



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 Nov-Dec 2015

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OUR VISION IS TO: Be a school Where Children Excel by developing leaders with 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,

This is the time of year where we look back on all we have enjoyed and look forward to exciting days ahead. Christmas Break marks the midpoint of the year and it will be here before you know it! This year, our PTO has provided a wonderful Fall Festival and most recently a heel-kicking Denim & Diamonds for our mothers and sons. Our Leadership Day was a huge success as our students did an amazing job showcasing their greatness for our guests. The Literacy Parade was a hit, with all our readers dressing as a book character for the parade. And those are just a few of the school wide celebrations. Let's not overlook all the day to day learning and growing in all our classrooms! I am in awe each day as I visit classrooms and see the strength of instruction and the enthusiasm of learning.

Looking ahead, we have our Thanksgiving Food Drive, our Giving Tree Holiday collection, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Data & Donuts student-led conferences, some great Field Studies, and many, many more grade level events. Please visit our website frequently to keep up with all the wonderful things happening at Wards Creek. We love our families and want your participation in the varied events throughout the year.

Edie Jarrell

ESE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

St Johns County Schools (SJCS), The ARC,
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and Agency for Persons with
Disabilities (APD) offer

Topic: **TRANSITION PLANNING**

Date/Time: 12/1/15 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: Creekside High School - 100 Knights Lane, St. Johns, FL 32259

Target Audience:

- Parents of students with disabilities
- Students with disabilities age 14 and up
- Secondary teachers of students with disabilities

The purpose of the committee is to provide input to district staff regarding our ongoing effort to continuously improve services for students with disabilities.

Parents, Educators, Administrators, & Business Representatives are invited and encouraged to attend.

PTO Update

Ready, Set, Glow!

Wards Creek PTO has joined with Mill Creek PTO and Pacetti PTSO to sponsor a 5k race and fun run, to support education in World Golf Village on the night of April 1st. Registration will cost \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students. The fun run will be \$10.00 for kids and parents will be free. The price includes a t-shirt and a medal for kids. The proceeds will be split between Wards Creek, Mill Creek and Pacetti. So get off the sofa, dust off your running shoes, and start training.

Denim and Diamonds, the first mother/son dance was a fun night. We have some boys at WCE that made their momma's proud on the dance floor. Thank you all for coming and thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Hope you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ricke Ricciardelli
President
WCE PTO

Counselor's Corner

Did you know that the Wards Creek guidance website (<http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/>) has many resources available to parents? If you have any questions regarding 504 plans, the RTI/MTSS process or FSA testing there is information available on the website.

Also, please feel free to contact Mrs. Adolf at (904)547-8743 or Leanne.Adolf@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Also, if you or your family are looking for counseling resources, there are several links that provide local counselors and the insurance accepted. There is also information available if you are looking at grief counseling.

Thanks,

Leanne Adolf
Guidance Counselor



A Note from Our ILC: Christa Ritchie



Last month, I discussed the importance of reading for children at home. This month, I would like to discuss another piece of Literacy that is near my heart- Classroom Libraries. Over the next year, Wards Creek will be dedicating time and money to enhance our classroom libraries. Our hope is that each classroom will have an area that is dedicated to children being surrounded with books. You might wonder why?

- Recent studies on literacy confirm what educators have known for years: the more contact children have with books, the better readers they become. Teachers can promote better reading performance by reading to children daily and by having them interact with books through the extensive use of classroom libraries.
- Fountas and Pinnell (1996) recommend a collection of about 300-600 books, depending on the grade level and number of copies of each title. Their calculations estimate that teachers should expect first-graders to read about 100-125 books during the school year, and older children, who are likely to read longer books, 50-75 books for the year.

If you would like to read more about the importance of a Literacy-Building Classroom Library please google- The Importance of the Classroom Library by Susan Neuman or stop by my office for a copy.

"The importance of reading as an avenue to improved reading has been stressed by theorists, researchers, and practitioners alike, no matter what their perspectives. There are few ideas more widely accepted than that reading is learned through reading."

– National Reading Panel, 2000

BE A BOX TOPS LEADER

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND
Our School Goal is 45, 000 Box Tops



Help your
class team
REACH
their goal
and WIN

BE PROACTIVE

**SEND IN YOUR BOX TOP'S BY THE 15TH
OF EVERY MONTH IN A BAGGIE**

Extended Day 2015/16:

Registration for Extended Day 2015/16 school year began on August 3rd. You can come by the school from 8:00-4:00 and register your child. The registration fee is \$75.00 per child. The first month's payment will be due at time of registration. See the below schedule of fees for the due date and dates that the payment covers.

Payment #	Due	Payment covers care through-
1	Aug 1st	Aug. 10th - Sept. 2nd
2	Aug. 15th	Sept. 3rd - Sept. 29th
3	Sept. 15th	Sept. 30th - October 26th
4	Oct. 15th	Oct. 27th - Nov. 20th
5	Nov.15th	Nov. 23rd - Dec. 18th
6	Dec. 15th	Jan. 6th - Feb. 1st
7	Jan. 15th	Feb. 2nd - March 1st
8	Feb. 15th	March 2nd - April 5th
9	March 15th	April 6th - May 2nd
10	April 15th	May 3rd - May 26th

If you have any questions, please contact Casie Messenger at (904)547-8730 or casie.messenger@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Wards Creek Elementary Home Access Center (HAC) Account Registration Instructions



Accessing Home Access Center (HAC) for the first time (applies to new users and existing Parent Assistant (PA) users):

1. **If you have a current PA account**, you can use the same Username and Password to login to HAC. Enter your Username and Password at the new HAC website:
<http://parents.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac>
 2. **How to get a Home Access Center account (for new users who do not have a Parent Assistant (PA) account):**
 - a. Parents/Guardians can then register online:
 - i. <http://parents.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac>
 - ii. At the Home Access Center Login screen, click "here" below the statement, "If you do not have a username and password...."
 - iii. At the Home Access Center User Registration:
 1. Enter your First name, Last name, City and Zip Code as it appears in eSchoolPlus
 - a. Standard City spellings include: Saint Augustine, East Palatka, Ponte Vedra, Ponte Vedra Beach, Elkton, Jacksonville, Saint Johns, Hastings and Fruit Cove
 2. Then click the Register button
 3. (next screen) Then create your Username (using your email address)
 4. Then create two challenge questions (something detailed only you would know) (Example: What was your first car?)
 5. Review and accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy
 6. Click the Finish button
 - iv. Click the link in your HAC email to create your HAC password
 - v. A webpage will load with your challenge questions. After you answer your challenge questions, you will then be able to create your password, (please use at least eight characters including a number or special character)
 - vi. You can now login to HAC using your new Username and Password
3. **If you have forgotten your Password:**
 - a. On the login screen, click the "forgot my username or password" link
 - b. At the Forgotten Username or Password screen, enter your email address on file
 - c. Then click the "submit" button
 - d. An email will be sent to you with a web link to a HAC challenge question
 - e. After you answer the challenge questions correctly, you will be able to view your Username or reset your password. (You cannot change your Username once set)

If you have trouble creating a HAC user account, please contact Mrs. King at Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us

News from the Clinic

BOOSTING your Little One's Immune System during Cold & Flu Season

With Cold & Flu Season upon us, I wanted to and give you some tips from the clinic on boosting your little one's immune system.

- Hand washing is the simplest and one of the most effective ways to keep from getting colds or giving them to others.

- Good Nutrition: There is a huge correlation between adequate nutrition, immune balance and resistance to infection.
 - Vitamin deficiencies = decreased immunity
 - Food sensitivities and allergies = compromised intestinal barrier = decreased immunity
 - Processed foods, chemicals in foods, irritate and cause inflammation in the intestines = decreased immunity
 - Limit refined sugars. Sugar can suppress your immune system and impair your defenses against infectious disease. 1 teaspoon of sugar suppresses your child's immune function by 50% for 24-48 hours.
 - Avoid food additives, colorings, MSG, ingredients you can't pronounce: Tartrazine, benzoic acid, carmollic acid, sulfur dioxide, caramel colour, sodium nitrate, BHT, BHA, Red 2G, blue dyes, all yellow dyes.

- Ensure adequate elimination: drink lots of water, make sure your child is having regular bowel movements and good digestion to help the body metabolize and eliminate unwanted toxins and pathogens

Any questions, feel free to call me, stop by or email me anytime!

Technology Bytes

By: Dana Smith and Debbie Battaglino

Have You Had “The Talk” With Your Child?

No, not THAT talk. But it’s a very important “talk” that needs to be had with your technology using children...

In school we hear about children searching YouTube on a daily basis. As you may or may not know there are many inappropriate videos on YouTube. When searching a seemingly innocent topic, children may come across something not so innocent. There are some not-so-nice people who name videos with innocent sounding names to get people to look at their videos.

Of course that also happens when children are searching the Internet to find out about school topics or other topics of interest. Unfortunately there are more of those not-so-nice people that again title their articles with innocent sounding names in hopes of luring in children, and unsuspecting adults.

So what should we do about it? Experts advise keeping the computer in a public place in the home so that an adult is always around to supervise activity on the computer. We also need to teach our children to notify us immediately if they do accidentally access an inappropriate site so that we can contact our Internet service provider in hopes that they’ll remove the link.

Common Sense Media provides excellent suggestions for these and many other topics that will provide you with important information in helping keep our children safe as they navigate the technology superhighways.

Here are a few of the articles you may be interested in reading on the following website:
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Cyberbullies, Haters, and Trolls

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/cyberbullying>

How Much is Too Much? Setting Screen Time Limits

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/screen-time>

Is the Door Locked? Privacy Settings and Internet Safety

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/privacy-and-interent-safety>

Is Your Child a Social Butterfly? Social Media, Texting, and Messaging

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>



This November, Safety Leaders will host our annual food drive for needy families. Safety Leaders will collect, sort, and make boxes for each family in need. We will collect food at the morning drop off time from November 16th-20th.

If your family is in need of assistance or you know of a family that may need assistance please contact Mrs. King @ Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Donation Item Ideas:

- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy
- Canned Vegetables or Fruit
- Cake Mix or fixings for a pie
- Apple juice or other juice
- Any other treats your family enjoys!

SPONSOR A BOX!

A sponsor box will help feed a family of four to five at a cost of \$40 for the Holidays. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please complete the sponsor donation form below.

Sponsor a Box for a Family in Need!

I would like to partner with the WCE Safety Leaders to help support needy families over the Holidays. Here is my tax-deductible gift.

Please complete this form below and send it to school with your child or to:

Wards Creek Safety Leaders Sponsor A Box!

Attn: Mrs. King
6555 SR 16
Saint Augustine, FL 32092
904-547-8755

My Gift \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*** Please make checks payable to Wards Creek Elementary ***

Warrior Highlights!

Cool Kindergarten

The kindergartners demonstrated that even the youngest students can have leadership skills. Together, with the fifth grade students, they synergized to make Native American costumes for their annual kindergarten Poems and Pies Thanksgiving presentation. Every year, the kindergarten students are excited to be able to stand on the stage in the cafeteria and sing songs and recite poems for their families. They get to roar like bears, howl like wolves, and beat their thighs like drums. The stage is filled with little children wearing feather hats that have things they are thankful for written on them, colorful noodle necklaces, and the Native American T-shirts. The T-shirts are first dyed brown and then fringed on the sleeves and along the bottom. Then the fifth-graders and kindergartners stamp paint Native American symbols on the shirts. The kindergarten teachers find the fifth-graders help a Win-Win because painting T-shirts with non-washable paint is a difficult task with so many little ones! Teachers love the help and the fifth-graders love spending time with the kindergartners and the kindergartners love the fifth graders, the painting, and the final product. Given all of those leadership habits though, the kindergartners favorite part is eating the cookies and pies with their parents after the show!

Excellent ESE!

The ESE department would like to welcome a few new faces to our team. Ms. Courtney Loux and Mr. Tom Pisani are the newest paraprofessionals in the ESE classrooms. Last month Dawn Smythe left us and Ms. Megan Hydeman has been hired as the lead teacher in her place. Make sure to give them a warm warrior welcome if you see them around campus!

Fabulous First Grade!

First graders did an amazing job performing at Leadership Day this year under the direction of Mrs. Fuata and some of her ukulele players. The first grade teachers are very proud of all the students for practicing their leadership song and getting up and singing in front of a large crowd.

Also, First grade is traveling to the Fountain of Youth on November 19th to learn about the rich history of St. Augustine through explorations in the Indian Village, Planetarium, Discovery Globe and cannon fire. The students are looking to compare and contrast life in the past with life today.

News from the Art Room

Dear Warrior Families,

Thank you so much for supporting the Square 1 Art fundraiser! Not only has your order helped raise funds to purchase art supplies, it has contributed to boosting the self-esteem of your child by allowing them to see their very own artwork printed on personalized keepsakes. What a great way to cherish those childhood memories. In case you missed the fundraiser, there are 3 ways to place a later order:

1. Online at Square1Art.com/Shop and enter the access code listed on your child's catalog.
2. Email Customer Care at Service@Square1Art.com
3. Call Customer Care at 888.332.3294

Thanks again for your support and supporting your child's interest in the visual arts!

Super Second Grade

November is a very busy month for second graders, especially the week of Thanksgiving. On Monday, November 23, parents are invited to come and visit in their children's classrooms from 8:00 to 8:30 for our annual Data & Donuts. Children are excited to share their Leadership Notebooks with their parents. Children can show their missions statement, goals for the year, and goals for the quarter. They can also show how they track their own progress towards meeting those goals. The second grade teachers are hoping that each child has a parent/adult present with whom to share the Leadership Notebook.

On Tuesday, November 24, the children will participate in an hour long presentation about the Timucuan Indians. They will learn about how the Timucuan people lived - food they ate, games they played, etc. Then the children will be divided into "clans" and participate in a variety of hands-on activities that will allow them to experience what it was like to be a Timucuan child. Two classes of students will participate at a time. Parent volunteers are needed to help with the hands-on activities.

Finally, on Wednesday, November 25, it's the second grade WOW day! The children will rotate through the resource classes while the teachers meet with administration.

The fabulous second grade team of teachers would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. We are so thankful to have the privilege of working with your children every day at school.

Warrior Highlights!

Terrific Third Grade: Leaders With Character

We are very proud of our Third Grade Warriors who were elected by their peers for exhibiting good character.

These are the students for
October: Responsibility

From Mrs. Lawless' Class- **Abby Miller and Madeline Boyle**

From Mrs. Oswald's Class- **Hunter Brock**

From Mrs. Allen & Ms. Jacobs' Class- **Madilyn Longo**

From Mrs. Jarriel's Class- **Bailey Malicki**

From Mrs. Lareau's Class- **Taylor Raymond**

From Mrs. Klein's Class - **Kaitlyn Manucy**

From Mrs. Truelove's Class- **James McCarthy**

From Mrs. Blaylock's Class- **Emily Barone**

From Mr. Milite's Class- **Preston Town**

Warrior Highlights!

News from the P.E. Hut

It is time for the Junior River Run club sign-up. If you are in 3rd - 5th grade and would like to become a better runner and participate in a 1 mile fun run, see Coach Henson for a sign-up form. I will give you more information about this club opportunity during P.E. class. Sign-up forms are due back to Coach Henson by December 7th in order to join the club and receive the free club training shirt. Training is on Monday's and Wednesday's after school, starting January 11th. See you soon!

Fantastic Fourth Grade!

The fourth grade team would like to welcome Mrs. Thoresen as the new associate teacher in Ms. Hagan's classroom. Mrs. Thoresen is no stranger to the fourth grade team as she helped launch the year with another fourth grade class. Mrs. Thoresen has also been a highly-valued substitute teacher at WCES and her experiences as a Warrior parent make her an invaluable asset to the team. Welcome Mrs. Thoresen! ☺

Phenomenal Fifth Grade!

This year the 5th grade teachers dressed up as figurative language and participated in the Literacy Parade. As a part of the language arts standards, students are required to determine the meaning of different types of figurative language in context. Let's see if you can figure out what these mean as you match them to the picture below!

- I wear my heart on my sleeve.
- It's raining cats and dogs.
- I am feeling under the weather.
- All eyes on me.
- I am a copycat.
- When life hands you lemons.
- I feel like I am on cloud nine.
- It is a blessing in disguise.
- I am a smarty pants.



Be sure to check out page 15 for 5th grade's Service Learning Project!

Kindergarten Team and 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!

Third Grade Service Project

****Clinic Supplies****

Help Nurse Kalem keep Warriors healthy and happy!

You may send in donated items with your child, or drop them off at the clinic. Please mention our 3rd grade service project. Our student leaders will use graphs to keep track of items donated, in order to adjust the supply list as needed. Thank you for supporting our WCE clinic and the 3rd grade service project!

Clinic Needs:

Food Stuff *(These items are listed in the priority/quantity of need . The top three items need replenishing regularly.)*

- **Small** water bottles (only **mini** water bottles, please)
- Goldfish
- Animal crackers
- Children's protein bars (suggestion: K bars made by Clif Bars)
- Gluten free children's bars (Kind bars, Lara and Luna bars have some gluten free)
- Small (4 oz.) apple juice boxes
- Small (4 oz.) variety juice boxes
- Nut free cookies (shelf stable only - suggestion: *Duo Cookies* that are individually packaged nut free cookies)
- Squeeze apple sauce
- Go Picnic brand gluten free shelf stable snack/lunch packs
- Gluten free beef and turkey jerky (must not need to be refrigerated)
- Snack pack pudding (not refrigerated)

Clinic Needs: Additional needs

- Clorox wipes
- GOOD sandwich size Ziploc bags. I cannot use dollar store bags, they leak.
- Alcohol prep pads
- Ace bandages
- Any EUC arm slings that people might have that they are no longer using



WCES First Annual 5th Grade

"From the , to the 

Book Swap

Fifth grade will be collecting used books from now until February for our book swap.

We are looking for gently used books for readers from birth to fifth grade - any and all genres! So clean off your bookshelves, empty your attics, and tell your neighbors! Send in your books TODAY!

Books should be brought to your child's classroom and placed in "house" bins. Fifth grade students will come and collect the donations weekly.

The Book Swap will be held on:
February 18th, 19th, and 20th

Donations from 10¢ - \$1.00 will be accepted per book. All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association.

Thank you for your books!

American Heart Association



Learn and Live...



Platinum Business Partners



KEN BERRY, B.S.N., D.C.

- SHORT TERM CARE FOR PAIN
- WALK INS WELCOME
- NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
- PAIN RELIEF IS OUR GOAL

904-940-0361

WWW.THEVILLAGECHIROPRACTOR.COM



Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade.

And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

It is important that your child arrive at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 am. Please make sure your child arrives at school by **8:25 am** so that they can be in their classroom ready to learn by 8:30 am. If you child is absent please send a note or email within 48 hours of returning to school.

**Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement.*

This Year We

GO

BIG

WE ARE RECYCLING BIG
TO EARN BIG!

DONATE LASER PRINTER CARTRIDGES
TO HELP US EARN TOWARDS OUR GOAL!



FOR MORE INFO VISIT RECYCLINGFACTORY.COM