



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

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2016

September PTA Events

- **Donuts for Dads** - September 9th, 7:30am, Horizon Cafeteria
- **General PTA Meeting**- Monday September 12th, 6pm, Horizon Cafeteria. Come join us!
- **Horizon Hustle Fun Run**, September 23rd - our annual PTA fundraiser. Parents and families are invited to join in on the fun!

Meet Your 2016/17 Horizon PTA Board

- Mary Dougherty - President
- Karen Purser - Programs
 - Rebecca Colon Franz - VP of Volunteers
 - Erin Cornelius - Secretary
 - Katie Brown - Treasurer
- Zack Childress - Membership
 - Summer Chance - Teacher Representative (lower grades)
 - Brittany Morris - Teacher Representative (upper grades)
- Jasmine "Jamie" Durham - Hospitality
 - LeAnne Letize McGee- Communications
- Kristin Ott - Spirit Wear
- Betsy Allison - Room Parent Coordinator
 - Karen Clark - Spirit Nights
 - Leigh Mcmillan & Michelle Winfrey- Family Involvement
 - Michelle Shaunce - Awards
 - Nikki Sheehan - Reflections
 - Nan Highsmith- Box Tops

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It's time to *Hustle* at Horizon on September 23rd

Horizon students are ready to **HUSTLE** in the PTA's annual Horizon Hustle Fun Run on September 23rd!

The Hustle is PTA's only major fundraiser, and as always, it will be so much fun. Parents are invited to cheer on students as they run as many laps as possible to raise money for our school. All runners will receive a free Hustle t-shirt, and of course we will have prizes for students who raise funds. Parents can purchase Hustle shirts for \$10.

Starting on September 9th students will have two weeks during the "Pledge Period" to seek pledges (promises to pay) from family, friends and neighbors for each lap they will run at the Hustle. Prizes will be



given for each student's first pledge, as well as for our top earners. Information packets with all of the details will be sent home on September 9th.

The funds our students raise will support school programs and PTA programs for the benefit of our students. To see a list of all programs PTA supports with Hustle funds, please visit our website at horizonelementarypta.org/about-us

Last year, thanks to your generous support, PTA used a

portion of the Hustle funds to remove broken playground equipment and build a beautiful new covered pavilion/stage for students and teachers. This year, our goal is to again fund meaningful school and PTA programs, as well as to provide funds for instructional supplies, classroom supplies, training and other educational needs.

After the students run their laps at the Hustle, PTA will send home collection envelopes. Students will then have one week to bring in the money they collected, and then prizes will be awarded in our exciting closing awards rally.

For more info or to make a donation online, visit: horizonelementarypta.org/horizon-hustle-2016.

Last year's Hustle funds built our beautiful new playground pavilion

Last year, Horizon students **HUSTLED** to raise funds to Improve our playground.

Thanks to PTA's VP of Programs, Karen Purser, and her family, we now have a beautiful, custom-built pavilion that students and teachers are thoroughly enjoying each day.

Planning and building this pavilion was a welcome family affair for the Pursers, who are longtime Horizon volunteers. Karen and her husband Shane started by creating designs of the structure, then Mr. Richardson chose the design that best suited our school.

Shane then finished the plans and material list and sent it to three contractors for bid, including their daughter Lauren Marsh's company, Ridgeline Construction. Ridgeline, a longtime supporter of PTA, offered to do the project without charging labor, donated the roofing material and helped secure other materials at a discount from Wilson Lumber.

Mr. Richardson coordinated having the damaged slide removed, then the Pursers and Ridgeline took action. 6th graders Gibson and Hayden Purser even helped by mocking up the size of the structure in their back yard using string. From ground-breaking to finish, the



building process took just a week. After waiting for the materials to weather for a month, the family spent a weekend painting it.

Karen has done amazing work as a PTA volunteer for 21 years, but this was her biggest project by far, and she is proud that her family had such a big

hand in creating this gathering space at Horizon. "I wanted to do something practical and useful for everyone, students, teachers and staff," says Karen. "It makes my day to hear the kids and teachers say they like it."

The creative possibilities for the pavilion are endless. "It could be used for shelter from the heat and rain, playing games, an outdoor stage, teachers' retreat, or another option for an outdoor classroom," says Karen.

Lauren, a graduate of Madison City Schools, was delighted to help her brothers' school. "Ridgeline was honored to have the privilege of building this structure," she says. "That is what it is all about. Life and work can be so stressful but when you have a 'why' it makes all the difference - and what better 'why' than our future leaders! To know that something we built brings joy to these kids is priceless!"



In the Spotlight... Horizon welcomes our new Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Jennifer Walker



Our students at Horizon are quite good at spotting great leaders when they see them, so it's no surprise that by only the second week of school they had Mrs. Walker pegged as one of the best. Ask your children what they think of her and there's a great chance you will hear a chorus of "she's awesome," "she's so nice," and "she's so much fun!"

In her short time here at Horizon she has already inspired our students to be better leaders and citizens, and she has shown them first-hand the benefits of serving the community.

Along with her husband, Adam, Mrs. Walker created and runs *House of the Harvest*, a non-profit organization in Harvest that provides free food to Madison County families each weekend. "House of the Harvest was started for children to meet both the needs of nourishing their bodies but also the need to nourish their hearts and provide opportunities to serve," she says.

Mrs. Walker has shared some stories about her work with House of the Harvest with her students, helping them to see how each of them can make positive differences in people's lives. "I love inspiring kids to serve," she says. "It is the only way for our children to genuinely put to work all that we teach them."

Mrs. Walker grew up in Madison and graduated from Bob Jones High School. She attended Calhoun Community College then graduated from Athens State University with a Bachelors in Secondary Education with concentrations in Biology and Psychology. She later earned her Masters degree in School Counseling from the University of West Alabama.

It was her love of science combined with her adoration for kids that led her to a career in education. While teaching science at Sparkman Middle School and seeing first-hand how many kids didn't have support at home or were facing a variety of difficult challenges, she found her calling to become a Guidance Counselor. "I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my career

providing those kids with hope," she says.

Mrs. Walker's duties at Horizon are to teach guidance counseling lessons to all Horizon students biweekly, to help students who may be struggling at home and/or at school, to help families obtain access to services they may need, to help coordinate our Watch D.O.G.S. program, and to help with a variety of other tasks.

She has exciting plans for our students this year, with her main goal being to help fully implement the Eagle Badge Reward Program for our Leader in Me initiative. "We want our students to be rewarded for demonstrating leadership skills because we know this is the foundation for a good future," she says.

She believes in the Leader in Me program and enjoys working with it at Horizon. "The Leader in Me program is exactly what children need to develop 'soft' skills that lead to success in the future. Knowledge is important but how we communicate and treat others is the single most important indicator of success."

Horizon is beginning to feel like home to her now thanks in large part to the warm welcome our faculty has given her. "Horizon is full of teachers who aspire to get the best out of their students. I have been so inspired and encouraged by the expectations set forth by not only the administration but the teachers as well," she says.

Mrs. Walker and her husband have three children. Son Drew is a graduate of UNA and is employed by a national non-profit that trains people in other countries how to farm their land and provide for their families. Daughter Mary Susan is attending college to become an elementary school teacher. And son Ty is in 1st grade. The family spends most of its free time working with House of the Harvest, and they attend The Light Church. To contact Mrs. Walker, email her at jlwalker@madisoncity.k12.al.us.



Our Teachers and Staff have BRIGHT Ideas! ~ Horizon's Kindergarten teachers make learning fun

Kuddos to our amazing Kindergarten teachers for making the first month of school for our youngest students a BRIGHT one! On the first day of school, teachers orchestrated a "visit" from the Gingerbread Man, and students had to go on a scavenger hunt to try to find him. Along the way, students got a tour of our school and met important people like our Principal and Assistant Principal. The students never did catch that Gingerbread Man, but they sure did enjoy the cookies he left for them!

Each week students focus on learning a new letter, and our teachers make that exciting as well! For the letter "A" students learned where apples grow, they tasted different types of apples and predicted which would be their favorite (hint: it was red), and they even cooked their own applesauce. "It took all day to cook and we had to wait a long time! But it was worth it. It was so good!" says Mrs. Camie Coker. Her students had lots to say about those apples. Princeton said, "I want to say thank you to Johnny Applesseed for making apples!" Molly said, "Johnny Applesseed gave people baby apples so they could grow them in their garden. And he lived in the woods." So Chris replied, "I want to live in the woods!" Phoebe learned a riddle, "What is a little red house with no windows, no doors, a chimney on top, and there is a star inside it?" And Zoe replied, "It's an apple! And we found the star inside the apple!"

The teachers also have fun ways to teach students how to use scissors and glue sticks, to write their names, to follow rules, and to play and work together. As Mrs. Coker points out, two of her students who played together with blocks to build a tower were actually learning about teamwork, friendship and maybe even practicing being future architects and engineers. "Learning to get along with others and work together are some of the most important skills that we learn in Kindergarten!" she says.

Thank you to Mrs. Besherse, Mrs. Coker, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Samuels-Ragan, and Mrs. Pavao for all of your BRIGHT ideas!



Leader in Me Same Habit, Different Perspectives

by Mrs. Terrica Johnson, 6th grade teacher

You may notice a slight difference this year as students saunter down the hallways of Horizon Elementary School. That difference being a focus on one habit per month, challenging students to really hone in on using a habit in every aspect of their lives with the goal of using all seven habits to cultivate a well-rounded, happy kid. September's focus is Habit 1: Be Proactive. Here are some perspectives on how Habit 1 has helped students here at Horizon.

"My extracurricular activities are dance and softball. I am proactive by practicing and working hard. I also cheer on my teammates and try to stay positive no matter what. I am proactive by exercising to become better at my sports and to become fit." (Alexis H. - 3rd grader in Mrs. Williams' class)

"I am proactive when I feel in charge of myself. I can manage my anger by taking deep breaths and counting to ten. I can be nice to my classmates because it might go a long way for them. If I

compliment my classmates I am also setting a good example. To remember to give out random acts of kindness is a great personality trait to have. When you are proactive you are doing more for your peers and especially yourself." (Krishna L. - 6th grader).

"When I listen to adults and teachers, I am being proactive. This helps me because when I listen to my teachers I won't miss important facts like what your homework is or a reminder that you have a test on the next Friday. But if I'm proactive and listen to adults and teachers I'm always prepared and ready for learning. Listening to teachers and adults also allows me to know what to do after teachers finish explaining the work we have to do so we aren't confused." (Aidan R. - 6th grader)

So however you decide to be proactive is up to you. But, let's all use some synergy and make Habit 1 our priority!

~ Students' Corner ~

Lego Robotics Team Field Trip By Gibson and Hayden Purser, 6th grade

We recently attended the AUVSI Pathfinder Symposium at the Von Braun Center with our parents. AUVSI stands for Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, and it's the organization that gives our Robotics team grant money. Our Robotics team was invited to demonstrate our programmed robot and the missions it completed during the FIRST Lego League Competition last year.

It was Military Day when we visited. It was fun! We spoke with numerous people who were attending the conference. We took turns at our booth and visiting other booths and demonstrations. We got to see lots of cool things like drones, radars and communications. They even had a funny video of drone fails. It was also nice to get out of school for part of the day. We were also invited to an awards luncheon, and we were the youngest people there. It was fancy, we didn't know that you needed 3 forks to eat a meal. Luckily Carter's mom told us what each fork was used for. It was a great experience.



Pictured above, Evan Pethel, Carter Sewell, and Gibson and Hayden Purser from Horizon's Lego Robotics team Wall-E's Lego Alliance.

and news to lletize@gmail.com~

Donuts for Dads - September 9th at 7:30 am



Donuts for Dads is one of the most popular events at Horizon all year! It is the official kick-off for Horizon's awesome Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program. This rewarding program brings male role models into our school on a regular basis to interact with students, which research shows benefits our students and our whole school tremendously.

Who exactly are the Watch D.O.G.S.? They are dads, stepdads, granddads, uncles, and other father figures who volunteer for a variety of school activities, like greeting children at the car line, greeting bus riders, reading stories to students, helping teachers, working duty-free lunch and more. Whether you have 15 minutes or hours to give, your presence at school provides a positive role model to our students, and will make you feel great, too!

To volunteer for Watch D.O.G.S., contact our Guidance Counselor Jennifer Walker at jlwalker@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Calling ALL volunteers- PTA needs you!



The Horizon PTA cordially invites you to volunteer. No matter how much time you have to give, you can help at school or at home, and you can show your children that you are working to strengthen the family-school partnership.

Thank you to everyone who has filled out a PTA Volunteer form. If you haven't yet filled out a form, you can download one at our PTA Website: HorizonElementaryPTA.org/volunteer and return it to your child's teacher. In addition to these forms, this year we have made it even easier to keep up to date on all volunteer opportunities at school. Our PTA VP of Volunteers, Rebecca Franz, is using a new website called *Konstella* to better organize volunteer opportunities. To sign up, visit konstella.com/home and click on "Find Your School" in the top right corner. Then type in "Horizon Elementary" and follow the prompts. It only takes a minute! If you have any questions, please email Rebecca at becca_ren2000@yahoo.com. Thank you for volunteering!



HES Calendar
September 2016
Let's Hustle for Horizon!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 • Happy Birthday Mrs. Ashley	2 •Half day for students
5 •Labor Day- No school	6 •Buster the Safety Bus	7	8	9 •Donuts for Dads, 7:30am •Hustle Pep Rally • Happy Birthday Coach Price (9/10)
12 •PTA meeting, 6p.m	13	14	15	16 •Monthly duty free lunch
19	20	21	22 • Happy Birthday Mr. Cooper & Mrs. Datcher	23 •Horizon Hustle Fun Run • Happy Birthday Mrs. Orndorff today, & Ms. Forman (9/25)
26	27 • Happy Birthday Mrs. Hernandez	28	29	30 • Happy Birthday to Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Walker

Happy Birthday to Horizon's August Birthdays: Mrs. Harmon 8/7, Mr. Sirten 8/8, Ms. Alexander 8/10, Mrs. Samuels-Ragan - 8/11, Mrs. Davy 8/24, and Mrs. Love 8/31.



Scholastic Book fair – September 9th - 15th

Mark your calendars for the fall Scholastic Book Fair at the Horizon Media Center from Friday, September 9th through Wednesday, September 14th from 7:30am - 2:15pm, and Thursday, September 15th from 7:30am - 9:00am. It will also be open immediately following our PTA meeting on September 12th at 6:00pm. Each class will have a scheduled time to visit the fair, and parents/grandparents are invited to attend with their children. Items available include books, pens, pencils, erasers, diaries, stuffed animals, science kits, book marks and more. You can also buy items off of your teacher's wish list for use in his/her classroom. Proceeds from the sale go to support the Media Center.

*Welcome to our newest
faculty members!*

- Crystal Davy, 1st grade
- Morgan Foshee, 1st grade
- Bria Burnette, 2nd grade
- Amanda Thrasher, 2nd grade
- Wade Thaxton, 5th grade
- Jennifer Walker, Guidance
- Leigh Ann Martin, Speech
- Lindsey Cloud, Spanish
- Donna Scott, Technology



Free and easy ways to earn money for our school



It's so easy to raise FREE money for Horizon simply by shopping at Kroger, Publix and AmazonSmile.com, or by buying and clipping off "Box Top for Education" labels or "Labels for Education UPC" labels. Here's how it works:

•**Box Tops/Labels for Education:** Each label is worth 10 cents! Just clip the labels then send them to school. Some popular products with these labels are Ziplock, General Mills, Betty Crocker, Yoplait, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Green Giant, Motts, Hefty, Land O Lakes, Progresso, Old El Paso, Campbells, V8 Fusion, Dannon, Post, Swanson, BiC, and Pepperidge Farm.

•**Kroger card members:** Sign in with your Kroger Plus Card online at krogercommunityrewards.com, and then Click on Horizon Elementary to link your Kroger Plus Card to Horizon. Every time you shop for groceries using your rewards card, Horizon automatically starts earning a rebate.

•**Publix:** Just hand the cashier your little green Publix card every time you shop and a portion of your bill is donated to our school. Cards are available in the kiosk at the store's entrance, or you may request one from PTA's Kristin Ott by emailing her at kikott@knology.net

•**AmazonSmile:** AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know and love (same products, same prices), only by logging on to Smile.Amazon.com to shop and designating Horizon PTA as your charity of choice, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our PTA.

EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS!

For more info visit HorizonElementaryPTA.org/fundraising