



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 April/May 2015

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OUR VISION IS TO: Be a school Where Children Excel by developing strong character and a passion for lifelong learning.

OUR MISSION IS TO: Engage Learners to Excel in Life and Embrace Leadership to Enhance our Local and global society.

OUR CORE VALUES

We believe that:

- The Character Counts Pillars of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship are essential qualities to model and instill in our students.
- The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People are the foundation for developing leaders.
- All individuals are valuable and can make meaningful contributions.
- A caring and compassionate learning environment will support the needs of the whole child and inspire all to reach their full potential.
- Leaders are life-long learners.

THE SEVEN HABITS OF HAPPY KIDS

1. Be Proactive – I am in charge!
 2. Begin with the end in mind – Have a plan!
 3. Put first things first – Work first, then play!
 4. Think win/win – There's plenty for all!
 5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood – Listen before you speak!
 6. Synergize – Together is better!
 7. Sharpen the saw – Balance feels best!
- BONUS:**
8. Find your voice, and inspire others to find theirs – I'm on a mission!

Jarrell's Journal

Hi Warrior Families!

We are rounding the corner and picking up speed as we close in on the end of the year. As I look back over this year, I am so proud and delighted with the many things our Warriors have accomplished. I am especially moved by the community service projects each grade level has sponsored throughout the year. Here's a quick run-down of those:

- Kindergarten sponsored Comfort for Canines, collecting towels and blankets for the Humane Society.
- 1st Grade joined with the fire department to fill their boots for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- 2nd Grade collect dollars for feet to line the hallways for Steps towards a Cure for the American Cancer Society. They also served as hush angels in the Relay for Life event at World Golf Village.
- 3rd Grade held a penny drive for the Humane Society.
- 4th Grade collected supplies to send to an orphanage in the Friends in Haiti school supply drive.
- 5th Grade facilitated the school wide Giving Tree, showing love to our families in need. Our Safety Leaders coordinated the Thanksgiving Food Drive, which provided meals for many in our community.
- Our Web Warriors have a Salute to our Military coming up in May to honor those who have served and continue to keep our nation free and safe.
- Our Faculty and Community rallied at the Relay for Life at World Gold Village this past weekend to unite against Cancer.

These and many more acts of kindness provide our students the opportunity to feel the joy of giving. They smile so brightly knowing they have made a positive difference in the life of another. Thank you parents for partnering with us to make all these service learning projects a success. We are leaving a legacy of generosity and caring!

Edie Jarrell, Learning Leader

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May

- 1-23 - Discovery Ed Reading/Math for K-3rd grades
- 13 - Field Day for 4th & 5th grades
- 18 - Safety Leader Field Trip
- 20 - Field Day for 2nd & 3rd grades
- 26-4 - Science Assessment for K-4th
- 26-4 - Social Studies Assessment for K-5th
- 27 - Field Day for K & 1st
- 27 - 5th grade Graduation

June

- 2 - 5th grade Talent Show
- 3 - 5th grade Celebration
- 3 - 5th grade Clap Out
- 4 - Last day of school



PTO Update

Don't forget to send in donations for your class' Spring Festival baskets. Contact your room moms for information on the theme for your class and item ideas. The Spring Festival will be on Friday, May 15.

Ricke Ricciardelli
President, WCE PTO

PARENTS of GIFTED STUDENTS

There is a scheduled Gifted Parent Advisory Council meeting on May 12th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at PBMS in the auditorium.

Reminders:

Please do not drop off your students until 8:00 a.m. unless they are enrolled in Extended Day. We have a number of kids waiting on the sidewalk unsupervised and this is unsafe.

Tardies and early check-outs add up to a lot of missed instruction time. Please have your children in attendance from bell to bell. We are tracking this data and it is becoming a critical issue for many students.

Extended Day Early Registration is now open!

Pre-Registration for the Extended Day Enrichment program is now open. If you register now through June 1st you will receive a reduced rate of \$50.00 per child for the registration fee. That is a \$25.00 savings! Our care fees **this year did not increase!** Pick up a registration form with all of our information in the school's front office or online.

If you have any questions please contact Cassie Messenger at casie.messenger@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Learning and Leading with Second Grade

Second graders have been enjoying their studies of life cycles. The Purple House was filled with growing plants and animals. We had caterpillars that turned into butterflies before our eyes! We then watched them fly as we released them in the Kinder Garden – the kindergartners butterfly garden. Some watched tadpoles become frogs and then watched as they were released into the pond behind the school. We also had some meal worms that will become beetles.



They also went on a field trip to the UNF Nature Trails to learn more about plants and animals. It was a great field trip. Second graders and teachers recommend that everyone go on a family outing to the Nature Trails. It's open to the public and the parking is free on the weekend.



The second graders also had a very successful community service project. They helped in collecting \$1,100 for the American Cancer Society (ACS). The ACS was so impressed with their efforts that they were invited to be Hush Angels at the Relay for Life.

On Saturday, April 25th, many second graders went on stage (with their halos!) at the Relay and presented the ACS with a big check! There was lots of applause and the kids were proud of their efforts. Then they got a big surprise when the ACS presented the second grade students with a plaque thanking them for their efforts. Yes, the second graders DO ROCK!



The Hush Angels help quiet the crowds and then lead the lap commemorating those who have been successful in fighting cancer and in honoring those who have lost the fight. It was a beautiful ceremony with all the luminaria. It was a special event and an honor for the children.



We are excited to welcome all rising 6th grade families to our Pacetti Bay 5th grade Open House Thursday, May 28th.

5:30 – 6:00 meet and greet with our 6th grade teachers. At 6:15 p.m. parents are welcomed to attend our informational orientation that will be held in the auditorium.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Go Wildcats!

Middle School Orientation

For 5th Graders

Pacetti Bay Middle School

Wednesday, May 27 Mill Creek Elem. (9:30 – 11:30 Bus Pick-Up and Return)

5th Grade Student Daytime Orientation/Tour

Thursday, May 28 Wards Creek & Palencia Elem. (9:30 – 11:30 Bus Pick-Up and Return)

5th Grade Student Daytime Orientation/Tour

Thursday, May 28 **Parent Orientation Night** (5:30 – 7:30 p.m.)

All parents of 5th Grade students are invited

Wards Creek Elementary



Lighting the Way to Leadership

6555 State Road 16
St. Augustine, FL 32092
(904) 547-8730

Edie Jarrell, Principal
Kevin Klein, Assistant Principal

Calling all Ward's Creek Parents, Grandparents, and Community Members:

We need your help! Testing is right around the corner for KG to 5th Graders and Wards Creek Elementary is in need of Proctors. Proctors are "another set of eyes" during each testing session, making sure that students are in the right place and following the teacher's directions. They will not be administering the test.

Testing will take place March 5 – May 21. District policy states that we have a proctor in each testing room. Proctors for testing can be anyone who is willing to volunteer, and who has been approved through the district to volunteer at Wards Creek Elementary. To sign up to volunteer at Wards Creek Elementary School, you may visit the school's homepage and under "Quick Links" click on "School Access Form." The volunteer application is easy to fill out and is usually approved within two weeks of submission.

If you are interested in proctoring, please sign-up using the following link or return the form below to WCES:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABAC2AA13-testing>

Please plan on arriving at Wards Creek Elementary no later than 8:15 on the date(s) that you signed up to volunteer and sign in at the front desk. You will then report directly to the Classroom you will be proctoring in. Please note that you will be assigned to proctor in a Classroom that does not have any "relatives" per the following Testing guideline:

Test administrators must NOT administer the assessment(s) to their family members. In addition, under no circumstances may a student's parent/guardian be present in a student's testing room.

There will be a brief training upon your arrival at Wards Creek on the date(s) you will be proctoring. We look forward to a successful testing season.

Thanks,

Leanne Adolf
(904) 547-8743

Yes! I have been approved as a volunteer at Ward's Creek Elementary, and I would be willing to volunteer as a testing proctor:

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Child's name and teacher (if applicable): _____

Date(s) available to Proctor: _____

Hi Warrior Families,

I am excited to continue to discuss our K-12 Standards for Mathematical Practice. As a reminder, these standards are “habits of good mathematicians.” This month we will look at the second standard on which all students should be working.

Standards for Mathematical Practice Standard 2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

This standard asks that students make sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. Specifically we are looking for students who are able to both contextualize and decontextualize as they solve problems.

Students contextualize by using images or stories to understand problems. They may place an abstract or numeric problem in a context and then use that context to make sense of the mathematical ideas posed in the problem. For example, “when a student sees the expression $40-26$, she might visualize this problem by thinking, if I have 26 marbles and Marie has 40, how many more do I need to have as many as Marie? Then, in that context, she thinks, 4 more will get me to a total of 30, and then 10 more will get me to 40, so the answer is 14. In this example, the student uses a context to think through a strategy for solving the problem, using the relationship between addition and subtraction and decomposing and recomposing the quantities. She then uses what she did in the context to identify the solution of the original abstract problem.” (K-5 Elaborations of the Standards for Mathematical Practice)

Conversely we also look for students who are able to decontextualize problems. When students decontextualize, they are able to extract the abstract ideas and numeric quantities from a problem in order to work on the math, void of context. After students solve the problem they then interpret their solution in terms of the original context. For example, “to find the area of the floor of a rectangular room that measures 10m by 12 m, a student might represent the problem as an equation, solve it mentally, and record the problem and solution as $10 \times 12 = 120$. He has decontextualized the problem. When he states at the end that the area of the room is 120 square meters, he has contextualized the answer in order to solve the original problem.” (K-5 Elaborations of the Standards for Mathematical Practice)

So what can you do? Here are a few suggestions to help your child reason abstractly and quantitatively:

- **Encourage your child to make up a context:** If your child is stuck on a numeric problem, ask them to think of a story they could tell that would match the problem. This allows students a context to conceptualize the problem, as well as provides a way for them to check the reasonableness of their solution.
- **Decontextualizing and Re-contextualize:** If the problem your child is working on has a context, assist them in extracting the math from the problem and consider what operation or operations could be used to solve the problem. After your child comes to a solution, always have them re-contextualize, have them put their solution back in the original context and check the reasonableness of their answer.

This standard is one that students start working on in Kindergarten and continue to practice throughout their schooling. Resist the urge to give your child an answer, but continue to ask questions and allow them to practice Mathematical Practice One by having your child make sense of the problems and persevere in solving them.

As always please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns!

Claire Riddell

Instructional Coach

Claire.Riddell@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Parent Survey

The Florida Department of Education is working with school districts to gather information on how well parents think their child's school is partnering with parents of students with disabilities, and would like to include your input. Your responses will help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families. All parents of children with disabilities and a current IEP (PK to 12th grade) are invited to participate in this survey. The survey is opened from February 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015.

Please visit www.ESurvey.com to complete the survey.

“Comfort for Canines”



This year our Kindergarten classes at Wards Creek have begun a community service project to help our local animal shelters and we need your help!

How you can help:

Clean out your closet and throw in the towel! The shelters are in need of these items: *Blankets, towels, fleece throws, pet beds, and baby blankets.*

Think soft, absorbent, and not too bulky... things you'd wash at home. Items that can cushion the bottoms of crates and kennels, and keep dogs' noses, paws and ears dry.

Items that are not so good to donate:

- *For the most part, shelters do not want bed sheets – they are not absorbent enough and do not stand up to repeated laundering. Anything too bulky is difficult for the shelter staffs to manage; this precludes comforters, bedspreads, heavy area rugs, queen or king-sized quilts and mattress covers.*
- *No pillows at all.*
- *No electric blankets, please, unless the cords are removed.*
- *No clothes, please!*

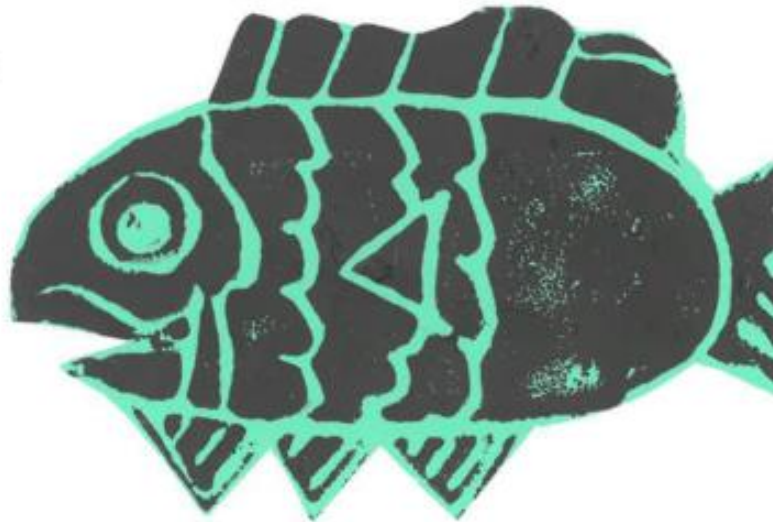
Feel free to start sending in these items now. You can either send it in with your child, leave it at the front desk, or walk it in to your child's classroom. Thank you so much for your help and support. Look for an update soon after our first drop off to the shelters!



The Kindergarten Team

Wards Creek 2015 Art Walk- Under the Sea

Our talented artists have been hard at work creating masterpieces for the 2015 art walk. The theme is under the sea. The art walk is different from previous art shows in that there is no framed art to buy, just artwork from each class to enjoy! The art walk will be open to family and friends on the evening of Thursday, May 7th, the same night as the school book fair. All artwork will be displayed in the hallway near the media center and left up until the end of the May. Hope you can make it!



Kindergarten

Registration

Information



Early registration for the 2015-2016 school year has kicked off! Please visit our site at

<http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/>

to sign up for an appointment. Please be sure to bring your child with you at the time of your appointment. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. King @

Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

PE Hut Update!

- The First Coast Kids Triathlon is May 2nd and 3rd It's not too late to register for the race! <http://www.kidstriathloninc.org/jacksonville-kids-triathlon.html>
- 2015-7 Habits Field Day is around the corner. I need volunteers to make field day a big success! Come on out and enjoy some fun in the sun!
 - 4th - 5th Grade is May 13, 9:0 - 11:30
 - 2nd - 3rd Grade May 20, 9:00 - 11:30
 - K - 1st Grade May 27, 9:00 - 11:30
- St Johns Elementary School 5th Grade Olympics is May 13th at St. Augustine High School from 3:30 - 6:30. Come out and cheer on our 5th graders.



- Who:** Attendees include SJCS D school-selected student representatives, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. (Aside from school-based selection criteria, qualifying students must have a GPA of 2.0 or higher and demonstrate attributes of character counts).
- What:** This is a student-centered event highlighting physical education and character counts. Participants will compete in district elementary track and field events.
- When:** May 13, 2015 from 3:30-6:30
- Where:** The event will take place at St. Augustine High School.
- Details:** Parking for the event will be marked with signage. For safety, only students, coaches, and county-selected event volunteers will be allowed on the track and field. Students will be recognized following each event. Elementary school physical education (P.E.) teachers will serve as the school team leader for student teams. No cleats or spikes please.



We continue to accept donations as our local Girl Scout Troop is currently feeding 3 families each week by sending home a backpack of food. It truly does take a village. THANK YOU! Mrs. King



Are you using our parent portal Home Access Center (HAC)? This is a wonderful tool for parents and students to stay in the know of attendance, grades, assessments, change personal information, and much more! Previously, this was only offered to grades 3rd and higher but now you can see all students no matter what the grade level! We will host our re-registration process on this system later in the year so it's a great idea to get on and familiarize yourself with the system. If you are unsure what your username and password is please submit a request from your email on file to Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us

<https://parents.stjohns.k12.fl.us/HomeAccess/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fhomeaccess>





Saint Johns County Sheriff's Office

We are now accepting applications for:
School Crossing Guards

(This is a part-time seasonal position while school is in session)


For more information, contact HR at (904)-209-1565.

For a job description and application, please see our website www.sjso.org

Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug Free Workplace/Veteran's Preference


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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS for education

Get involved and make a positive impact within
our public education system.

5:30 P.M. AT REGIONS BANK LOCATIONS

April 2 • Julington Creek
April 14 • US 1 South
April 16 • Ponte Vedra
April 21 • Location TBA

April 23 • US 1 South
May 5 • Ponte Vedra
May 7 • CR 210
May 14 • US 1 South

What is it? Community Conversations for Education is a movement to bring together all of the stakeholder groups in St. Johns County in order to identify solutions for continuous improvement of public education for all students and a stronger, healthier county.

What it is not. Community Conversations for Education is not another study or competing strategy. It is a movement to enhance our school system by developing a sense of ownership by all groups to finding solutions that will drive results.

How can I help? Get involved by attending this official launch to enhance our public school system. This ongoing movement does not exist without the involvement of a supportive community.

RSVP (Seating is limited)
Contact 904.547.7120



Attendees will be
entered into a drawing
for a new bike.

ink!
investing in kids
our education foundation

Statistics

St. Johns County Public Schools



is the largest employer in St. Johns County with

4,046 employees



has

34,404 students



is ranked

First out of 67

school districts based on Florida Dept. of Education test scores



23 percent of students

qualify for free or reduced-price meals

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WIFFLE BALL CAMP!



June 8 - 11

9:00 am - noon

SJA High School: 155 SR 207 St. Augustine

Camp Objective:

Who's ready for some Wiffle ball? Join us for a week of it. All campers will develop fundamental skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship through Wiffle ball games, drills, drafts, and perhaps a post game interview... T-shirts and other prizes will be up for grabs along the way, as well as a chance for Wiffle glory. Visit wiffleworks.com for a look at our past Wiffle ball events!

***Cost: \$100 per camper (2 or more \$75 ea.) Ages: 5 - 14**

For registration/questions contact Nate Fudala:

nfudala@wiffleworks.com 513-535-4707

Student name: _____ Student grade (next fall): _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____ Emergency phone #: (____) _____

Shirt size: YM YL S M L XL 2XL

Camp tuition is \$100 a camper; \$75 each for 2 or more.
May pay on arrival. Checks made out to: **Wiffleworks** can be mailed to:

St. Joseph Academy Catholic High School
155 SR 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Refunds will only be granted at the beginning of camp*

WIFFLEWORKS WIFFLE BALL CAMP REGISTRATION

I waive and release the WIFFLEWORKS WIFFLE BALL CAMP REGISTRATION; it's coaches, volunteers, Saint Joseph Academy, Inc., the Diocese of St. Augustine, Bishop Felipe J. Estevez and Nathan Fudala from any and all liability from injury or illness incurred during participation in the WIFFLEWORKS WIFFLE BALL CAMP. I as a parent/ guardian have actual knowledge of and appreciate the particulars of the program and hereby voluntarily consent to said minor's participation, and assume the risks arising there from. I hereby give my permission for emergency medical treatment in the event I cannot be reached. **Information contained in these materials are neither sponsored by nor endorsed by the School Board of St. Johns County, its agents or its employees.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____