



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 Jan/Feb 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 and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely holiday break with your friends and families. The weather was very un-holiday-like, but I am sure you found a way to spend to enjoy the extra time off! I had a white Christmas in Iowa, visiting my daughter. It was quite cold and then I came back! It looks like we might be heading into our Florida winter now. Bundle up!

I'd like to welcome our new Warriors to Wards Creek. We have many new families who have moved to our area and I know you will love our school and community. I have been in education for 35 years and I am so grateful to lead a school like ours. The students, parents, teachers, and community members all work together to make our school a wonderful place to learn and lead. I hope you will participate in our many activities. You must complete a school access form to be cleared to be on campus during the day. Please see our website for the link.

The school year is half over and I am always amazed at how quickly the time flies. So much learning has occurred, but things are really picking up as we enter the 3rd quarter. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please let your teacher know. We want to be sure that all our students finish strong!

Our Boosterthon Fun Run will be on 1/22. This is the only major PTO fundraiser of the year. Each year our PTO sponsors a schoolwide initiative. The funds they have raised have provided playground equipment, technology, and many other educational enhancements. This year, we are focused on building rich classroom libraries so that students will have a large selection of books to enhance their reading experiences. Today's reading instruction does not come from a basal textbook. Authentic literature is used to teach skills and strategies. Our students read daily in class and need both fiction and non-fiction selections to cover the scope of their interests and reading levels.

Lastly, I want to share that this month we are celebrating our Teachers of the Year. Congratulations to Amy Tarmey, our amazing art teacher. She was selected by our faculty and staff as our Teacher of the Year. Krista Bittengle, 5th grade teacher was chosen as our Rookie of the Year. We are blessed with many outstanding teachers and these ladies represent us well!

Grateful to serve,

Edie Jarrell, Principal

## **A Note from Our ILC: Christa Ritchie**

As a parent we all want what is best for our children. I think about it all the time with my own children. Carol Dweck the researcher behind the growth mind set has spent many years researching what creates successful children and adults. Her research suggest that we need to create a growth mind set for ourselves and foster it for our children. Our upcoming, PIE night February 9<sup>th</sup> will have a session going into depth on this topic. As a parent there are some simple changes that we can make when we are talking with our children. Praising effort instead of talent is critical. Dweck states, **"We want to raise our kids to have a growth mindset.** As parents we don't just want our kids to be successful... we want them to enjoy the journey to that success. We want them to be successful for all the right reasons. We want them to be resilient in getting to that success and handle any setbacks on the way gracefully. And when they are eventually successful, we want it to bring them deep satisfaction and fulfillment, instead of giving rise to fear, paranoia, arrogance or self-conceitedness."

I have included some of the suggestions below as well as articles for more information.

Do you want the Secret to Raising Smart Kids? Hint: Don't tell your kids that they are. More than three decades of research shows that a focus on effort-not on intelligence or ability-is key to success in school and in life

### **4 Steps to Cultivate the Growth Mindset**

On [her website](#), Dr. Dweck suggests these 4 steps to cultivate the growth mindset.

**Step #1:** Learn to hear your fixed mindset "voice."

**Step #2:** Recognize that you have a choice.

**Step #3:** Talk back to it with a growth mindset voice.

**Step #4:** Take the growth mindset action.

### **The 2-Minute Action Plan for Fine Parents**

Alright, it's reflection time. Take the next 2 minutes to answer these questions honestly. Remember, this is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers. All we are trying to do is get a handle on the kind of mindset we have and how we can improve for the better!

- Suppose your child flunked *a* test. Would that be an indication that your child is dumb or lazy? Would that be an indication that you are not a good parent? Suppose your child consistently flunks a few tests, what then?
- Suppose you are learning something new (eg., pottery, patience, mindset...). And after a few weeks you find yourself failing miserably.
- Does it mean you are not "cut out" for this? Would you be tempted to give up and justify your way out?

## A Note from Our ILC: Christa Ritchie (Continued)

- Your spouse forgets your birthday. Does it make him/her an uncaring, unloving monster who takes everything you do too much for granted?
- One of your friends has great marital relationship and the most well-behaved kids ever. Is that person lucky and more fortunate than others?
- If someone was raised in a strict, stifling environment, or if they were raised in a very toxic, self-defeating, negative environment, do you think they are doomed to repeat the mistakes of their parents?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may have a fixed mindset. The intensity of the "yes" will give you a hint of how strong or entrenched the fixed mindset is, and how much effort you will need to put in to grow into the growth mindset.

References/Resources:

<http://nymag.com/news/features/27840/index4.html>

<http://afineparent.com/mindset/growth-mindset-introduction.html>



**PIE NIGHT- Parent Information Night**  
**February 9<sup>th</sup>**

## PTO Update

We are in middle of Boosterthon, our biggest fund raiser of the school year. Thanks for all your cooperation and your patience!! Door judging is Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. If you get the opportunity, walk around and look at some of door decorations. They are fabulous! The Fun Run is Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fingers crossed for a beautiful day!

The annual Daddy Daughter Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30. The theme this year is CandyLand. Invitations will be out in a few weeks. Save the date! This year promises to be another outstanding event.

How's your training coming along? Remember Ready, Set, Glow 5k run is April 1st.

Ricke Ricciardelli  
President, WCE PTO

**coming!  
Soon!**

## **Kindergarten Registration**

**Early February check out our site for information on how to register!**

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

**What will you need to register?**

- 1. Registration Packet**
- 2. Certified Birth Certificate**
- 3. FL Immunization Form**
- 4. Physical within 1 year of 8/10/2016**
- 5. Three proofs of residence**
- 6. Social Security Card**



Report cards are available online.  
To view your child's report card you will need to access  
Home Access Center (HAC).

Click the link below to create an account or sign in.

If you need assistance please email

**[Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us)**

**<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>**



# Safety Leader Spotlight

Each month we feature students who are nominated for outstanding performance. These students arrive to school early, leave late, and have additional jobs around school during the day in addition to their regular duties as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.



Bailey M. was nominated by Mrs. Rossi. She is very mature and responsible. If Mrs. Rossi owned a business she would hire her in a minute! Thank you Bailey for being so fabulous!

Nick C. was nominated by Mrs. Lawless. Every time she sees him he is smiling and helping others. She is very proud of him! Thanks Nick for being a superb Safety Leader!



Lily G. was nominated by Mrs. Fisher and the parent pick up crew! She is doing a phenomenal job with dismissal. She speaks clearly and really speeds up the line! Thanks Lily for helping our students get home safely!



## **ESE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

St Johns County Schools (SJCS) and  
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) offer

**Topic: OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH  
AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES**

**Date/Time: 2/2/16 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Location: Pedro Menendez High School 600 FL-206, St. Augustine, FL  
32086**

### **Target Audience:**

- Parents of students with disabilities
- Teachers of students with disabilities
- Students with disabilities age 14 and up

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.



Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is currently full. Please visit [ecs4kids.org](http://ecs4kids.org) to find other providers in our area.

# Wards Creek Elementary

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**\$25.00**

**Price After**  
**February 12, 2016**  
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[http://www.leonards.com/yearbooks?con\\_no=34786](http://www.leonards.com/yearbooks?con_no=34786)



### Extended Day 2015/16:

Registration for Extended Day 2015/16 school year began on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto: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](mailto:Christina.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us)**

## New Year ~ New Commitments

By Mrs. Battaglini and Ms. D. Smith

It's a brand new year, and what better time to set goals for your family's usage of technology.

You have probably had this talk before, but it can't be said often enough... reminding your children that their digital safety is important to you. Also remind them that what they do on the internet STAYS ON THE INTERNET, and therefore what they do should be especially important to them. *(See previous articles about how seemingly innocent posts have major implications for people's futures.)*

Would your family benefit from some New Year Technology Resolutions? Here's a suggestion that may benefit, and help protect, your family:

1. Redefine your expectations to your children. Start with a discussion on WHY it's so important to be careful when using the internet as well as the amount of time spent using technology.
2. Create a Digital Pledge that everyone in the family signs and commits to keep. Let everyone help create the pledge. It's critical for "buy-in" if everyone is involved in its creation.
3. Post the pledge near every device in your home.
4. Snap a picture of the pledge and make it the wallpaper of your screen.
5. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, review the commitment with your children often. Ask them how well they are doing in keeping to their commitment.

Here are a few helpful resources to guide you through the decisions that are just right for your family:

New Year Technology Resolution ideas from Common Sense Media:

[https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/6-resolutions-every-family-with-tweens-and-teens-should-make-in-2016?utm\\_source=121115+Parent+Default&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/6-resolutions-every-family-with-tweens-and-teens-should-make-in-2016?utm_source=121115+Parent+Default&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly)

Media Time Family Pledge idea from HealthyChildren.org:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Media-Time-Family-Pledge.aspx>

## Warrior Highlights!

### Cool Kindergarten

Happy New Year! Kindergarten kicked off the New Year by having our Data & Donuts on Friday, January 8th. In preparation for our Data & Donuts, we discussed New Year's resolutions. We updated our 3rd quarter personal and school goals. We were very fortunate to have some of our 4th grade leaders come into our classroom to help them "practice" sharing their leadership notebooks. Finally, the big day came! They were so excited to share their leadership notebooks with their parents, grandparents, family friends, and siblings!

### Fabulous First Grade!

**Kids Caring  
About Kids**



**See pages 18-20 for more information!**

### Excellent ESE!

#### **Meet one of our teachers!**

Hi. I am Antonia McGaughey. I have lived in Saint Augustine my entire life. I am married and I have a seven year old son. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family. I also raise awareness for prematurity through March of Dimes. I have my bachelors from University of Phoenix in Elementary Education. I am currently working on my master's degree through University of Phoenix in Exceptional Student Education. This is my first year teaching. I am a varying exceptionality teacher of students from kindergarten to fifth grade. I have nine students in my class. Before becoming a teacher, I was a paraprofessional at Wards Creek for two years.



## Super Second Grade

WOW is this year flying by! Second graders will be kept busy with learning about the ultimate synergy system – the human body! The Florida Science standard for this subject is that the students will recognize and describe the basic functions of human body parts. The parts we'll be focusing on are the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, muscles, and skeleton.

The students will be learning how important each of these body parts are individually and within the system they are part of (such as the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, etc.), as well as how all the systems work together. The human body is amazing and truly is the ultimate example of synergy. These parts work together to give us life!

We also have some fun learning experiences coming up as we are planning trips to the Sally Corporation and the **Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve)**. Due to limits set by the establishments, only one class at a time can go to the Sally Corporation, and two classes at a time can go to the GTM Research Reserve. So the second graders will be going at different days to these places from February to April. You will be receiving more information about these trips from your child's teacher as the dates get nearer.

### 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 **December: All Pillars ~**

- From Mrs. Lawless' Class- **Savannah Malota**
- From Mrs. Oswalt's Class- **Bodhi Sackman**
- From Mrs. Allen & Ms. Jacobs' Class- **Grant Roberts**
- From Mrs. Jarriel's Class- **Brantly Walter**
- From Mrs. Lareau's Class- **Mia Kasper**
- From Mrs. Klein's Class – **Paige Selimovic**
- From Mrs. Truelove's Class- **Dylan Lieu**
- From Mrs. Blaylock's Class- **Roberto Orellana**
- From Mr. Milite's Class- **Sophia Misch**

## Warrior Highlights!

### News from the P.E. Hut



Happy New Year! Junior River Run training kicked off on Monday, January 11th. Practice will be on Mondays until 3:20 and Wednesday's until 2:20.



### Fantastic Fourth Grade!

The fourth grade students are busily preparing for the FSA Writing Assessment that will take place in less than seven weeks. Here are five things parents should know about the FSA Writing Assessment:

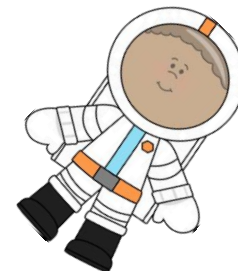
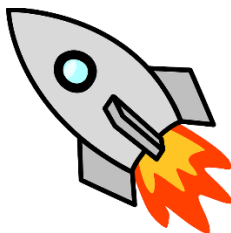
1. Students will be asked to read 2-3 articles up to 1300 words. They will use information from the articles to form the basis for their writing.
2. Students will be given an Opinion or Informational Prompt to write to.
3. Students will then plan their writing for a five paragraph essay.
4. Students will have 90 minutes for Reading, Planning, and Writing (write and edit). Students will have an option to use an additional 30 minutes.
5. Students will write this essay in one setting with FSA specific paper.

How can you help your child with writing?

1. Write.
2. Write thank you notes, letters, shopping lists, poems, or captions to family photos.
3. Use other content sources (science, math, social studies text) as writing resources. For example, during math homework have your child write one sentence explaining what he or she is solving. They can also write to explain how they solved the problem.
4. Summarization is one of the most difficult tasks; provide relevant practice.
5. Write.

### Phenomenal Fifth Grade!

Are you ready for a trip to another dimension? Join fifth grade as we explore our home galaxy we call the *Milky Way*. As we travel space, we will learn to distinguish among the different objects of the solar system while comparing and contrasting their properties.



Below are some fun space websites for "at home" exploration.

<http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/space.htm>

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>

[www.kidsastronomy.com](http://www.kidsastronomy.com)

*"May the Force be with you!"*



# 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>

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...*



# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Community Service Project:

## Kids Caring About Kids



**What:** Donations accepted here at school to be delivered to Wolfson Children's Hospital in an effort to make the children receiving treatment feel better.

**Who:** All students at WCES

**When:** All donations due February 29, 2016

**Where:** Send donations in to your child's classroom teacher

**What To Bring:** Wolfson has provided us with a list of acceptable items to be donated attached.



Thank you so much for your interest in helping patients and families at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Toys and games are used in the playrooms to comfort and entertain children during their hospital stay. Stuffed animals and blankets are given to children to take home. Patients and families are very appreciative of all donations and are touched by your generosity to help make the hospital stay more comfortable.

Provided is a list of items that are most useful to patients. Grade levels are assigned to each group so as not to overwhelm you when choosing what to donate. These are just suggestions! You may choose to donate anything from the list below. :D

When selecting items for donations, please keep in mind:

- Toys must be brand new and not gift wrapped.
- Toys representing violent themes cannot be accepted.
- Donations may not be religious in nature or content.
- Latex balloons are not allowed.
- Stickers are not acceptable.
- Greeting cards and holiday cards are not accepted.
- Toys are needed year-round for children from newborn to 21 years old!

### **Pre-K, Kindergarten, and ESE**

#### Infant

Crib Mobiles/soothers

Crib mirrors

Play mats

Musical toys

Light-up toys

Rattles

Teethers

#### Toddler

Lego Duplo blocks

Musical toys

Light-up toys

See-N-Say

Pop-up toys

Wooden knob puzzles

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade School-Age**

Coloring books

Lego sets Lego Friends

Art kits

Fuzzy posters

Hot wheels

Playing cards

Puzzles (50-100 piece)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** Teens

Individual arts and craft kits

Fuzzy posters

Picture frames

Lego Bionicle kits

Word search books

Playing cards, UNO, Phase 10

Magazines

Books

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** Gift Cards

Target/Wal-Mart

iTunes

GameStop

Toy R Us

Michael's

PlayStation Network

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** Distraction Items

Bubbles

*I Spy* books

Sound books

Light-up spin toys

Glitter wands

iPad

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Admin** Electronics

DVDs rated G, PG or PG-13

Games for

- Game Cube
- PlayStation 3
- PSP
- Xbox 360
- Xbox Kinect
- Wii
- Nintendo 3DS and DSI

**Games must be rated E, E10+, or T and be non-violent**



# 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](http://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 DATA VISIT [FUNDINGFACTORY.COM](http://FUNDINGFACTORY.COM)

# Media Release

40 Orange Street  
 St. Augustine, FL 32084  
 Joseph Joyner, Ed.D., Superintendent  
 Christina Langston, Chief of Community Relations  
 Phone 904-547-7504 · Fax 904-547-7523  
[www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://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](http://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.



## Field of Dreams Baseball

**Aberdeen Park**  
**1401 Shetland Drive**  
**St Johns, FL 32259**  
**[www.FODBaseball.com](http://www.FODBaseball.com)**

Field of Dreams is a specially designed turf baseball field that will allow children with mentally or physically disabilities living in or near St. Johns County, Florida the opportunity to play baseball, to wear a uniform and play as a member of a team. Field of Dreams is a place where all our area's exceptional kids can meet on the field and play ball. What child does not want to hear the cheer of the crowd? What child does not want to receive a trophy? And what child does not want the opportunity to play America's favorite sport? At the Field of Dreams they will and can!

### Who Can Play?

Any child with special needs from ages 5 to 18 or up to age 21 if still in high school.

### Registration is Now Open!!!

Registration is FREE and will include a full uniform courtesy our sponsors. Registration is currently open and will remain open the entire season. Please visit the Field of Dreams Website at [fodbaseball.com](http://fodbaseball.com) to register. Field of Dreams 2016 Opening Day will be Saturday, February 6th. Games will be held each Saturday until April 21<sup>st</sup> (except March 19 and 26 for Spring Break). To have a uniform for Opening Day, you must register by January 8<sup>th</sup>. We accept new registrations through-out the season, up to the last game.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Field of Dreams is always thankful to our volunteers and is in need of additional support to run the league this season and next. Please contact us via our website if you have the desire and ability to help us provide a quality program.

### Donations & Sponsors

Although other enhancements are in progress, we would like to start phase II construction in which a turf outfield replaces the natural grass. This enhancement will allow for additional special needs sports to be played at the Field of Dreams. We are actively seeking corporate and individual sponsors to help us complete the field to help more kids & families.







**DRAMA**

**INTERESTED IN THE ARTS?**

**Then come to  
RJ Murray Middle School's  
OPEN HOUSE**

**for our:**



**DANCE**

# ARTS INFO NIGHT

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> AND FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2016 AT 7:00PM  
150 N. HOLMES BLVD. ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084**



**VISUAL ART**

**THE RJ MURRAY ARTS PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO  
ANY ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STUDENT ENTERING THE 6TH GRADE**

**Auditions for SJCCA will be held on  
February 5th 2016**

*The St. Johns County School District*



**CHORUS**

## We Want to Find Some Very Special Children!

Do you have any concerns about your child's:

- Speaking
- Understanding
- Moving or Playing
- Seeing or Hearing
- Getting Along with Other Children
- Learning and Paying Attention
- Self-help Skills including:  
Feeding, Dressing or Toileting

### FDLRS/NEFEC CHILD FIND PROVIDES:

- Information about community programs for children with special needs
- Professional consultation for parents
- Screening in the areas of communication, motor development, vision, hearing, and preschool readiness skills
- Assistance in connecting children with special or unique needs to appropriate early intervention or exceptional student education services

If you have questions or concerns about a child  
birth - 5 years of age, contact:

**FDLRS/NEFEC CHILD FIND**  
(386) 329-3811 or Toll Free 1-800-227-6036

Email: [ChildFind@nefec.org](mailto:ChildFind@nefec.org)

Website: [www.nefec.org/fdlrs](http://www.nefec.org/fdlrs)



FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM (FDLRS)  
NORTH EAST FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM (NEFEC)

Serving Baker, Bradford, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Union Counties and  
The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind