



September 2024, Volume 24, Issue 9

Yvonne T. McKittrick Elementary

## Message from the PTA Vice President

Happy September! We hope your children are getting settled into their new classrooms and routines. The PTA was thrilled to see so many new and returning faces at Open House last month. Welcome to our Bobcat family! We hope the incoming kindergarteners enjoyed participating in "Signing Day". We were also so excited to see the new VPK classroom and the new space for the Art room.

If your household calendar is starting to feel as hectic as mine is with school and extracurricular activities, then I encourage you to sign up for your PTA membership so we can help keep you informed on key events happening on campus through our newsletter, emails, and social media pages. Additionally, the class with the most PTA memberships by September 13 will receive a pizza party!

We want to give a big thanks to our business partner, Three Brothers Pizza, for hosting our first Family Dine Out of the school year on September 12. Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who attended as well!

Our first general PTA meeting of the year was held virtually on September 5. Our next general PTA meeting will be held in January. Stay tuned for information as we get closer to that time.

We also hosted a virtual training session for Homeroom Parents and campus volunteers on September 6. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who help make our school events possible.

Brandi Kenny  
PTA Vice President 2024-2025

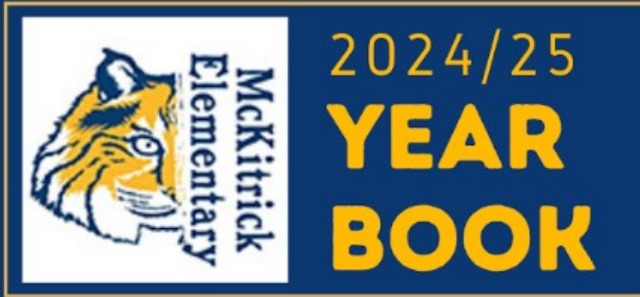
## CALENDAR

### September

- 2nd Labor Day / No School
- 5th PTA Virtual General Membership Meeting
- 6th PTA Volunteer/ Homeroom Parent Virtual Training
- 10th Grandparents' Day #1: VPK, K, 2, 4
- 11th Grandparents' Day #2: 1, 3, 5
- 12th Dine Out at Three Brothers Pizza
- 13th Fall Picture Day
- 20th All Pro Dads Meeting
- 23rd-27th Fall Book Fair
- 26th Fall Conference Night

### October

- 2nd Custodian Appreciation Day
- 3rd Boosterthon Kickoff
- 11th Boosterthon Fun Run Day
- 14th Non-student Day
- 18th All Pro Dads Meeting
- 28th Veterans Donation Drive Begins



## COVER ART CONTEST

**Open to all grade levels**

Interpretation of the theme  
**"Believe in Yourself"**

Must be handdrawn or painted  
Vertical artwork on letter paper or larger

Submissions are due to the front office by  
**September 25, 2024**

5th Grade winner will be on the front cover  
Pre-k - 4th grade winners will be featured  
elsewhere in the yearbook

## Quick Links

**McKitrick PTA Website**

**McKitrick PTA Store**

**McKitrick PTA Facebook**

**McKitrick PTA Twitter**

**McKitrick Elementary  
Website**

**2024-2025 School  
Calendar**

**McKitrick Lunch Menus**

**Meal Pre-Pay**



CALLING  
ALL...

**YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURS**

Do you have a young  
entrepreneur in the family?

Contact  
businesspartners@mckitrick.com  
to learn how your student can  
showcase and sell their products at on-campus events!

**McKitrick Elementary**

5503 Lutz Lake Fern Road

Lutz, Florida 33558

**813.558.5427**

Principal/Administrator:

**Allison Cline**



## SAVE THE DATE



**Fall Book Fair**

**September 23-September 27**

**McKitrick Media Center**



## Join the 2024/25 McKitrick PTA Team

We have open positions on the PTA and would love for you to join the team! We can help you find a role that fits your availability and interests. Get more information and complete a quick form at <https://forms.gle/oYKCvD3jHp833EkM8>. You can also email Heather Foster at [president@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:president@mckitrickpta.com) with any questions.

Some Open Chair Positions include: Special Events Standing Chair, Memberships, Dine Outs, Newcomers/Kindergarten Readiness, Health & Safety, McKitrick Serves. We are also looking for a co-chair for Sons & Stars.



**Call For  
Volunteers**

## Join the 2024/25 McKitrick PTA Team



Seeking parents, guardians and grandparents that have a passion for making McKitrick and our community an amazing place for children.

Fulfilling our PTA mission at McKitrick Elementary would not be possible without the help of volunteers in our school community. Big or small, your help is needed and appreciated.

Follow QR code or link to see the open positions for 2024/25 school year.



SCAN HERE

Questions? Contact Heather Foster at [president@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:president@mckitrickpta.com)



## School of Excellence

We are so proud that McKittrick Elementary PTA achieved the 2023-2025 National PTA School of Excellence designation for our work in the 2023-2024 school year to create an environment where families feel welcomed, included and empowered to support their children's success. Last year, we worked on a plan to educate the school community on the cultural diverse services at the school and ways the school is celebrating diversity. Our goal is to make all of our families feel recognized. We hope by informing and celebrating the diversity in our school, we can create a deeper sense of belonging and community. It also allows the opportunity for students to broaden their understanding of cultures and their fellow classmates. Below are some examples of what we have done and planned for the upcoming school year.

Proud to be a  
**National PTA®  
School of  
Excellence**

**2023-2025**



- Informative social media posts that recognize and celebrate cultural celebrations.
- Incorporate highlights in our monthly newsletter and offer areas for families to share experiences, recipes and traditions. Also highlighting any activities happening on the school campus.
- We plan to work with the school to create a multicultural festival that will allow families to learn and celebrate their different cultures.
- Update and expand our exhibit showcase in the cafeteria. It will be a wonderful opportunity to display items from around the world.
- Advertising the opportunities to incorporate culture into the Great American Teach In.

Please visit our website [www.mckittrickpta.com](http://www.mckittrickpta.com) to find out how you can get involved and support our PTA in the new school year! If you are interested in participating or helping with any of the plans above, please reach out to [president@mckittrickpta.com](mailto:president@mckittrickpta.com) or [vicepresident@mckittrickpta.com](mailto:vicepresident@mckittrickpta.com).

**OUR PTA  
SUPPORTS  
YOUR CHILD'S  
EDUCATION**

**YOU BELONG IN PTA**

UNITE SPEAK ADVOCATE CHAMPION CONNECT INVEST

**National PTA®**

**SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**

We are thrilled you know a child who attends a National PTA School of Excellence! This is all made possible by the PTA that supports this school.

Will you and others in your family support our efforts by becoming a member of the PTA this school year?



# *Congratulation* **TO THE WINNERS**

We are thrilled to share that two members of our PTA won a 2023/24 Hillsborough County Council PTA/PTSA Award!

## **Superman (Male Role Model or Male Engagement): Steve Attard**

Steve took on his role last year with enthusiasm and passion. He has gone above and beyond to build connections with our parents and students. After each monthly meeting, he creates a full page spread in our newsletter recap so families can still stay connected when they are unable to attend a meeting.

Having watched Steve lead All Pro Dad meetings, you get an immediate understanding of how important this group is to the PTA. It was wonderful to see male role models having meaningful interactions with their kids. Dads are able to socialize with each other and build relationships. Steve also encourages participation from the kids in the monthly discussion topic for each meeting. He makes every child feel seen and heard. For 30 minutes a month, he has created a space for intentional engagement and bonding



## **Local Unit Instructional Person of the Year: Mrs. Contreras**

Mrs. Contreras has been an integral part of our PTA and is the main connection between the school, teachers, students, and our organization. She is the glue that holds everything together. Mrs. Contreras has tirelessly promoted all our PTA goals each school year. She helps coordinate PTA programs such as Tutoring and Junior Achievement, so we are able to match up students and classes with volunteer help. She created a Mentoring program that allows for students to assist teachers in the morning and work with younger students. We have received amazing feedback from teachers about how these mentors have made meaningful connections that have impacted student's academic, social, and mental wellbeing.

Not only does she help at every PTA program and event, but she is also an amazing teacher and heavily involved in school-led activities. We are so thankful for all her hard work and dedication.



## Membership Drive

Our PTA Membership Drive is off to an exciting start! We have some early leaders for the pizza party, but anything can happen. Please support our school by purchasing a PTA membership. It does not require you to make a time commitment. Visit our online store to purchase: <https://mckitrick.givebacks.com/store>.

You can also learn more about the benefits of the PTA on our website at <https://mckitrickpta.com/join-the-pta>

McKitrick PTA Membership Drive:

# Pizza Party Leaders



**1**

Monaghan (Kindergarten)



**2**

Hill (3rd Grade)



**3**

Orihuela (4th Grade)



Baker (3rd Grade)	Brewer (5th Grade)
Dorazil ( Kindergarten)	McDonough (1st Grade)
Abbett (4th Grade)	Prentiss (3rd Grade)
Hoyos (3rd Grade)	Nolan (1st Grade)
Moon (4th Grade)	McElhone (1st Grade)
Behnke (5th Grade)	Contreras (3rd Grade)

The class with the most memberships by September 13th wins a pizza party!





# Join the McKitrick PTA

and become a better advocate for  
your children and our school!



Scan Me!

- Joining the PTA only costs \$6 and does not require a volunteer time commitment.
- It is the best way to stay informed about what's happening at McKitrick and support your child's school community!

Visit [mckitrickpta.com](https://mckitrickpta.com) today to learn more about all we have planned for the year ahead and purchase your membership. Bundles discounts for multiple family members are available.

The class with the  
most memberships  
by **September 13th**  
wins a pizza party!

**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

## Beautification Day 2024

Thank you for all of your hard work helping to get campus ready to welcome students back for the new school year. Huge thanks to the Steinbrenner student volunteers. We couldn't have done it without your help!





## Teacher Welcome Back Lunch

The PTA hosted a welcome back lunch for our amazing McKittrick teachers and staff on August 7th. We can't thank them enough for all their hard work and dedication year round. We were very excited to also support a local business, The Mustard Seed. Our teachers gave them 5 stars!



### [The Mustard Seed Deli & Market](#)

1532 Land O' Lakes Blvd, Ste H  
Lutz, Florida 33549





## Open House 2024

We hope everyone had a wonderful time at Open House. It was so exciting to see so many new faces! Thank you to all of the families that stopped by our PTA tables to ask questions and learn about PTA membership and volunteer opportunities. We hope your students had fun touring the campus with the scavenger hunt. How cute was the Kindergarten signing table? Thank you to Ann Testa-Secca for introducing a new tradition to celebrate incoming Kindergarten students. We especially want to thank all of the teachers, staff and volunteers who worked so hard to prepare for Open House. We couldn't do it without you. Have a great year Bobcats!



## SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF IN A "SWEET" WAY!

What a "sweet" evening we had on August 27th at the back-to-school ice cream social hosted by our PTA Family Nights Committee! We had a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see students, families, teachers, and staff enjoying time together on campus!

Big thanks to Lutz Scoops for providing the delicious ice cream, and we appreciate Martinez FFA for bringing the adorable animals, Art Paper Scissors for the crafts, and Mathnasium for keeping the kids entertained with games! We were also fortunate enough to have Three Brothers Pizza and The Twisted Kettle providing food and snack options for our families!



Our Bobcat mascot was also present for some high fives, hugs, and photo opportunities, along with a beautiful Ice Cream balloon display crafted by our very own PTA President, Heather Foster.

Special thanks to everyone that signed up for PTA memberships! Bobcat families are amazing! If you are interested in joining our committee, please email [Fami-lyNights@Mckitripta.com](mailto:Fami-lyNights@Mckitripta.com).







The poster features a central arched frame with a light blue background and a sunburst pattern. Above the frame, the background is a vibrant, abstract swirl of blue, green, and white. Inside the frame, at the top, is the National PTA Reflections logo, which includes a red silhouette of a person's head and the text "NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS". Below the logo, the text "2024-2025 CALL FOR ENTRIES!" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The main title "Accepting Imperfection" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below the title, the phrase "Explore the arts and express yourself!" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the frame, there are six icons representing different art forms: Dance/Choreography (a red circle with a white figure), Film Production (an orange circle with a white camera), Literature (a purple circle with a white book), Music Composition (an orange circle with a white musical note), Photography (a green circle with a white camera lens), and Visual Arts (a dark green circle with a white palette). Below the frame, the text "Get involved! PTA.org/Reflections" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, there are two columns of information. The left column has a dark blue header "Deadline for Entries:" and a white box containing the date "November 8, 2024". The right column has a dark blue header "For Details:" and a white box containing the email address "reflections@mckitrickpta.com". At the bottom center, there is a large QR code. Below the QR code, the text "Scan QR Code to get Registered!" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

**2024-2025  
CALL FOR  
ENTRIES!**

# Accepting Imperfection

**Explore the arts and express yourself!**

**DANCE**  
CHOREOGRAPHY

**FILM**  
PRODUCTION

**LITERATURE**

**MUSIC**  
COMPOSITION

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Get involved! PTA.org/Reflections**

**Deadline for Entries:**

**November 8, 2024**

**For Details:**

reflections@mckitrickpta.com

**Scan QR Code to get Registered!**



### McKitrick Elementary School Families!

We're excited to introduce this year's main fundraiser, the Bobcat Fun Run! Our goal this year is to raise \$50,000 for phase two of media center improvements, technology enhancements, and teacher grants to benefit ALL students at McKitrick Elementary School.

We're excited for this fundraising experience because it offers 3 important things to our school community: a user-friendly fundraising platform, a character enrichment program and a fitness-focused event that includes ALL of our students.

As a family, you will work together asking friends and family to donate on your student's Donation Page at MyBooster.com. The best part is, you can still support our school just by SHARING about the fundraiser!

Students will also experience an amazing character enrichment program called "Castle Quest", teaching students about how to be brave and live with character.

#### Key dates to remember:

Sign Up Online at **MYBOOSTER.COM**

09/16/2024

**Fundraiser Kickoff Day in school**

10/03/2024

**Event Day**

10/11/2024

More details to come! Follow our social pages for updates on our fundraiser.



## All Pro Dads: September Update & Highlights!

Join us for our next All Pro Dad meeting on **Thursday, September 20th, 2024**, at 7:00 am in the McKittrick Elementary cafeteria. This month, we explore the essential theme of Sensitivity. Sensitivity involves making a conscious effort to understand and appropriately respond to the emotions and experiences of others. It requires seeing situations from different perspectives and responding with empathy and consideration.

All Pro Dad meetings provide a valuable opportunity for dads to bond with their children in a meaningful way. Each session begins with breakfast in the school cafeteria. After a little time for discussion and activities, dads have the special chance to walk their kids to their classrooms, extending the morning's bonding experience and starting their school day off with support and love.



**To facilitate a smoother start to our meeting, we encourage you to RSVP by midday on Wednesday, September 18th.** Doing so - even though RSVP is not a requirement to attend - allows the school enough time to pre-print your visitor's badge, speeding up your check-in process and ensuring you can enjoy more breakfast time with your kids. We look forward to seeing you and your insightful little ones for a morning rich in learning and heartfelt connections! RSVP at [https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter\\_meetings/56202/rsvp](https://allprodadchapters.com/chapters/2990/chapter_meetings/56202/rsvp)

### Recap of August's Meeting

Our first All Pro Dad meeting of the new school year was truly energetic, drawing in over 100 dads and kids, including numerous new families, which highlighted the huge enthusiasm and dedication in our community!

The large turnout did bring some challenges and bottlenecks at breakfast and check-in. To improve our future meetings, I am in a discussion with the school to find solutions and streamline our process. We welcome your feedback and suggestions as we continually aim to enhance these meetings for everyone involved.

For those who couldn't be there last month, we encourage you to engage with these prompts about the topic of Proactivity with your child:

**Dad to Kid:** Who do you think is a proactive person?

**Dad to Kid:** In what ways have you been proactive this week?

**Kid to Dad:** Tell me about a time in your life when being proactive worked out well for you.

**Kid to Dad:** In what ways do you think we could be more proactive as a family?

As always, I'm here for you. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out to me, your All Pro Dad captain, Steve Attard, at [allprodads@mckittrickpta.com](mailto:allprodads@mckittrickpta.com).





## Important Information for anyone interested in volunteering:

New Volunteers: You must complete an [HCPS Y.E.S form](#) before volunteering on campus.

Existing Volunteers: Review your HCPS volunteer status through [Raptor](#) Portal.

We had a great and busy start for our volunteers in the beginning of the school year!!

Our wonderful volunteers helped lay mulch and clean up the campus on Beautification Day to get our school ready for a bright and fresh start for the school year. They also helped make Open House a success! Finally, thank you to our volunteers who helped with the Ice Cream Social Membership Drive Event. We could not have managed all these events for our school community without you!

## Homeroom Parent and Volunteer VIRTUAL TRAINING

Friday, September 6, 2024  
8:00am  
Google Meet

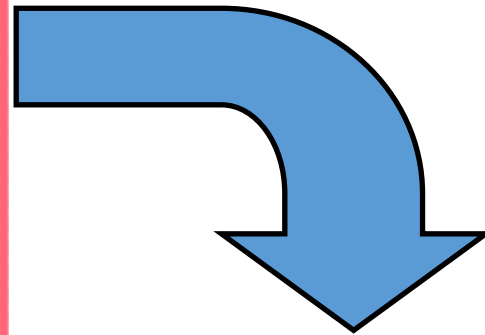


  
MCKITRICK ELEMENTARY PTA TUTORING

# CALLING ALL TUTORS

Please view and complete the interest survey if you would like to be a tutor this year. Materials and guidance will be provided. We appreciate you and are looking forward to another successful year!

Please email [tutoring@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:tutoring@mckitrickpta.com) with any questions.



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNSPleSzizpG4yeHZVs2kgUPP3iQaWXToOiD4TmOLtt-3pFQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>



# McKittrick Business Partner Spotlight

Fresh Legal Perspective was founded by attorneys who believe there is much more to life than billable hours. We understand that to our clients' time is precious and resources are limited. That is why we are committed to working closely with our clients to develop a plan that will provide them with practical solutions, including cost effective legal representation.

We strive to:

- Provide legal services at a reasonable price. When possible, we will offer a flat rate for our services.
- Be aware of our clients' needs and create a strategy that works towards those goals in the most efficient way possible.
- Be a socially responsible company by encouraging our attorneys to participate in Hillsborough County's free legal assistance program and encouraging attorneys and staff to volunteer with local non-profit organizations.

Services Provided:

- Estate Planning, including:
  - Last Will & Testament
  - Living Will, Health Care Surrogate, & Power of Attorney
  - Revocable Trust & Irrevocable Trust
- Probate & Probate Litigation
- Business Transaction
- Civil Litigation
- Real Estate Law
- Tax Law

While everyone cannot always leave a monetary legacy, everyone does have the power of making the preparations that will make their family's lives easier during difficult times – a gift that is better than any sum of money. Contact our compassionate and experienced estate planning and probate lawyers to schedule a consultation, so that you can make a difference for your family today.

Fresh Legal Perspective – Passionate staff. Professional service. Personal touch.

813-448-1042 [FLPLawFirm.com](http://FLPLawFirm.com)

**FRESH LEGAL  
PERSPECTIVE**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Wills. Trusts. Estates.

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair smiling and holding a baby with curly hair.

**FLP**

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**813.448.1042**



# McKitrick Business Partner Spotlight

**Primrose School of Lutz** is owned by Ketan and Ami Gohil, after taking over ownership on May 1, 2017. Mr. & Mrs. Gohil also own a thriving Primrose School in the Bloomingdale area that opened in 2011, and Mrs. Gohil taught Pre-Kindergarten for several years at another local Primrose School. They have two daughters that are both Primrose School graduates, and live in the Lutz area.

Each Primrose school is independently owned and operated by Franchise Owners, who partner with parents to help children build the right foundation for future learning and life, and offer an environment that helps children have fun while nurturing Active Minds, Healthy Bodies and Happy Hearts®.

Primrose School of Lutz is managed by Mrs. Sonya Boyette, Managing Director of Operations, and operated daily by Mrs. Monica Rivas. Mrs. Boyette has over 18 years of Primrose experience and over 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education as a teacher, management team member, trainer, and Franchise Owner. Mrs. Rivas has over 10 years of experience in Early Childhood Education and 5 years with Primrose Schools. The Leadership Team includes, Ms. Danielle Nales (Admin Assistant), Mrs. Samantha Strong (Education Coordinator), and Mrs. Denise Meier (Education Assistant). The Leadership Team has over 30 years of experience with Primrose Schools, as teachers and management team members.

We are in our first Semester in our Academic School year for our Infant through Pre-Kindergarten classes, and we are looking forward to an exciting Summer Camp for our after-school age children, full of live and virtual field trips, in-house guest speakers/activities, cooking lessons, art appreciation, science fun, and more! Our STEAM based themes make Summer Camp learning fun and challenging. We have low student/teacher ratios, meals included, and experienced/trained teachers.

Primrose School of Lutz is accepting applications for just a few openings in a couple of classes for our 2024 – 2025 Academic School Year. Enrollment for 2025 – 2026 will be open to the public Spring 2026, and we will be accepting applications for new students. To learn more about our school and programs, logon to our website: [www.primroselutz.com](http://www.primroselutz.com) or our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/primroselutz](https://www.facebook.com/primroselutz) . You may also contact the school office at [813.920.9384](tel:813.920.9384).







# Yvonne T. McKitrick Elementary School

## 2022-2023 PTA COMMITTEE

**President:** Heather Foster

**Vice President:** Brandi Kenny

**Treasurer:** Gina Sciatcchitano

**Recording Secretary:** Erin Circelli

**Teacher representative:** Principal Cline,  
Mrs. Contreras, Mrs. Behnke

**Parent Outreach:** Viviana Lit

**Fundraising:** Darbie Wilder

**Special Events:** **OPEN POSITION**

**Student/School Support:** Risa Anasky

**Programs:** Barrie Vause

**Communications:** Lauren Constantine

**Newcomers/Kindergarten Round Up:**  
**OPEN POSITION**

**All Pro Dads:** Steve Attard

**Homeroom Parents:** Brittany Harake

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Jessica Irizarri

**Memberships:** **OPEN POSITION**

**Spirit Wear:** Jennifer Ptack

**Boosterthon:** Lindsay Jimison, Erin Circelli,  
Jincy Soler

**Holiday Shop:** Lisa Peluso &  
Megan Wilson

**Bobcat Bash:** Barrie Vause, Jennifer  
Teixeira

**Business Partners:** Cristine Whitman

**Family Dine Outs:** **OPEN POSITION**

**Sweetheart Event:** Lindsay Whitney,  
Shelley Blanco

**Sons & Stars Event:** Alexandra Santana &  
Heather Hubbard

**Concessions:** Louise Johnstone

**Family Nights:** Amy Sweeney, Donna  
Tucker, Lauren Jennings, Patricia Baldwin

**Fifth Grade Activities:** Chryssa Samhoury

**Open House:** Heather Foster & Lindsay  
Jimison

**Teacher & Staff Appreciation:** Ariel  
Martinez, Jincy Soler, Dani Molla

**Health & Safety:** **OPEN POSITION**

**McKitrick Serves:** **OPEN POSITION**

**McKitrick Cares:** Hyojeong Bae

**Reflections:** Meredith Renuart & Viviana Lit

**Tutoring:** Ariel Martinez

**Junior Achievement:** Loren Mednick

**Website/Givebacks:** Hanyeh Pulver

**Yearbook:** Robert Hudson & Lacey Ranucci

**Social Media:** Chryssa Samhoury

**Newsletter:** Cristine Whitman

Interested in being more involved in the PTA? Please contact [president@mckitrickpta.com](mailto:president@mckitrickpta.com) to learn more about open positions and volunteer opportunities!