long before he even knew what the *Leader in Me* program was, he was learning to live his life in line with the Habits: teamwork, leadership, thinking win-win, being proactive, and sharpening the saw. "My years in college and my basketball experiences have definitely had a positive impact on the man that I am today," he says.

After earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Alabama A&M, Mr. Richardson considered pursuing a career in the NBA. "Like many kids I had dreams of playing in the NBA, but after attending a few NBA camps after graduating college, I decided to start my teaching and coaching career."

His very first teaching job was as a 5th grade math teacher at Liberty Middle School, where he was also the girls' head basketball coach and the assistant football coach. After three years he moved over to Heritage Elementary School where he taught 4th grade for four years. He then moved up to assistant principal at Liberty Middle School for five years before becoming principal at Horizon in 2009. Along the way he also

earned a master's degree in education administration from Alabama A&M, and an Education Specialist (Ed.S) degree in curriculum and instruction from Middle Tennessee State University.

Mr. Richardson misses being a classroom teacher but he adores being a principal, and says that his work is similar to being a teacher and coach. "The teacher in you never leaves. I'm teaching and showing students something new and different every day," he says. The coach never leaves, either. "As principal, coaching is still a part of me because now I'm coaching my faculty and staff on creative and innovative ways to be leaders creating new and innovative ways to reach our youth today."

Mr. Richardson exudes a positive energy that permeates the whole building at Horizon. It's easy to see why so many students look up to him. "The best thing about my job is that I get a chance to impact our future every day by planting a seed of hope, motivation, dreams, leadership, and education in all of our students," he says proudly. And he is quick to explain that he doesn't do this important work alone, but with the help of the Horizon family. "The faculty, staff, students, PTA and parents at Horizon are all Rock Stars!"

Still an athlete, today Mr. Richardson enjoys playing (and watching) basketball, working out, running with his wife Elizabeth, and even doing yoga, but his sport of choice is now golf, "because it's you against the course," he says. He even shares his love of golf with our students by helping Mr. Matthews teach the golf exploratory class for 5th & 6th graders.

Mr. Richardson attends First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and serves on several local boards and clubs. He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter Jaylin, who is a freshman at James Clemens. And of course he thoroughly enjoys helping grow young people into leaders here at Horizon and in the community. His favorite quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sums up his optimistic, proactive view on life, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."



Our Teachers and Staff have **BRIGHT** Ideas! Congratulations to Mrs. Williams, Ms. Morris and Mrs. Chance for winning local grants



Horizon's PROACTIVE teachers often use their resourcefulness and talents to win grant money for educational programs that enrich their students' education. Last month three Horizon teachers were our most recent grant winners, winning grants from the Madison Street Festival Grant Committee. Congratulations to Amy Williams, Brittany Morris and Summer Chance!

Mrs. Williams and Ms. Morris applied for a grant to purchase a program called DynaMath for all 3rd grade students. DynaMath is a monthly subscription service that integrates math with literacy using current events that are used for math problems. The subscription comes as a magazine akin to *Scholastic News/Times for Kids* but with a focus on math. It encourages the practical application of skills that our 3rd graders are already learning, but it digs deeper into our standards. This will be especially rewarding for our students who need the extra challenge to further along their mathematical education. "This will allow us to differentiate our learning groups so we are meeting the needs of all of our students," says Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Chance won a grant to purchase *Scholastic News* magazine subscriptions for all 2nd graders. *Scholastic News* is a weekly instructional magazine that features high-quality nonfiction on fascinating seasonal science and social studies themes. Every issue is specifically designed to help educators meet standards with a helpful Common Core tool kit, lesson plans, and texts that increase in complexity as the year progresses. In addition, the print magazine is supported by dynamic online instructional materials including videos, skills games, printable skills sheets, and more. "This is a great way to incorporate mandated Social Studies & Science curriculum into our lessons. And, the students really enjoy the features of *Scholastic News*, especially the online videos and skill games!!" says Mrs. Chance.

Meet Horizon's Student Lighthouse Team

Written by Mrs. Terrica N. Johnson, 5th grade teacher



Horizon's Lighthouse team passed the torch of leadership to a select group of Horizon Ambassadors who make up the new Student Lighthouse Team! Congratulations to the following students for this honorable accomplishment:

- 4th Graders: Avery Crumbie, Rian Edwards, Vanya Golos & Max McGee.
- 5th Graders: Marjie Baumbach, Cassidy LeFoy & Ella Reid
- 6th Graders: Caleb Anderson, Mackenzie Edwards, Natalia Johnson, Alia McGee, Parker Runnion & Grace Shaunce

The chair of the Student Leadership Action Committee, Dr. Lauren Harrison, said this team was created to elevate our Ambassadors to assume more responsibilities in school. The team members will also serve as role models for all students.

Team member Marjie is most interested in the Student Lighthouse team because "[I] really wanted to help students feel like they have a voice in decisions made here at Horizon that are for the better of the students and the school."

Committee member, Mrs. Callista Tkacs, said the selected students exemplify our Horizon motto, of "Lead to Succeed." "The Student Lighthouse leadership team here at

Horizon was chosen from students who have shown leadership skills and were willing to share their time and talent for the good of the school," she says.

"These students had to go through an extensive selection process to be chosen as part of this group of young leaders. They will have various duties here at school, and perhaps the district, being active participants in school projects and activities. They are the core leaders of our upper grade students who will provide input and ideas for shaping child-centered learning experiences here at Horizon this Spring Semester."

Along with the remaining committee members: Mrs. Beth Bero, Mrs. Ashley Hodges, Mrs. Paige Runnion and Ms. Chassity Smith, the Student Leadership Action team will continue to create positive opportunities for these students to light the way of leadership here at Horizon. Please congratulate these students and thank them for their willingness to contribute to our culture of inspiring learners and leaders for a lifetime!

Horizon's Leaders Think Win-Win!

2nd grade Academic Bowl



In celebration of the Super Bowl, 2nd grade competed in Horizon's annual **2nd Grade Academic Bowl** on February 5th. In this fun and exciting game students were placed on either the Denver Broncos or the Carolina Panthers teams. Each team consisted of four groups of students who played one of four quarters each. Teams answered questions about Reading, Math, Language Arts, Spelling, & Social Science, and were refereed by Mrs. Tammy Jones. It was a close game with the Panthers in the lead until the very last second when the Broncos pulled ahead for the win. 75-72, Broncos! In the end the students came together as one big team as they chanted "Go Horizon Eagles!"

5th Grade Madison Garden Club Essay Contest Winner



Horizon's Emily Duong won first place in the "Peace on Earth" Madison Garden Club essay contest open to all 5th graders in the Madison City Schools system. She was honored by the mayor on December 6, 2015 at Madison City Hall and won a \$50.00 first place award. This is the third time in a row that a Horizon fifth grader has won first place! Horizon Rocks!

3rd Grade Historical Essay Contest Winners



Four Horizon 3rd graders recently won the 3rd Grade Essay Contest sponsored by the Madison Station Historical Preservation Society, who asked students to write about "What I Like About Living in Madison, Alabama." The students wrote about Madison's great schools, beautiful parks, nice neighbors and more. Congratulations to Caroline Kokan - 1st place, Adeline Miller and Abbygail Watts - 2nd place, and Finn Koehler- 3rd place.



Horizon Science Fair winners

Horizon had its best Science Fair ever on Friday, January 29, says Mrs. Beth Bero. Volunteer judges visited Horizon to judge the projects submitted by our 5th and 6th graders. The projects were so well done that it was the closest competition we have ever had! The winners are all invited to participate in the North Alabama Science and Engineering Fair to be held at UAH on March 9th. All of the science projects will be displayed at our February PTA meeting. Congratulations winners!!

- **6th grade winners:** Atlee Barrow, Nolan Cooper, Jaden Edwards, Natalia Johnson, Summer Kinard, Hunter Lamps, Will Parker, Jillian Pennell, Ryan Revera, Austin Revera, Parker Runnion, Grace Shaunce, D'Mar Tarron-Milton, Bryson Tesseneer, Connor White, Lillian Zhu, Christos Prapiadis, Hanan Ray.
- **5th Grade Winners:** Drew Anderson, Marjie Baumbach, Lauren Bruce, Sarah Ewing, Aiden Newby, Cassidy LeFoy, Drake Meyer and Evan Pethel.



Congratulations to Horizon's newest Honor Chorus members

Sixth graders Breanna Henson, Ashley King, Alia McGee and Grace Shaunce were selected for the Madison City Sixth Grade Honor Chorus after auditioning for the honorable ensemble made up of 6th grade students from each elementary school in our district.



HES Calendar
February 2016
PTA Membership Drive Month



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Terrica Johnson	2	3 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Linda Lay	4	5 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Nancy Hicks (2/6)
8 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Tracey Adkins (2/7)	9	10 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Ashley Hodges	11	12 •Half Day for students •Happy Birthday Ms. Chassity Smith (2/14)
15 •Presidents Day, no school •Spirit Day at IHOP Madison from 11-9pm (2/15)	16 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Annette Driggers	17	18 •School-wide Duty-Free Lunch	19 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Tracy Stewart(2/20) •PTA Family Day (KISS)
22/29 •PTA meeting, 6:00pm & Theatre Kids show (2/22)	23	24	25	26



Music class has begun again at Horizon!

Welcome back to our music teacher, Mrs. Traci Stewart! The students are already enjoying music class and chorus, and Mrs. Stewart has some exciting plans in store for this year.

**Good luck to Horizon's Destination
Imagination teams**

Horizon's four D.I. teams have been preparing all school year for their first competition, the D.I. Northern Region Tournament, to be held on March 5th at Bob Joes High School. Come on out to cheer on our teams! The teams are:

Mysterious Mustaches: Katie McDaniel, Lucas Emmons, Jackson Rogers, Prashika Paudel, Mei-Ling Tarbox, Ava Blackmon and Harper Bailey.

Cotton Candy Frappuccinos: Alia McGee, Aimee Choup, Cat Plott, Breanna Henson, Peyton Free, Lizzy Newsom and Tristan Navarro.

Extra Terrestrial Corn Chips: Sarah Ewing, Lauren Bruce, Sydney Truesdail, Aaliyah McCoy, Tallulah Harlow, Kathleen Stephens and Piper Cornelius

Howling Wolves: Kaley Gilcrist, Brooke Heath, Khyllana Ross and Victoria Cox

It's a BOY for Mrs. Prater!

Congratulations to Mrs. Sonya Prater and family on the birth of baby Jermaine Katrail Prater, Jr., who was welcomed into the world on February 1st.



Run, walk or volunteer to support Free 2 Teach

Free 2 Teach is a local non-profit that distributes free teaching resources and tools, and classroom supplies to teachers. Help support this organization as a runner or volunteer in the Paper Chase 5K Race on February 27 at Constitution Village. To register and volunteer or for more info, visit free-2-teach.org.

**We love our
Horizon volunteers!**



At our December PTA meeting we recognized several volunteers of the month – **September:** Kari Johnston, **October:** Laura Oflu, **November:** Sonja Escobar, and **December:** Natalie Webster. Thank you to each of the above for your dedication to helping our school and PTA.

Congratulations to Horizon's Students of the Month (October-November)

OCTOBER – Habit 3 “Put First Things First” - Kindergarten: Samantha Bingaman, Connor Streling, Jonah Waldon, Ean Scanland, Madeline Whitehead. **1st grade:** Leah Brown, Meagan Harris, Ava Childress, Nathan Bates, Kiyah Zirnis. **2nd grade:** Zac McGee, Cian Fidler, Wyatt Burcham, Liam Cooper, Kendall Lugos. **3rd grade:** Patty Nichols, Jayden Gorriz-Rivera, Kate Merrell, Marley Goree, Wilson Nichols. **4th grade:** Jake Shaunce, Elizabeth Langston, Abram Carlson, Katerina Fedoseyev. **5th grade:** Hayden Purser, Will Styles, Octavia Bankhead. **6th grade:** Mia Townsend, Jillian Pennell, Amiee Choup, Hannah Ahmed.

NOVEMBER – Habit 4 “Think Win-Win” - Kindergarten: Anderson Culver, Adelyn Pinyan, Caden Cooper, Isaac Victorio, Madeline Whitehead. **1st grade:** Damion McDaniel, Gordon Elmore, Abby Doyle, Madelyn Oltmans, Nitin Balineni. **2nd grade:** Hallie Parvin, Cole Spanier, Sawyer Andrews, Ally Kuang, Alexander Fedoseyev. **3rd grade:** Jack Revera, Lahna Madden, William Clark, Logan Bishop, Simon Adkins. **4th grade:** Mary Grace Hunt, Christopher “C.J.” Gross, Avery Cumbie, Parker Free. **5th grade:** Gibson Purser, Hunter Johnson, Joshua Escobar. **6th grade:** Alec Waldon, Evan Highsmith, Ryan Revera, Rylend Byers.