



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

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2015

September PTA Events

• **General PTA Meeting** - Monday September 14th, 6pm, Horizon Cafeteria – please come celebrate with us!!

• **Family Spirit Nights** –Sept. 17th, at Wendy's on Hwy 20 in Madison 5-8pm, and Oct. 1st at Stevie B's in Madison 2-9pm.

• **Horizon Hustle Fun Run**, September 25th - our annual PTA fundraiser. Parents and families are invited to join in on the fun!

Meet Your 2015/16 Horizon PTA Board

- Mary Dougherty - President
- Karen Purser - Programs
- Erin Cornelius - Treasurer
 - Rebecca Colon Franz - VP of Volunteers
 - LeAnne Letize McGee- Secretary/Communications
 - Emily Free - Membership
- Deborah Edwards - Acquisitions
 - Summer Chance - Teacher Representative (lower grades)
- Amy Williams, Terrica Johnson and Amara Alexander - Teacher Representatives (upper grades)
 - Betsy Allison -Room Parent Coordinator
- Katie Brown - Grant Writing
- Karen Clark - Spirit Nights
 - Tina Clark - Fundraising
 - Leigh Mcmillan- Family Involvement
- Kristin Ott - Spirit Wear
- Michelle Shaunce - Awards
- Nikki Sheehan - Reflections
 - Nan Tippe - Box Tops

To contact any of our PTA Board members or to learn more about them and about our PTA, please visit us online at:

HorizonElementaryPTA.org

and by "liking" our page on facebook at:

[facebook.com/HorizonPTA](https://www.facebook.com/HorizonPTA)

Horizon PTA is now a National PTA School of Excellence!

Horizon PTA is ecstatic to announce that we have been designated as a National PTA School of Excellence! This prestigious award honors our PTA's accomplishments of building strong, effective family-school partnerships that make a difference for our students and school.

Only 124 PTAs in the U.S. were recognized as Schools of Excellence this year, and only 4 are from Alabama.

National PTA launched its National PTA School of Excellence program in 2013 to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration.



Horizon PTA has been working diligently the past few years to put programs in place that meet the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, and thanks to your help in filling out a series of surveys last year, we were able to show the National PTA that Horizon families feel our school has achieved a high level of family engagement.

"More than 40 years of research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases,

schools improve and communities grow stronger," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA.

"National PTA Schools of Excellence are true examples of what can be accomplished when schools and families collaborate. We are pleased to recognize these schools and PTAs for their leadership and commitment to partnering to support student success and continuous improvement."

Horizon will be celebrating this huge win at our PTA meeting on Monday, Sept. 14th at 6:00pm in the cafeteria. Please bring the whole family to celebrate this momentous celebration! Cake will be served.



It's time to HUSTLE to raise money for our school!

Horizon students are lacing up their sneakers and getting warmed up in preparation for the Horizon Hustle Fun Run, our PTA's *only* major fundraiser, which will take place on September 25th. In coming weeks students will seek financial donations from family, friends, neighbors and your co-workers for each lap they run at the Hustle.

The money earned will help provide much-needed funds for important school programs, funds for each teacher to use in their classrooms, and funds for PTA to host events and programs that enrich your children's education and strengthen your family-school partnership. All runners will receive a free Hustle t-shirt, and of course we have PRIZES for students who raise money!! We invite your family to come be a part of the fun event and cheer on our students as they run for funds!

Last year thanks to your generous support and that of our business sponsors,

PTA was able to give Hustle funds to our school to buy new computers for each classroom, as well as to fund other school programs, and we used funds to support our PTA programs. This year, our goal is to raise money to improve our school's playground, to help support the Leader in Me program, and to support PTA programs and events.

The Hustle will kick-off on Sept. 11 with a student Pep Rally, followed by a two week-long "pledge" period where students will work on getting pledges (promises to donate) from the community. After the Hustle, students will have one week to bring in the money they collected, and then it will be time for prizes.

Next week, students will bring home a packet of information that describes the Hustle procedure in more detail. For more info or to make a donation online, visit: HorizonElementaryPTA.org/Horizon-Hustle-Fun-Run-2015. Thank you!

The PTA is still seeking business sponsors for the Hustle! Please contact us hrzn.pta@gmail.com by September 7th if interested.



In the Spotlight... Welcoming our new Assistant Principal, Mrs. Tammy Jones



Back in Gautier, Mississippi when Mrs. Tammy Jones started kindergarten, she wasn't starting school alone like most kindergartners. No, she and her mother, Mrs. Beth Malone, were in it together. For that very same year is when Mrs. Malone began her 30-year teaching career - a career so meaningful that it instilled a passion in her daughter to become an educator so that she could also change children's lives for the better. "We always say that we started school the same year," Mrs. Jones says with a laugh.

It was in that first year of school, when Mrs. Jones was just 5 years old, that she knew she wanted to become a teacher. As a child Mrs. Jones would often sit beside her mother in their kitchen helping her mother grade papers. Mrs. Malone fondly remembers those days. "She always made plenty of smiley faces and always wrote a positive comment at the top of each paper," she says about her daughter.

Mrs. Jones cherishes that time spent helping her mother and the years of seeing her mother be such a devoted and caring educator. "I grew up watching her make a positive difference in the lives of her students mainly because she believed in them and they knew it. She was an amazing teacher and inspired me to follow in her footsteps," Mrs. Jones says.

Mrs. Jones graduated from Athens State University with a degree in Marketing and Business Administration, earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Alabama A&M University, and another Master's Degree in Instructional Leadership from Samford University. She taught elementary school for 15 years with Madison County Schools, then became an instructional coach and middle school administrator. This year marks her third year serving as an assistant principal, only this summer she made the move to Madison City Schools to join the Horizon family, where she is enjoying every single minute.

"Although I loved my time in middle school the last three years, I am so happy to be back in an elementary setting.

Elementary is an exciting place to be with so much positive energy. I am enjoying getting to know the students and seeing their smiling faces every day," she says.

Mrs. Jones looks forward to working with our students, teachers, parents, and community members to continue the great things we have already started at Horizon. Of course it is not surprising that one of the things that impresses her most about Horizon is seeing our students exhibit such great leadership skills. "I love the school-wide focus on leadership and the Leader in Me 7 Habits," she says.

She is also very impressed with our teachers' dedication to their students, which is easy to see in every classroom. She is also getting to know our faculty and staff, including our bus drivers who have already welcomed her with some friendly joke-playing that involved bags of Cheetos. (Students, you will have to ask Mrs. Jones to tell you more about that story!)

In her time away from school, Mrs. Jones is active in the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia where she has worked with youth for many years and is now serving as the Children's Sunday School Director. She also loves to read and enjoys being in a book club. And she enjoys spending time with her husband of 23 years, and their son, Noah, who is 16 years old.

Mrs. Jones' mother is proud that her legacy lives on in her daughter. "She has worked so hard for many years and I have no doubt she will continue to inspire those who cross her path as she is so positive, motivational, and reaches down her hand to lift up someone who needs it. That's just who she is," says Mrs. Malone.

Mrs. Jones looks forward to inspiring Horizon's students to work hard and follow their own dreams. Her favorite quote, by John Quincy Adams, is one that she keeps in her mind at all times, and it is perfectly fitting for our successful Leader in Me school: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."



Our Teachers and Staff have BRIGHT Ideas!

~ Mrs. Bero and The Sunflower House

Horizon's Butterfly Garden, part of the Outdoor Classroom program, keeps getting better and better each year, and is now home to *The Sunflower House*, an area filled with almost 100 giant sunflowers planted by students. Named by Mrs. Elizabeth Bero after the book by Eve Bunting, *The Sunflower House* is a cozy space where teachers bring classes for lessons and story time. It was built by students for students, and with Mrs. Bero's help, of course.

It all started in Spring 2014 when Mrs. Bero had the idea to let kindergartners plant sunflower seeds in the Butterfly Garden just outside her classroom. When those students returned to school in Fall of 2014, they were excited to see 4 huge sunflowers waiting for them. Mrs. Bero and her Eco-Kids students later harvested seeds from those flowers and last Spring helped K-2nd grade students plant them. When students left school for the summer in May, the plants were only knee high. This year as students arrived for the first day of school, the 12-18 foot-high flowers were standing tall to greet them!

Mrs. Bero and her students are already harvesting seeds for next year's garden. She loves to be able to teach students about nature with this fun, hands-on process. "Students get to see the entire life cycle of the sunflowers. They are pulling seeds out of the flowers, storing them, then will plant them again in the spring and watch them grow," she says. Her 4th grade ACE students are also using the flowers to study Fibonacci numbers in nature. And of course, all students, parents and visitors to Horizon who see the flowers are enjoying their natural beauty.

Mrs. Bero would like to thank Horizon Great-Grandmother Peggy Young for donating funds to make the Sunflower House a reality, and all of the students who helped dig trenches, plant flowers, and who tend to the garden.



Calling all volunteers- PTA needs you!

Horizon wants YOU to volunteer - whether you have 15 minutes to give or an hour, and whether you can help at school or at home! Volunteering for our school is not only a great way to assist your children's teachers and our school, but it's also a great way to show to all of our students what a positive experience working as a team and supporting each other is.



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 then fill it out and return it to your child's teacher. You can also request a form by contacting our VP of Volunteers, Rebecca Franz at becca_ren2000@yahoo.com.

This year we will be rewarding our volunteers by "Spotlighting" the most dedicated person of that month in our PTA Newsletter and on one of our PTA bulletin boards in the school. The PTA is also going to pay for that volunteer to receive a discount at the Book Fairs after volunteering 5 hours of time for that particular Book Fair. We want our volunteers to know just how much we appreciate you! Be on the lookout for *Sign Up Genius* emails sent to you for the activities in which you expressed interest. Thank you for volunteering!!



The Legacy of Leader in Me by Mrs. Terrica Johnson, 5th grade teacher

The focus on leadership is incredibly evident at Horizon as we embark upon a new journey in the 2015-2016 school year. From the myriad of displays dancing vibrantly throughout our hallways to the tidbits of information from our administrators and faculty on HETV's morning announcements, the seven habits of Horizon's happy kids have never been more pronounced!

Seven habits pioneer, Dr. Stephen Covey's legacy was that of every child being a leader. By focusing on the power of empowerment, the habits create thoughts and actions that each person can possess for a lifetime. Within the classroom and our building, teachers model these habits, not only by stressing the importance of academics, but actual life habits. These actions, practiced at an early age, become the habits on which leadership qualities are built.

So, if you are wondering how to help your child continue on with the legacy of Dr. Covey, look no further than habit number six, synergize! Help reinforce the habits outside of school with your child by using the language of the Leader in Me program.

Find ways to actually implement the habits within your home and family; the upcoming Labor Day weekend is a great time to sharpen your saw by trying something new. Finally, think win-win as we make plans for our Horizon Hustle; helping your child meet individual goals directly supports Horizon's Leader in Me program by funding resources and professional learning for our teachers and faculty.

If you've seen your child's leadership notebook or Leader in Me student booklet, then you can see how easily academic and personal goals can be embedded into the curriculum. Even the Horizon planners help students begin with the end in mind by keeping track of weekly goals. Without the support of parents and community stakeholders, these materials would not be available to our school. Visibly, the seven habits are being implemented from top to bottom throughout our school. But, the most beneficial and long lasting imprints are those that are being honed within all of us for a long lasting legacy of leadership.



Free and easy ways to earn money for our school



Did you know you can raise money for Horizon for **FREE** simply by shopping at Kroger, Publix, Target and AmazonSmile.com, or by buying your usual products and clipping off their "Box Top for Education" or "Labels for Education UPC" labels? Well you can, and it's so easy! Here's how it works:

•**Box Tops/Labels for Education:** Each label is worth 10 cents! Just clip the labels and collect the juice caps then send them to school. Some popular family products with these labels are Ziplock bags, 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 a member shops 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

•**Target:** If you have a Target credit, debit or Visa card register it at target.com/tcoe and enter our school name or school ID to view and designate Horizon. We earn money every time you shop!

•**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



HES Calendar
September 2015
Get ready to Hustle!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 • Happy Birthday Mrs. Ashley	2	3	4 • Half day for students
7 • Labor Day- No school • Happy Birthday Mr. Small	8	9	10 • DI meeting, 3pm • Happy Birthday Coach Price	11 • Horizon Hustle Fun Run Pep Rally (students only)
14 • PTA meeting, 6p.m. Celebrate with us. Cake provided	15	16	17 • Family Spirit Night at Wendy's from 5-8pm • Monthly duty free lunch	18
21	22 • Happy Birthday Mr. Cooper & Mrs. Datcher	23	24	25 • Horizon Hustle Fun Run • Happy Birthday to Ms. Forman (today) & Mrs. Hernandez 9/27 • Madison Historical Society CleanUp Day 9/26
28	29	30 • Happy Birthday to Mrs. Miller	Happy Birthday to Horizon's August Birthdays: Mrs. Harmon 8/7, Mr. Sirten 8/8, Ms. Alexander 8/10, and Mrs. Love 8/31.	



Celebrate Horizon by Joining PTA

Please help support our school and PTA by joining PTA this year as we Celebrate Horizon's 20th Anniversary, celebrate being a National PTA School of Excellence, and celebrate being the two-time winner of the Alabama State PTA award for welcoming families through communications!

Annual membership costs just \$7 per person, and joining does not obligate you to volunteer in any way (unless you want to, of course). PTA membership helps build partnerships between your families and our school community, and shows your children that you are invested in helping our students succeed. Your membership dues combine with other funds raised to help support enriching programs and events at our school.

For more information and membership forms, visit our Membership page at HorizonElementaryPTA.org/membership or contact PTA's VP of Membership Emily Free at troyemilyfree@hotmail.com.

Welcome to our new faculty!

- Tammy Jones, Asst. Principal
- Tracey Adkins, 2nd grade
- Carolyn Speer, 2nd grade
- Lindsey Clardy, 4th grade
- Jarhman Durham, 4th grade
- Ashley Forman, 4th grade
- Kimberly Hagood, Hearing Impaired
- Jerika Mofield, Special Education
- Karelin Rivera, Spanish Teacher
- Suzanne Allen, CNP

Newsletter game for students!!



We want Horizon students to read our newsletter each month AND to submit stories for publication. So this month we have hidden a **clue** for you to find. The clue is the word "Cheetos." The first 5 students who email the newsletter editor with the answer to which newsletter story that word appears in will get their names published in next month's newsletter! Send your answers to PTA Secretary LeAnne Letize McGee at lletize@gmail.com.

Sponsor the Award-Winning PTA Newsletter!

If your business would be interested in sponsoring an issue of our AWARD-WINNING newsletter, your name and logo would be displayed HERE! Please contact LeAnne Letize McGee at lletize@gmail.com for more info.



**Congratulations to
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney
Richardson!**

Horizon's top leader, our beloved principal Mr. Rodney Richardson, celebrated his marriage to the former Ms. Martin this summer in Jamaica in front of their family and friends. The beautiful ceremony took place on the beach in Ocho Rios Jamaica, where guests enjoyed food, steel drum music, dancing, and a cruise. Mr. Richardson's best man was his brother Robert Richardson, and Mrs. Richardson's Maid of Honor was their daughter, Jaylin Martin. Congratulations on your marriage!