



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 Dec-Jan 2015-2016

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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,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Giving Tree project. This Wards Creek tradition provides gifts for children in our community. This opportunity is such a wonderful way for our students to experience the joy of giving! Thanks to your generosity, 50 children will have an array of gifts under their tree.

Unbelievably, we are at the halfway mark of our school year. We have seen so much growth in our students and look forward to continuing to help them reach their full potential.

I hope your family has a lovely Winter Break. Please remember that we dismiss at 1:50 on Friday, December 18th and return to school on Wednesday, January 6th.

Grateful to serve,

Edie Jarrell, Principal

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**

PTO Update

This month we were happy to once again serve PTO's "traditional" Christmas luncheon. Nothing better than four choices of hot soup and Dale's absolutely scrumptious grilled cheese.

We've been watching the presents coming in for the Giving Tree. Once again, our families helping others is so heartwarming.

Coming up in January is our large fundraiser for WCE --Boosterthon! Door decorating contest begins January 7th, pep rally January 12th, and the fun run will be on January 22nd. The theme this year is Big World Recess, building character through world sports.

We hope all of you are in training for the First Annual 5k: Ready, Set, Glow Run on April 1st. This is a joint fundraiser with Wards Creek, Mill Creek and Pacetti. We're betting WCE brings home more medals!

All of your WCE PTO Board members wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Stay safe,

Ricke Ricciardelli
President
WCE PTO

Counselor's Corner

With the Holidays approaching, many emotions can be stirred up among both children and adults. Did you know that our health is impacted by our emotions? As we deal with the hustle and bustle of the holidays quickly approaching, we deal with a range of emotions, both positive and negative. Individuals have different reactions to the holiday season, as they travel, buy gifts, plan parties, spend time with family, and cope with loss. Positive reactions boost our health and may include laughing, smiling, and an overall sense of joy, while negative reactions lower our immune response. These negative reactions can include grieving, feeling an overall sense of stress or anxiety, and depression.

As we go through these emotions, it is important to check not only on our own well-being, but also our children's well-being. Children often sense how we are feeling, and exhibit their own reactions. It is important to take time to discuss with your children how they are feeling. If your family is going through a difficult time, due to loss, there are many community resources available to assist you.

Community Hospice and Haven Hospice are two great resources. These organizations help families reflect on their loss, cope with grief reactions, and restore hope. To promote health and an overall sense of well-being, it is important to focus our energy on positive activities. Letting go of any negative thoughts that you have about a stressful situation can help keep you strong and healthy during the holidays.

Leanne Adolf
Guidance Counselor

A Note from Our ILC: Christa Ritchie



Recently, Wards Creek Elementary teachers have received additional training on Growth Mind Set. Carol Dweck from Stanford University states, in a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success – without effort. They're wrong.

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

As parents and educators, we must begin to teach children resiliency and a growth mind set. I know sometimes it is hard to see children have challenges but teaching children to overcome these challenges actually creates the neurons in their brains to function at a higher rate.

We will be hosting a PIE (Parent Informational Evening) night after the holidays and one of our sessions will be how to talk to our children using the growth mind set model. Just by what we say to our children will create resiliency and a growth mind set. Did you know that Michael Jordan failed many times before he became a super basketball player and that almost all highly successful people will attribute their success to overcoming challenges versus sheer talent? We hope you will attend this very informative night.

Please also check out this incredible article titled, "Not a Math Person: How to Remove Obstacles to Learning Math." It shares how the growth mind set will allow our children to soar in mathematics. <http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/11/30/not-a-math-person-how-to-remove-obstacles-to-learning-math/>

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



Technology Bytes

By: Debbie Battaglini & Dana Smith



The Good, the Bad, the Dangerous

Gone are the days when a cell phone was a rite of passage, when teenagers were presented with their first mobile device along with a strict usage policy established by their cautious parents. Today, we see digital devices in the hands of toddlers and elementary age youngsters downloading apps as freely as they change the channel on the television in the family room.

As today's busy parents quickly glance at the screen of their child's device what they see appears to be safe enough. The apps' icons are cute little caricatures or innocent looking calculator images. But things are not always as they appear and the world of free apps that have been purposefully designed to hide or camouflage something more sinister are abundant and constantly growing.

No longer is the right question, "Should I check my child's phone?" but rather, "How often should I check their phone and the resources that identify the dangerous apps that lurk in the Google and iTunes store?"

In order to keep their children safe in this digital world, parents must maintain a constant vigil of this ever changing landscape and how their children are using their personal devices.

Here are some examples that many kids are savvy to that are designed to hide apps or photos:

App-Hide
KeepSafe
Vault
Smart Hide Calculator
Secret Calculator
Calculator-Hide
Applocker

***NOTE:** Apps can also be hidden via the settings of the phone!
You can Google instructions on how to do this – that’s how your kids find out!

So what can you do to keep up with what your children are already finding out? Here are some great websites to get you started:

Tips for buying the right apps for your children-

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/article-6-tips-for-buying-children%27s-apps.html>

Cell phone parenting

<https://www.common sense media.org/cell-phone-parenting>

Popular social Media websites

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/15-apps-and-websites-kids-are-heading-to-after-facebook>

Kik Messenger Parental reviews

<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/kik-messenger/user-reviews/adult>

App reviews

<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews>

The BOTTOM LINE: Check your child’s device often. Search the web for apps that pop up every day that provide the means for your child to engage in secretive and possibly dangerous social interaction.



Warrior Highlights!

Cool Kindergarten

This month Kindergarten will be having fun celebrating Christmas around the world. Our awesome students will rotate through each Kindergarten class and learn the different holidays and traditions of 7 different countries. The countries we will be learning about are: Israel, Mexico, Germany, Australia, England, France, and of course, our very own United States. We will also be celebrating the holidays "Grinch-style". We will wear our PJ's and listen to our very own Mrs. Jarrell read Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas to ALL of our wonderful Kindergarten students. What a fun way to begin winter break!

Fabulous First Grade!

Data & Doughnuts is Wednesday, December 16th starting at 8:00 am for First Grade parents. Please come by your child's classroom to listen to them discuss their data with your thus far in the school year. Following the event, approved volunteers are asked to help with the Pancake Breakfast to celebrate the season. Please see your child's teacher for specifics on what volunteer work is needed.

Excellent ESE!

Studies abound about how parent involvement is a key component in a child's successful learning experience. Yet, it is often difficult to support your child's educational experience when you lack the knowledge you need to provide this support. In effort to better inform parents about exceptional student education in Florida, the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FLDRS) has launched a new Parent Involvement Website.

This helpful site is designed to help parents navigate through exceptional student education (ESE), covering Pre-K through transition to college and or career. Valuable information presented on this site includes: information geared to various grade levels; contact lists for school districts, parent centers, and related agencies; a glossary of terms; and success stories. As always, if you have any specific questions or concerns you can contact one of our ESE teachers via e-mail and will receive a response within 24 hours!

(Adapted from St. Johns School District Website)

Super Second Grade

One of the second grade teachers' favorite projects is the Winter Story project. Each child chooses a "wintery" book on their level and gets it approved by their teacher. Then they practice, practice, practice, reading their book as they will be reading it to the rest of their class.

The presentations may include costumes, props, and something that goes along with their story to pass out to their classmates. That might be a word search from words found in their story or some other game, or it might be a sweet treat!

This project helps build the reading skills of fluency and reading with expression, as well as public speaking skills. These are all very important skills as well as second grade standards that must be mastered.

The wonderful second grade team of teachers would like to wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season. Whatever holiday you celebrate we hope you are surrounded by family and friends. After a much needed rest for all of us, we will look forward to seeing all the second graders NEXT YEAR!! (Wednesday, January 6th!)

Warrior Highlights!

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 the **November: Citizenship** ~

From Mrs. Lawless' Class- **Emily McGlasson**

From Mrs. Oswald's Class- **Cassidy Sakraida**

From Mrs. Allen & Ms. Jacobs' Class- **Kayla Stockwell**

From Mrs. Jarriel's Class- **Judah Allen**

From Mrs. Lareau's Class- **Leonardo Fernandez-Veraud**

From Mrs. Klein's Class - **Hisham Ahmad**

From Mrs. Truelove's Class- **Claire Maffett**

From Mrs. Blaylock's Class- **Richmond Farmer**

From Mr. Milite's Class- **Jacob Salinger**

Warrior Highlights!

News from the P.E. Hut

If you signed up for the Junior River Run Training, Junior River Run Practice starts on January 11, 2016. Monday's 3:00 – 3:20 and Wednesday's 2:00 – 2:20. I look forward to training you in becoming better runners!

Art Room News

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Square One Art fundraiser this year! The artists of WCES appreciate your support!

Fantastic Fourth Grade!

Winter is a time for fun, family and friends. Winter reminds us of peace, harmony, favorite foods, family gatherings, snowy nights, the warmth of the fireplace, and so much more. It is also a time for great family and children's stories.

Many fourth grade classes are participating in a Winter Story telling project that allows students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate text, while utilizing a variety of learning preferences such as visualizing, creating, and movement. Through this project, students also have an opportunity to effectively apply listening and speaking strategies. The Winter Story telling project also supports several 4th grade Florida Standards in English Language Arts as well as Speaking and Listening. This is a fun and creative project where students can have a great time, and enjoy the world of words found in children's literature!

Phenomenal Fifth Grade!

Fifth grade students participated in class spelling bees this month. The following students represented their classes in the 5th grade spelling bee which was held on November 20th.

Ava Gryzmkowski
Amanda DeLeon-Marrero
Isabella Williams
Caitlin Lasswell
Preston Shields
Grace Smith
Raigen Howe
Chris Lynch
Nicholas Rodillas
Abbie Eisen
Kaitlyn Williams
Max Grzymkowski
Bryant Weber
Irye Jefferson
Emma Reed



Caitlin (left) and Raigen (right) are pictured with their 5th Grade teachers, Mrs. Zikos (far left) and Ms. Boardway (far right).

Caitlin Lasswell won the Wards Creek 5th grade spelling bee and Raigen Howe received runner-up. Caitlin will be competing in the St. Johns County District Spelling Bee in January! We are so proud of all of our students. Congratulations Caitlin and good luck!

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 the Clinic 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 your 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

Media Release

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www.stjohns.k12.fl.us



December 10, 2015

The CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee is calling all walkers, runners and fitness enthusiasts to participate in the CHARACTER COUNTS! 6 Pillars 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive, St. Augustine.

Walkers and runners will enjoy a scenic course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) distance. Registration fees are as follows:

6K-\$25 before January 1, \$30 January 1-February 5, \$35 on race day
 3K-\$20 before January 1, \$25 January 1-February 5, \$30 on race day

Registration forms and more information are available online at
www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html.

Race proceeds will support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS). The run/walk is open to all ages, and the top three winners will be awarded in each of the age categories as well as the overall male and female finishers. A cash donation will be awarded to the top three schools with the most registrants. All race registrants will receive a tech t-shirt and lots of other goodies from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative dog tag which will be the first design in its series.

This event is produced by the CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee and is presented by Beaver Toyota Scion with support from businesses and community groups. The SJCS, along with area businesses, youth organizations and civic groups, selected the national character educational program of CHARACTER COUNTS! as a countywide initiative to instill positive character traits in young people throughout the county. Additionally, the SJCS became the first school district in Florida to implement Pursuing Victory With Honor in all of its athletic programs. Character education is an important part of every School Improvement Plan and a major component of the Student Code of Conduct and the school district's Strategic Plan.