



Panther Pause

Highland Lakes Elementary



everychild.one voice.®

The Highland Lakes Elementary School PTA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2009

Contact Information

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PTA Officers

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Tracey Tacea, VP Programs
Mary Anderson, VP Membership
Jenifer Boswell, VP Communication
Maria Wilder, VP Safety and Advocacy
Wendy Bright, Treasurer
Michelle Sikorski, Corresponding Secretary
Wendy Karamihalis, Recording Secretary
Kathy Kelly, Teacher Representative
Jennifer Patterson, Teacher Representative

Panther Pause Publication

The Panther Pause is An online publication produced by Highland Lakes Elementary PTA. It is designed to keep you informed on current events happening at Highland Lakes Elementary. The Panther Pause is published monthly throughout the school year and the deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to the publication date. Submissions should be emailed to the editor, Jenifer Boswell, at the following address hlepta@gmail.com. If you would like to submit a photo of your child please email a .jpeg to the editor. A Media Release form will be required for any pictures to be published.

PTA Mission

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship. To raise the standards of home life. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. To bring in closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantage in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Useful Links

Pinellas County PTA www.pccpta.org
Florida PTA www.floridapta.org
National PTA www.pta.org
All Pro Dad www.allprodad.com
Pinellas Schools www.pinellas.k12.fl.us
School Website www.highland-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/

Letter from the PTA President—Darlene Sadorf

Happy Fall Highland Lakes Elementary Families,

WOW! What an exciting first full month we have had at the school. We have successfully implemented the first school fundraiser of the year, had a huge turnout for our first family fun night featuring Mr. Brian and the Boppets, held our first PTA general meeting and by unanimous vote had our 2009-2010 budget approved, held our first family dinner night at Pizza Hut, and last but not least had a great turnout at our first Astro Skate party of the year! We have definitely been very busy planning, hosting, organizing these events and preparing for many upcoming events we have planned for the remaining part of 2009.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the volunteers, the parents, the students and the PTA and everybody else that has participated in making our events very successful. We have had great results and would not be possible without all of your support!

This is the second edition of our wonderful newsletter and I promise it is filled with LOTS of great information on all of our upcoming events, local state and national PTA information, recycling ideas and much more! I hope you enjoy! If you have anything you would like to add to our next newsletter please feel free to email our editor, Jenifer Boswell, at hlepta@gmail.com for consideration. We welcome articles, pictures, safety concerns, or



Darlene Sadorf thanks volunteers!

anything else you would like to share with our readers! Sincerely,
Darlene Sadorf, President

Mr. Brian and the Boppets Rock the House



Mr. Brian and the Boppets!

What an evening to remember. Throughout the Highland Lakes Café students were dancing, parents were knee-slapping, and toddlers were waving and clapping to the beat of Mr. Brian and his lovable Boppets. After a tasty pizza dinner Mr. Brian played the guitar, sang catchy tunes, and engaged the entire

audience with his memorable music. The turnout was phenomenal and the PTA has received wonderful feedback about the event. One mom says, "Last night's event was great! The meeting was short and sweet and the kids LOVED the show! Great job planning it! Thanks!" Andi, Alisha and Hailey Levine! During our general meeting, the PTA approved the 2009-2010 budget, discussed safety measures for every child, informed members of communication sources, educated members of upcoming programs and much more.

PTA Chair Persons

Barrie Taft, Fundraising
Karen Ferrari, Yearbook
Sue Tamme, Newsletter
Vacant, Safety
Vacant, Hospitality
Kathy Kelly, Reflections

All Pro Dads

Mike Tamme, All Pro Dads
Richard Doscher, All Pro Dads

Website

Sue Fisher, PTA Website

If you are interested in joining the PTA board we have open positions and welcome you to join. Please contact Darlene Sadorf, PTA President at hlepta@gmail.com.



Families come together at our family events.



Jack has school pride!

If you would like to make donations to the HLE PTA for our upcoming Silent Auction, or if you would like to make food donations for our family events, please contact Tracey Tacea.



Welcome back to school students!



Panther Pride at its best!

Mark Your Calendar

School Events

10/20 Picture Retake & Makeup Day
10/26 Flu Shot Day
10/26-27 Vision and Hearing Screening

PTA Events

10/2 All Pro Dads Breakfast
10/7 Walk or Bike Your Child to School Day
10/13 PTA Board Meeting 3 PM
10/15 Chuck E Cheeses Night 3—9 PM
10/15 PCCPTA General Meeting 7:00 PM PCS Admin Building

Community Events

Westfield at Citrus Park Cash4Class is GOING ON NOW! Points are awarded for dining and purchases between **September 1 and November 1**. Top 3 schools win cash prizes. Double points for purchases made on Wednesdays. You must show receipts for points to the Concierge and designate Highland Lakes Elementary as your school.

10/16
School
Closed

Year Round Events

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

Every Friday is School Spirit Day. Students are encouraged to dress in school colors. HLE Panther gear can be purchased at the school store every Friday between 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM.

BOX TOPS

Box Tops are due the last day of the month. If you need collection sheets, go to the Box Tops page on our website. There are various prizes for participants throughout the year to include a class pizza party

All Pro Dads—Bagels and Bingo Breakfast

Thank you DADS!

Over 45 dads and their children attended the first All Pro Dads breakfast in September.

Upcoming Events

Please join us for the next All Pro Dads Bagels and Bingo breakfast Friday, October 9th in the HLE Café from 7:30-8:30 AM. We will have a little breakfast, a little bonding, and a lot of

fun! Team up with other dads and kids for a quick, before-school breakfast and a 45-minute program of fatherhood and family topics. You'll take away some great tips and resources to help you be the best dad you can be, and you'll strengthen your relationship with your kids at the same time. It's fun, and it's free! See you there...

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar for our next All Pro Dads event November 7, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium! Guest Speaker is Tony Dungy! You must register early as seating is limited. Register at www.cmaqarium.org/allprodad.

Volunteer Corner

What a number!

Thank you Highland Lakes Elementary volunteers! As of September 14, 2009 we have 134 wonderful volunteers that have logged over 1620.5 hours this school year! What a tremendous turnout for our first month of school! If we continue with this progress our school could become a Five Star School. We are also

looking to create a Five Star Committee (we need five more people) so if you are interested in helping Highland Lakes Elementary achieve this award, please contact Alex Cernkovic, Family & Community Liaison at cernkovica@pcsb.org or call Alex at (727) 724-1429! Remember, there are several opportunities to volunteer outside of the

school for working parents. Plus, if you can only dedicate one hour this entire school year you have offered more than you can imagine. To learn more, contact Alex today!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who dedicate their time to help every child!

Reflections

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. Participation

and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis. Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents

to create art that supports a specific theme.

This year the Reflections theme is "Beauty Is..." Stay tuned for more information regarding this program and how your children can get involved.

For more information please visit <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>.



Making a purchase from the school store.



The juice pouch recycle bin in the Highland Lakes Café.

Recycling—What are you doing for the environment?

Cell Phones, iPods, Digital Cameras and More
If you have ink jet cartridges, old cell phones, digital cameras, iPods, or handheld game devices please bring them to the school! It's good for our environment and great for our school! There is a box in the front office for these items. Please do not include phone accessories

(chargers, cases, or hands-free devices). Items recycled according to EPA regulations will earn HLE money!

Juice Pouches

Most kids drink juice pouches, but did you know that once discarded, these pose a threat to our environment? HLE has formed a Drink Pouch Brigade and is collecting all used drink pouches, to earn cash for

the school. Please send in your used pouches. There is a separate bin in the Highland Lakes Café for the children's convenience. Every little bit will help our school!

Paper and Aluminum

We also receive money for paper and aluminum so please be sure to bring to those items!

The PTA is looking for an Awards Committee this year. If you are interested in helping the PTA with this program please contact Darlene Sadorf.

From the Principal

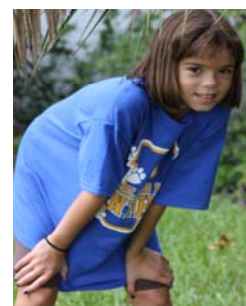
Interested in Joining the Student Advisory Council? The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is looking for volunteers!

Why Join SAC?

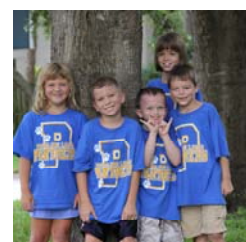
Learn more about what is happening at Highland Lakes Elementary, especially our progress with student achievement! Learn about the best strategies we use for teaching and learning as well

as providing a safe school environment! Help preview and approve our School Improvement Plan! Keep up with the changes made by the state that directly impacts your child - like the rules for retention!

If you are interested in being a part of the SAC team, please email Ms. Young at youngk@pcsb.org.



Claire showing her school pride!



More school pride!

Box Tops for Education

Join the Box Tops for Education Booster Club and Support Our School! Click this link to visit the [Box Tops for Education](#) website and become a "Box Top Booster" for Highland Lakes Elementary. We could earn up to \$60,000 for our school. You can also view a current list of products and if purchased will help us earn additional money for our school.

Clip and Paste Box Tops to Help Earn Money For Our School Clip the General Mills Box Tops for Education labels. Ask family and friends to help by clipping Box Tops for you and by becoming a "Box Top Booster". Random drawings will be held throughout the year for various goodies. The more you turn in, the more chances you have to win. At the end of the year, the class with the most Box Tops in each grade level will receive a special treat. Also, the class with the highest number of Box Tops overall will win a PIZZA PARTY!

1. Download and print the [collection sheet](#).
2. Clip and paste the Box Tops. Special Note: It would be very helpful if you would clip the Box Tops on the red dotted line.
3. Put your child's name and grade on the back of each label or if using the collection sheet write it on the bottom of the sheet.
4. Turn the labels in to your child's teacher each Monday.



Campbell's Soup Labels

Collect Campbell's Labels to Help Earn Money For Our School! Click this link to visit [Campbell's Labels for Education](#) and view the current list of products that have these labels.

1. Clip & save UPC's and Caps from participating labels for education brands.
2. Put your child's name and grade on the back of each label.
3. Turn the labels in to your child's teacher each Monday.



Community Sponsors

Did you know that several businesses offer cash back to our school? By selecting Highland Lakes Elementary, you would be giving the school a donation every time you make a purchase. The following business offers a cash back program that benefits Highland Lakes Elementary School.

Target

Use your Target REDCARD to help earn cash for Highland Lakes Elementary. Register your card to HLE at www.Target.com/education and every purchase earns our school cash! If you do not have a Target REDCARD, visit any participating Target and apply at the register.



Become A Sponsor

Do you want to become a community sponsor by donating a percentage of proceeds to Highland Lakes Elementary?

If so, please contact Darlene Sadorf with your request! All donations are tax deductible and will benefit every child at Highland Lakes Elementary. Also, we will place your business information in our monthly newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Commitment to Character—Cooperation

Cooperation

Getting along with others and working together to accomplish a goal.

How can you practice this character trait? Easy, follow these 6 easy steps on a daily basis!

1. **Help** others in need.
2. Be a good **leader** and a good **follower**.
3. Work **together** toward a common goal.
4. **Solve** conflicts in a **peaceful** way.
5. Be **generous** to others.
6. Have **patience** when working with **friends**.

Dinner Dilemma—During the week families are asked to discuss the dilemma. It is hoped that families will talk about the dilemma and decide how the character quality of the month relates to the situation presented.

Week 1 Situation: One evening Sam’s dad says he will take the family out for ice cream after the kids clean-up the kitchen. The ice cream shop closes in 20 minutes. Sam’s brother was not helping. Dilemma: On one hand Sam knew he could do both jobs. On the other hand Sam felt his brother should cooperate to help get the task completed as quickly as possible. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam?

Week 2 Situation: Sue and Sam arrived at the kickball field at the same time. Both volunteered to be the pitcher. Dilemma: On one hand they knew only one of them could be the pitcher. On the other hand neither one wanted to play another position. Discussion: How could they cooperate to solve this situation?

Week 3 Situation: Sam and his best friend are writing a play to be performed by their club. They disagreed as to the ending of the story. Dilemma: On one hand Sam thinks his ending is better than his friend’s. On the other hand Sam wants to cooperate with his friend. Discussion: What advice do you have for Sam and his friend?

Week 4 Situation: Working in a cooperative group, each person had a specific job to do. One member of the group was not contributing to the group’s goal. Dilemma: On one hand they could attempt to solve the situation within the group. On the other hand they could report to the teacher that one person was not cooperating. Discussion: What advice do you have for the group?

Source: <http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/SDFS/>

Character Calendar

- Aug / Respect
- Sept / Responsibility
- Oct / Cooperation
- Nov / Citizenship
- Dec / Kindness
- Jan / Self-Motivation
- Feb / Tolerance
- Mar / Honesty
- April / Self-Control
- May / Caring
- June / Courage
- July / Patriotism

For more information, please visit the Character Education Website at <http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/SDFS/character.html>



What the PTA is Doing for Every Child...

Current PTA Projects

Every year the PTA sponsors fundraisers to help raise money for programs, projects and events at Highland Lakes Elementary School. This year one of the PTA projects is called Commitment to Character! With part of the money the

PTA raises during the Fall fundraiser the PTA will be supplying every classroom with one book each month for three months. These books are for the teachers to read to the class and each book pertains to character development. If you would like to

help distribute these books or help assist in collecting the books and sorting them prior to delivery, please contact the PTA at hlepta@gmail.com.





Wendy Bright, Treasurer



Members of the PTA.



Watch the Video

Log on to Facebook and watch a short video presented by the National PTA President, Chuck Saylors titled "Let's Fight Flu Together."

Click this link to watch the video:

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1157167301293&ref=mf>

Let us know your concerns about the H1N1 (Swine) Flu Virus, email hlepta@gmail.com.

County Council PTA Information—www.pccpta.org

Meet Your Legislators!

The Pinellas County Council PTA, in cooperation with Pinellas County Schools, is coordinating the "Meet Your Legislators" series again this year. Through this program, we facilitate meetings with each of the Florida State Representatives and Senators in each district throughout the county. These meetings are scheduled to allow PTA members, SAC members,

parents, teachers, school administrators and interested community members the opportunity to meet the legislator for their respective district. This is an especially opportune time to reach out and share your comments, questions and concerns regarding the health, safety, welfare and education of our children. Legislators must hear from us so they can have the benefit of our opinions

when making decisions affecting our children and our schools. Check the PCCPTA website for schedule updates.

Source <http://www.pccpta.org/News/Courier/CourierSept09.pdf>

Pinellas County Council
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Florida PTA Information—www.floridapta.org

Stay Alert!

Want to make a difference in every child's life? If so, visit the Florida PTA CapWiz website daily, view the current Action Alerts (if any) or click the Action E-List to see how your in-

volvement can make a difference. On this site you can also meet your elected officials, find government agencies, and search issues and legislation. Visit the CapWiz Website today by following this link:

<http://www.floridapta.org/CapWiz.html>

Florida
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National PTA Information—www.pta.org

H1N1 (Swine) Flu- Parent Tip

It is important for parents and caregivers to remember to take care of their own health in order to avoid getting sick themselves and introducing the virus to their family.

Parents and their children should take common-sense measures to protect against contracting and spreading the flu. These measures include avoiding close contact with people who are sick, staying home when you are sick to help prevent

others from catching your illness, covering your mouth or nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, cleaning your hands often, avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and practicing other good health habits such as getting plenty of rest and eating healthy food.

Where can I go for further information?

National Parent Teacher Association: www.pta.org

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov

U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov

Sources –U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Center for Disease Control, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of School Nurses, and http://www.pta.org/Parent_Tips-H1N1_flu_080609.pdf

PTA
everychild. one voice.



The PTA brings families together.



Teachers bring their children to PTA events.



Father and sons enjoy an All Pro Dads breakfast.



Father and daughters enjoy an All Pro Dads breakfast.



Spending time with the family is important to this Panther Dad!



Visit the store if you need extra school supplies.

Panther Pride 2009-2010 Yearbook Sales

It's that time again for our annual yearbook sales! What a wonderful way for our children to remember their friends and teachers!

Yearbooks are only \$20.00. After December 18th the price will go up to \$25.00 with a limited supply available. Buy your yearbook

today! Lovelines and Ads are also on sale. Ads and Lovelines must be turned into the school by Monday, December 14th.

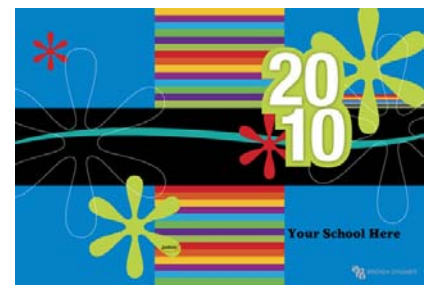
Look for yearbook fliers in your child's backpacks or there will be some yearbook fliers available in the front office.



Yearbook Cover Contest

200-2010 Yearbook Cover Winner!

On September 25, 2009 ALL of the students had the opportunity to vote for their favorite yearbook cover during lunch. After all of the votes were tallied COLOR FORMS won by a landslide.



Attendance Policy IMPORTANT REMINDER

ABSENCES - Parents are requested to call Highland Lakes Elementary and leave a message when their child is absent. Call **(727)724-1429** before 8:45 AM to report child's absence. Please leave a detailed message including "child's name", "your name", "teacher", reason for absence, and "date". Messages are compared with our daily attendance data, and phone calls are made to confirm undocumented absences with parents. If a phone call is not made a written explanation must be received within one (1) day of a child's absence. If no written notification is received, the absence is regarded as an "unexcused absence". Should a student be out of school for family vacations/personal reasons, a parental request should be submitted to the principal forty-eight (48) hours in advance of this absence. *Acceptable reasons for absence include: illness of student, major illness in family, death in family, duration of religious holiday of the specific faith of student, subpoena of forced absence by any law enforcement agency, major disaster that would justify absence in the judgment of the administration. **Students are expected to attend school daily as required by Florida State Law. Student absences impact student performance and learning. In addition, each absence impacts the learning of others and requires additional planning to compensate for the loss of time and instruction.** If the frequency of unexcused absences exceeds a prescribed amount, interventions are set into place. Chronic attendance problems will be referred to the school social worker and possibly to the state attorney's office for investigation. If a child's absence is extended due to illness, contact the school office for information regarding homebound instruction.

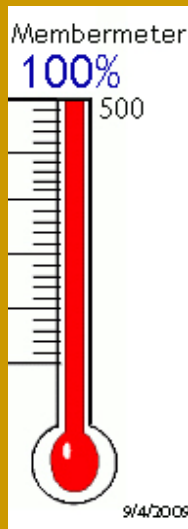
It is important that all students arrive promptly to class. Our teachers teach from bell to bell. If a student is tardy, not only do they miss valuable instruction, but their arrival is disruptive to instruction already in progress. A tardy slip from the office is necessary for admittance to class when the student is late. Chronic tardiness will be reported to the school social worker for investigation. A tardy of greater than 30 minutes is considered to be an extreme tardy by the state attorney. Extreme tardiness will be reported to the state attorney for investigation under the Truancy Intervention Program. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Monthly Trivia

Which has more calories, a donut or a muffin?

o learn the answer, visit us on

facebook



Publication Dates

September 1, 2009
October 1, 2009
November 1, 2009
December 1, 2009
January 1, 2010
February 1, 2010
March 1, 2010
April 1, 2010
May 1, 2010
June 1, 2010



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PTA President—**Darlene Sadorf**
Principal—**Ms. Kathleen Young**
Editor—**Jenifer Boswell**

PTA Officer Reports

Membership Report — Mary Anderson, VP

Thank you Highland Lakes Elementary parents, staff, faculty, aunts, uncles, friends, grandparents, neighbors, and everyone else who helped us achieve our membership goal for the 2009-2010 school year! I am pleased to report that with your support, we have over 500 PTA members! Great job everyone!!! What a terrific win for the school, the kids and the PTA!

Communications Report — Jenifer Boswell, VP

Thank you to the parents who are helping us **GO GREEN** by providing a valid email address. So far we have collected over 500 email addresses and more are coming in daily! We hope you are enjoying the communications we send! If you would like to add your email address to our list, please send a request to hlepta@gmail.com!

Ways and Means Report — Mary Wallace, VP

Catalog and Cookie Dough deliveries will be made in the CAR LINE on Oct 22. Chuck E Cheese Night will be Oct 15th from 3-9 PM. Show them your sticker and get 10 free tokens! Don't forget to mention HLE when ordering food. Teachers eat FREE! Keep on sending in those Box Tops and Campbell's Labels - monitor how your child's class is doing on the Box Tops Chart in the Highland Lakes Cafe.

Safety and Advocacy — Maria Wilder, VP

Safety of students is a top priority for everyone; therefore, we invite you to celebrate **International Walk to School Day** by "**Walkin' or Rollin'**" to school with your child on **Wednesday, October 7th**. Our school is joining the Suncoast Safe Kids Coalition, All Children's Hospital, FedEx and Safe Kids Worldwide to support this important event. We are in the process of coordinating a place for everyone to park and meet in the morning and then walk together so please stay tuned for further updates. Walking and bicycling to school is a great way for kids to get exercise. This means there are fewer cars on the road, less pollution and a lot less congestion around the school. While walking or bicycling, talk with your student about walking and riding safely -- **if bicycling, don't forget to wear YOUR helmets!** Take note of hazards along the route your child travels to school. If you are unable to walk or bike with your child, please ask a family member or a friend to do so in your absence. **Please** teach and reinforce these walking and bicycling safety tips with your child each day;

- Never allow children under the age of 10 to cross the street alone.
- Have children hold your hand while crossing.
- Always cross streets at the corner, use traffic signals and crosswalks, cross where there is a School Crossing Guard positioned!
- Instruct children to stop at the curb. If riding a bicycle dismount and walk the bike across the street. Always look left, right, and left again prior to crossing and continue looking as they cross.
- Make sure children never run into streets or cross between parked cars.
- Children need to always wear reflective materials and carry a flashlight when walking or bicycling at dusk, dawn or in bad weather.
- Always make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them, whether riding a bicycle or walking.
- Always walk facing traffic.
- Always ride bicycles on the right side of the road – in a designated bike lane.

Treasurer Report — Wendy Bright, Treasurer

On behalf of the PTA, I would like to extend a great big thank you to our PTA membership for approving the 2009-2010 PTA budget on September 10th, 2009 during our PTA general meeting. To download or view the PTA budget please visit www.hlepta.com. To date, the PTA has provided an agenda, a school calendar, and student magazine for every child.

Secretary Report — Wendy Karamihalis, Secretary

All minutes for our September 10, 2009 - General PTA Meeting have been recorded and once approved, they will be posted on our school website. School Store Update -- "SMENCILS" [scented pencils] are back! They are for sale at the School Store every Friday from 8:15 AM-8:30 AM along with other school supply goodies! Come check out the selection located on the picnic tables in the Courtyard in front of the Highland Lakes Café!