



October Events

- Oct. 14 - Hustle collections due
- Oct. 14 - Fire Safety Day
- Oct. 15 - Duty Free Lunch
- Oct. 15 - Hustle prizes awarded
- Oct. 22 - Spirit Night at Wendy's
- Oct. 23- 29 - Book Fair
- Oct. 26-30 - Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 29, 5:00 pm - October PTA meeting (*NEW DATE & TIME*)
- Oct. 29 - Teacher Treat Trail (following the PTA meeting)

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September Newsletter Contest Winners!

Congrats to the winners of our newsletter game! The first 5 students to answer were (in alphabetical order): **Ben Conway, Jordan Kubecki, Riley Ott, Daniel Rudd, and Reilly Stilwell!** The other students who found the answer were: Gibson Purser, Jake Shaunce, Jacob Bell, Vanya Golos, Kloe Freeman, Alia McGee, Paris Gleason, John Allison, Aaron Scalf, Laricette Martinez-Robles, "Red Tablet," Olivia Wallach, Callie Gregory, and Caroline Streling.

For this month's contest, find the word in the newsletter that describes how your skin might react when you get cold or scared, and email the editor at lletize@gmail.com to say where the word appears. Or write the answer on paper and send it to our PTA mailbox in the office. Remember to include your name and grade. Good luck readers!!

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Calling all Box Tops!!!

We submit **Box Tops for Education** only twice a year, and the 1st deadline is coming up soon! Money received from our fall submission will be used this school year, so please make sure to get yours in before the end of October!! Contact PTA Box Tops Coordinator Nan Tippie Highsmith with any questions at nan.tippie@gmail.com

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- Follow Horizon on Twitter at twitter.com/hrznes
- Visit PTA at facebook.com/HorizonPTA and at HorizonElementaryPTA.org

At Horizon we sure know how to Hustle!

Horizon students showed their Eagle spirit as they "Hustled" their way around the track September 25th to raise money for our school during the Horizon Hustle Fun Run! Thank you to all of the parents who cheered them on, to those who ran along, and to all of the Hustle volunteers.

The deadline for turning in collections has been extended to Wednesday, October 14! Prizes will be awarded on October 15th.

The funds raised by our students will allow our award-winning PTA to provide financial and other support to Horizon's Media Center, the Art and Music



Departments, the Clinic, the PE department, Guidance Counseling, Accelerated Reader (AR) programs, Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), HES enrichment programs, the Science Fair, field trips, Space Week, the International Festival, Teacher Appreciation events, the Leader in Me program, and to help improve the playground. Plus, teachers get to keep

10% of the money raised by their students for use in their classrooms!

Special thanks go out to our corporate sponsors. Our Platinum sponsors are Alabama Pediatric Dental Associates and County Commissioner Steve Haraway; our Gold Sponsor is CyberProtex; and our Silver sponsors are The BookShelf, RidgeLine Construction, Madison Hospital, KidVenture, Monaco Pictures, Insanity Complex, and 5Boys Productions. We greatly appreciate these meaningful partnerships with local businesses and encourage you to check out their offerings.

Thank you to our Hustle sponsors!



Join us at the Teacher Treat Trail ~ October 29th



The Horizon Teacher Treat Trail will be October 29th, immediately following our October PTA meeting, which begins at 5:00pm. So students - get your costumes ready to go trick-or-treating at each classroom! We will have games, contests, music, and food and drinks for sale. The winner of the teachers' door decorating contest will be announced. The Book Fair will also be open for this fun-filled event. Admission is free, and the whole family is invited! Please help us by sending in a bag of candy to your students' classroom prior to the event for teachers to pass out to trick-or-treaters. More details will be sent home soon.



Student artists, writers, singers, composers, dancers, photographers and filmmakers - PTA Reflections Arts Contest entries are due 10/23

The PTA Reflections Program is an annual creative arts competition open to all Horizon Elementary students. Reflections allows students to display their artistic talents, creativity and vision through their choice of several artistic mediums, including the written word, visual arts, music, dance, photography and filmmaking. Students are challenged to use their talents to communicate their own unique ideas while following the year's theme - which is "Let Your Imagination Fly." The deadline for the contest is Friday, October 23rd. For more information and forms, please visit HorizonElementaryPTA.org/Reflections



In the Spotlight ... Horizon's Volunteers

Horizon's award-winning PTA is powered by amazing volunteers who make a huge difference in the lives of each and every student at Horizon! We are thankful to have so many dedicated volunteers, and we are always looking for even more people to help enrich the educational experience of our students. Volunteering is a perfect way to welcome families and the community into our school, and to strengthen the school-family-community bond, which research shows has positive effects on our children.

We saw great volunteerism in action last month at the Horizon Hustle Fun Run. Volunteers helped set up the inflatable tunnel and tables and tents, carried in supplies, served water to runners, marked shirts as students ran laps, helped encourage runners, and stayed to help clean up. PTA VP of Volunteers, Rebecca Colon-Franz has a special thank you message for everyone who helped with the Hustle:

"Horizon Volunteers! I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication this month, especially for our Hustle Fun Run fundraiser. Everything went off without a hitch because of your commitment to the day! You all rock!! Our next big volunteer opportunity is October 23-29 for the first Book Fair of the school year. Then on October 29th we have the Teachers' Treat Trail. Keep an eye out for those Sign Up Geniuses! One last thing, if you wanted to volunteer for the Hustle but didn't receive an email from me about it, please let me know (becca_ren2000@yahoo.com) so I can fix that for future sign ups. Thanks again!!"

This year PTA has implemented a new **Volunteer Spotlight** program to honor volunteers who spend the most hours volunteering in any given month. This award is reserved specifically for volunteers who do not already hold a PTA Board position. Our first Volunteer Spotlight winner is Susan Forte (pictured here with Mr. Richardson)!

Mrs. Forte and her husband Jim (who is also a Horizon volunteer) live in Madison, where they retired after owning a retail pack and ship store in southeast Huntsville for 15 years.

Their two children, Ian and Camille, both graduated from Bob Jones High School, and have since embarked on their careers. After selling their shipping business, Mr. and Mrs. Forte knew they wanted to start volunteering at a school library, and they chose Horizon because it was nearest to their home. "I dropped in one day and Ms. Illg said she would love to have some help," Mrs. Forte says of her first day on the "job" at Horizon.

She typically comes in two mornings a week to shelve books, help with inventory, and label new books, and anytime there is a big library project, like end of year inventory, she spends even more time working in the Media Center, often accompanied by her husband. Her husband will also come in and cover her "shift" if there is ever a time when Mrs. Forte has to miss one of her regular volunteer days.

Mrs. Forte says one of the perks of working so closely with the books our students read every day is that it's fun to see what books are popular with students. "I seem to always be putting away spooky books right now," she says.

Being at school often, Mrs. Forte knows that Horizon has many hardworking volunteers. She was excited, surprised and grateful to win the August Volunteer Award, and she feels honored to get to help at our school. "It is really very nice that Horizon lets me come in to help Ms. Ashley and Ms. Illg. I enjoy helping your librarians and they are both very kind," she says.

Thank you Mrs. Forte for all you do for our school!



Want to Volunteer?

If you would like to become a volunteer, we have a job for you, no matter how much or little time you have to give! We have a huge variety of volunteer opportunities to choose from, including work you can do at school, and things you can do from home. You can choose what to do based on your interests and availability. For more information about volunteering, please visit: HorizonElementaryPTA.org

Volunteers wanted for Duty Free Lunch By Room Parent Coordinator, Betsy Allison



A quiet meal. A few extra minutes to complete a task. A short chat with colleagues. Wouldn't most of us enjoy one of those things? YOU can provide these simple luxuries to your child's teacher by volunteering for Monthly Duty Free lunch!

Each month, on the third Thursday, volunteers monitor each class at lunch, while teachers enjoy their 30-minute lunch period away from the cafeteria. Room Parents in each class schedule monthly lunch volunteers, and in many classes, volunteers are also needed weekly or biweekly, depending on your teacher's preference. Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Beshers enjoys her Duty Free Lunches. "It is just so nice to have a few quiet moments to eat lunch, check emails and maybe grade some papers!" she said.

As a kindergarten or 1st grade volunteer, you may spend the first 15 minutes of lunch ensuring the students go through the lunch line appropriately and assisting opening containers. The remainder of the time is best spent walking around the table to help students and remind them of appropriate cafeteria behavior like using quiet voices and sitting on their seats. If it's older grades that you volunteer to help, your main responsibilities lie in making sure the noise level is reasonable and that students clean up after themselves. Please remember on Duty Free Day that you are responsible for the entire class rather than coming to sit and share lunch with your own child.

Are you nervous about volunteering for Duty Free Lunch? Come have lunch with your child on a different day to observe lunchroom procedures and get to know the other students. There are always faculty members or experienced volunteers who can answer questions and help.

The next school-wide Duty Free Lunch will be October 15. Contact your Room Parent to help with Duty Free Lunch. Your child's teacher will be very grateful. To contact Betsy Allison, email her at betsyaallison@gmail.com.

Harvest Your Habits!

by Mrs. Terrica Johnson, 5th grade teacher

Falling leaves, cool breeze and windy days are upon us! The seasons are changing and it's time to find creative ways to *sharpen your saw* this autumn season. Here are the fall favorites of some of our Horizon staff and faculty members!

Mrs. Betty Anderson, Horizon's décor expert, recently held a wreath making class sharing her design talents with other creative minds. Mrs. Reeves, proudly displayed a picture of her wreath while saying that she "loved the class!"

While Mrs. Hodges loves to visit the mountains and watch the leaves turn, Mrs. Lay prefers whirling along in the crisp autumn breeze for a long bike ride. She might even zip past Mrs. Besherse who loves "to get outside and walk for exercise!" After so much time in the elements, they might take a tip from Mrs. Bill who likes to "drink fall flavored coffee, like pumpkin spice or cinnamon." Yum!

While sharpening your naturalistic saw, you might find our very own nature gurus, Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Bero out and about the community. They attended a meeting and were able to tag and release monarch butterflies for the University of Kansas. Now that's amazing!

SEC fans might catch Mrs. Maynard sharpening her saw with friends and family members at an Auburn game. And from one War Eagle to another, Dr. Harrison says she loves to "take my boys on adventurous road trips across the southeast visiting family and friends."

Spending time with family is a great way to spend this cozy season as warm scarves and little hugs warm your body and heart. Mrs. Bunyard speaks lovingly of her granddaughter as she says, "I love to take her to the pumpkin patch. She picks out a trunk load of pumpkins, big, small, perfect and ugly and gourds and then we secretly deliver them to the front doors of her house, her aunt and uncle's house and her great grandparents' house and we don't tell anyone who delivered them. She looks forward to being the "pumpkin fairy" each year! I am usually able to capture some great fall pictures as she smiles at the thought of surprising family members."

So, whether you are indoors trying out a new recipe for apple cider, outdoors kicking the crispy leaves or enjoying a pumpkin patch or beautiful sunset, find a way to harvest your habits during this awesome autumn season!



Our Teachers and Staff have **BRIGHT** Ideas! Congratulations to Ms. Morris for winning a math grant



Third grade teacher Ms. Brittany Morris recently won a grant for an online program called "Reflex Math," which is a fun and exciting way for students to practice their math fact fluency. *Math fact fluency* is the ability to recall the answers to basic math facts automatically and without hesitation. "Fluency takes mental effort away from doing basic operations and allows the student to focus his or her mental capabilities to more abstract concepts," Ms. Morris explains. Reflex Math makes building that foundation of math facts fluency more simple and more fun. By using the program, Ms. Morris' students have become stronger in math and more fluent in math skills, which has led to improved success on their Math Facts in a Flash as well as on timed math facts assessments. Plus the students are enjoying math more than ever.

"The kiddos are going through math facts tests left and right," Ms. Morris proudly explains. Her class uses Reflex Math during centers, as well as anytime students have finished their other work early, and it has had fantastic results. "I found that this program has worked the best, especially since my students can't seem to peel themselves off the website!"

Ms. Morris got the idea for applying for this grant from 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Sabrina Meyer, who encouraged her to try to win it. Mrs. Meyer gave Ms. Morris a glowing recommendation for the grant application, which helped Ms. Morris win it. Ms. Morris is so thankful for Mrs. Meyer's support, and is so excited that winning the grant allowed her to start using the program in her classroom. "It has really been an amazing tool in our classroom!" says Morris.

~Student's Corner~

Butterflies by Joshua Escobar 5th grade



Have you seen the Monarchs in the Butterfly garden at Horizon? They are amazing! You can be out on the hunt for chrysalis. There are many children who stop by as they exit carline to see the butterflies. Bus riders look for them, too! The butterflies have beautiful patterns on their wings. The butterfly garden has a majority of Monarch butterflies, chrysalis and caterpillars. The Monarch caterpillars have colorful stripes along their bodies and are fun to look for. The butterflies and caterpillars like the plants called milkweeds, so look for them there! I hope you can come to see the wonderful and beautiful butterfly garden when it returns next spring! (Pictured here, student Kailyn Grant holding one of Horizon's butterflies in our garden. Photo by Mrs. Bero.)

3rd Grade Writing Contest

3rd Grade Writers are invited to enter the 2015 "My Community" Writing Contest sponsored by the Madison Historical Society! There will be prizes and awards for winners!

You just need to write 150-200 words about "What I like about living in Madison, Alabama." On the back of your paper, please write: Student Name, Teacher Name, and School Name. Submit your papers to Mrs. Bero by November 20, 2015. Good luck!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Bunyard (10/3)
5	6	7	8	9
Fall Break ~ No School				
12 •Happy Birthday Mrs. Illg	13 •Flu Vaccinations	14 •Fire Safety House •Deadline for Hustle collections	15 •Hustle prizes awarded •Schoolwide Duty Free Lunch	16
19	20	21	22 •Family Spirit Night at Wendy's on Hwy 20 in Madison, from 5-8pm	23 •Book Fair Opens •Reflections due date
26	27	28	29	30
Book Fair and Red Ribbon Week				
• Wear your Hawaiian clothes and/or a lei!	• Wear camo/military type clothes! •Happy Birthday Mrs. Anderson & Ms. Jones	• Wear red clothes !	• Wear nerdy clothes! •PTA Meeting & Teacher Treat Trail, 5:00pm •2 nd grade story parade & brunch	•Wear your favorite team shirt/jersey! • Half day for students

Horizon Ambassadors will be in the Bob Jones Homecoming parade on October 15th

The Horizon Ambassadors are a voluntary program for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders that is part of the Leader in Me Program here at Horizon. The Ambassador program allows select students to demonstrate and build their leadership qualities while helping in a variety of ways at our school and in the community. It includes Safety Patrol, Ambassador Escorts and Student Lighthouse Team. Students interested in the program recently filled out applications, wrote essays and collected references.

The Lighthouse Student Leadership Committee, is made up of Dr. Lauren Harrison, Mrs. Ashley Hodges, Mrs. Beth Bero, Mrs. Callista Tkacs and Ms. Chassity Smith. The committee reviewed student applications and selected about 30 students for the program. Please come cheer on our student leaders as the Ambassadors participate in the Bob Jones Homecoming Parade on October 15th!

Horizon's Student Leaders Rock!

Each month teachers will choose a "Student of the Month" who best demonstrates that month's Leader in Me Habit. For our first month, the students who best demonstrated **Habit 1- "Be Proactive"** in each class are listed below. Congratulations!

Kindergarten

Bailey Cheeks
Grace Tsai
Rylee Chandler
Julie McFeeters
Rocky Ray

2nd grade

Emilie Tesseneer
Mark Allison
Raivyn Ivy
Sadler Harrison
Alexa Skelley

4th grade

Caroline Brown
Henry Holland
Ava Blackmon
Isa Hayes

1st grade

Sophie Headrick
Kirsten Milstead
Tatum Kingston
Evelyn Murray
Ethan Johnson

3rd grade

Faith McCaig
Caroline Kokan
Antonio Fontanez
Abigail Blount
Sarah Pennell

5th grade

Caroline Clark
Jaiden Harris
Drew Anderson

6th grade

Matthew Norris
Brooks Franklin
Cat Plott
Mackenzie Edwards



Monster Book Fair: Reading Is So Much Fun, You'll Get GOOSEBUMPS®!
Oct. 23-29, Horizon Media Center

Mark your calendars for the fall Scholastic Book Fair at the Media Center on Oct. 23-29, from 7:30am - 2:15pm, as well as the evening of Oct. 29th (during the our PTA meeting & Teacher Treat Trail). Each class will have a scheduled time to visit the fair, and parents are invited to attend with their children. Items available include books, pens, pencils, erasers, diaries, stuffed animals, science kits, book marks, and this year you can even pre-order the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book that comes out early November. Parents can also order online and have items delivered to students (or for holiday gifts, Mrs. Ashley will hold them for parent pick up). More details will come home soon.



Fire Safety House

The Fire Safety House will be at the school on October 14. Madison City Fire Dept. will bring a fire truck and the safe house, which simulates a smoke filled room and helps students learn to make an evacuation plan. We appreciate the Fire Dept. partnering with Horizon for this important presentation.

Interested in sponsoring PTA's newsletter?
Email: lletize@gmail.com