



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 Dec.-Jan. 2014/15

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### 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!

**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.

## Jarrell's Journal

Hi Warrior Families,

What a wonderful year we are having. It's hard to believe we are almost to the half-way point! I am enjoying my time in the classrooms, watching your children grow and learn. It is so joyful to hear them speak about their thinking and share the strategies they are using to solve problems and understand new concepts. Our teachers invest so much of themselves in the development of their lessons and I learn something in each class I visit!

Goal-setting is a part of every student's leadership notebook. At the mid-point of the year, our students will be reviewing their goals and tracking their progress. As we enter the 2nd half of our year, I hope you will continue to encourage your child and celebrate their successes. They are working hard and mastering so many critical concepts each and every day.

This time of year is filled with family, travel, and celebrations. I hope you will make school a priority. When a student misses a day of school, that learning is lost. Many of our lessons involve discussions and partner work. These tasks cannot be replicated outside of the classroom. We see a strong correlation between student success and attendance. Please help us meet your child's learning needs by having them present each day!

From all of us at Wards Creek Elementary, we wish you a joyful holiday break full of all the things you love.

Edie Jarrell, Learning Leader



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### December

- 8 - SAC meeting
- 9 - Group, club, team pictures
- 11 - Holiday Luncheon - 1st, 3rd, 5th
- 18 - Chorus performance
- 19 - Early Dismissal - 1:50

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### January

- 5 - Planning Day - no school for students
- 6 - Students return to school
- 9 - Report Cards

## 2014-2015 School Spelling Bee

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, our fifth grade team conducted our annual WCES School Spelling Bee. Two contestants from every homeroom, who had qualified through their class spelling bees competed to be the top speller and the opportunity to represent our school at the 2015 District Spelling Bee. This year, Katie Maletta placed first in the bee, followed by McKenzie Adams. Katie will represent WCES at the District Spelling Bee in January.



R.J. Murray Middle School Center for the Arts will be accepting online applications for the 2015-2016 school year beginning December 11th until February 2nd. Parents may visit our school website for additional information about our program. Auditions will take place on February 2nd.

Application for our Cambridge Advanced Studies Program and AVID will open February 23, 2015.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call MMS. Thank you!!

## School Advisory Council

The Wards Creek School Advisory Council mission is to serve as a bridge in order to best advocate for children, communicate with families, educate our community, to strengthen our Wards Creek family and inspire a legacy of leaders.

The purpose of SAC is to assist the principal in preparing the annual School Improvement Plan and to subsequently evaluate the results of that plan. SAC also assists the principal with the annual school budget. SAC is also one way that parents can voice their concerns to the administration.

By Florida law, SAC is constructed to represent all segments of a school's community - parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, business people, and other interested community members. SAC operates in accordance with the "Sunshine Law" and anyone can attend any SAC meeting. SAC meets on the second Monday of each month through the school year at 6:30pm. SAC members are encouraged to bring forth issues and offer suggestions toward improving our school at each meeting. Council agendas, minutes, and notices for meetings are posted on our school's webpage.

The current SAC membership is posted on our school's website. If you have a question, concern, or suggestion for the continued improvement of our excellent school, please contact one of your SAC representatives.

## Note from our ILC

Dear Families of Wards Creek Elementary,

I hope you all have enjoyed the cooler weather and have used it as an excuse to cuddle up with a great book! This month I will continue to share information about the Florida Standards, Anchor Standards for Reading. (Just a reminder: These are the standards that guide Kindergarten through 12th grade students in becoming college and career ready.) Last month I shared Standard Eight. This month we will examine Standard Nine of The Florida Standards for Reading. Anchor Standard Nine reads:

*Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.*

This standard applies to both literature and information texts. First graders are working toward this standard by comparing and contrasting the adventures and experiences of characters in stories and identifying basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures). This standard continues to progress throughout the grades. In fourth grade students are asked to compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures and integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. These examples show how the standard build upon itself as progresses through the grades. This standard calls for students to read a wide variety of books and begin to look across those books to consider different authors' perspectives on topics and themes.

To support your child in achieving this standard, consider asking your child the following questions about what they are reading:

- Does this book remind you of any other book you've read?
- How is the book similar or different than other books with the same topic or theme?
- Are there any other books that you'd like to read after reading this book?

Encourage your child to read multiple books on the same theme and to track their reading on a reading log. This will allow student to look back at their reading and help them compare books they have read. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and keep a look out for next month when we will look at the tenth and final Anchor Standard for Reading.

Happy Reading,  
Claire Riddell  
Claire.Riddell@stjohns.k12.fl.us  
(904) 547-8747

# “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




# Platinum Business Partners



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*Attorney & Counselor at Law*

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**World Golf Village**  
46 Tuscan Way, Suite 304  
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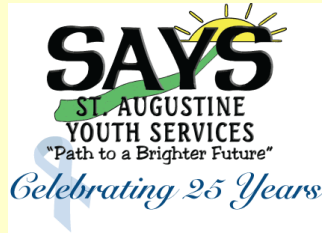


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## Press Release

November 1, 2014

Robin Burchfield, Director of Development

904-501-1920 (cell) 904-829-1770 (office)

robinb@sayskids.org -- www.sayskids.org

### 3rd Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K and Santa's Gift Gallery

The **Third Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5K**, to benefit St. Augustine Youth Services (SASY), is a walk/jog/run that will be held on December 13, 2014 starting at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Park at 8am. The race follows a flat 3.1 mile course through St. Augustine Beach neighborhoods. Just imagine over 300 Santa's heading out for a run – it's a wonderful sight to see! Registration begins at 6:30am. Entry fee is \$35 per person. A Santa Suit is guaranteed to the first 300 adult registrants. Children will receive a Santa-inspired T-shirt.

There's plenty of time to sign up as a sponsor and receive recognition now and on race day. Go to [www.sayskids.org/santa](http://www.sayskids.org/santa) for more information. New this year is the **Community and Corporate Team Challenge**. You can gather your neighbors, co-workers, friend and relatives to form a team. Receive bragging rights and a traveling trophy for registering the most participants. For more information or to register online, visit [www.racesmith.com](http://www.racesmith.com) or email [santasuitsontheloose@gmail.com](mailto:santasuitsontheloose@gmail.com) for any questions.

An addition to race packet pick-up on Friday, December 12 is **Santa's Gift Gallery**. This event will feature 20 vendors displaying handmade crafts in a festive family atmosphere under the pavilion at the St. Augustine Beach Pier Park. Bring your kids and cameras to take photos with Santa. Hours are from 5:00-8:00pm. This will be the perfect opportunity to purchase hand-crafted gifts for friends, family and teachers. Complimentary hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Visit [www.sayskids.org/santa](http://www.sayskids.org/santa) to register as a vendor. Contact Julie Wesling at 904-377-6696 or [julie.wesling@gmail.com](mailto:julie.wesling@gmail.com) for additional information. SAYS, a residential therapeutic group home for boys ages 6-17 who have experienced severe emotional trauma, is celebrating 25 years of serving children.

SAYS ~ 201 Simone Way ~ St. Augustine, FL 32086 ~ 904-829-1770 ~  
www.sayskids.org



Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
(904) 547-7500  
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough  
District 1

Tommy Allen  
District 2

Bill Mignon  
District 3

Kelly Barrera  
District 4

Patrick Canan  
District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2014

TO: All Department Heads, Principals, Directors, Executive Directors,  
Principals, Managers and Supervisors

FROM: Brennan Asplen, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources *BA*

SUBJECT: Equity News

Attached is a revised Equity Contact Notice. Please **post this notice**. Students and staff must be informed about who to contact for equity concerns. It is also very important that parents, students and staff have knowledge of this information. The revised notice includes the nondiscrimination policy for Boy Scouts of America.

This notice must be posted in multiple locations as well as your School/Department bulletin board and should be placed in each school's newsletter once or twice a year.

Please discard any old equity notices.

Attachment

c: Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools  
Martha Mickler, Deputy Superintendent for Academic Services  
Equity Committee Members



## NOTICE

St. Johns County School District prohibits discrimination against students, employees and applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, disability, political or religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin and political beliefs.

In accordance with the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 20 U.S.C. § 7905, the School Board shall not deny equal access to District facilities or discriminate against the Boy Scouts of America or any youth group listed in Title 36A patriotic society.

The St. Johns County School District Board Policy 2.16 contains the grievance procedure related to harassment and discrimination for employees, students, and applicants.

If you believe that you have been harassed or discriminated against contact the  
School Administration

Or

A member of the Equity Committee

Equity Committee Members

Rhoda Ferrell 547-7602  
Equity Coordinator/Committee Chairperson

Scott Sherman 547-7684  
Joann Johnson 547-7642  
George Leidigh 547-4860  
Lisa Bell 547-7537

St. Johns County School District  
40 Orange Street  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

A copy of Policy 2.16 can be found at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us) Rules and Policies or at each school location including the District Office at 40 Orange Street