



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 September/October 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

Welcome back Warriors to another exciting school year. We are already in the groove with our routines in place and our students thriving. We had a close call with the storm and due to the weather day on Friday, 9/2, we will make up the day on Monday 10/17.

I am delighted to share that our school has earned some designations again this year.

The Florida Department of Education has presented to us the Golden School Award to recognize exemplary programs, which promote parent and community involvement in education.

We have also earned the Five Star School Award from the FLDOE for evidence of exemplary community involvement. In order to earn Five Star School recognition, a school must show documentation that it has achieved 100 percent of the established criteria in the following categories: business partnerships, family involvement, volunteerism, student community service, and School Advisory Councils.

These awards celebrate the partnerships we have with our families and communities. We could not do the things we do without your generous gift of time and effort. Thank you for being a part of our school programs!

Communication is an essential component to a successful year. Please let me know if you feel you are not receiving timely information. We continue to strive to provide multiple systems of communication, including our TORCH newsletter, school website, teacher emails, and Blackboard messaging system.

I look forward to spending another wonderful year with your amazing children.

Edie Jarrell

## PTO UPDATE

Welcome Back Warriors!

Thank you to all the Warriors who have joined PTO. We truly appreciate your support for our school. Congratulations to Ms. D Smith's class for being the first class with full membership! It is not too late to join PTO! Please contact us at [wardscreekpto@gmail.com](mailto:wardscreekpto@gmail.com). Discount cards are in and will be delivered to your student by next week. Thank you to all the businesses for their participation with our discount card.

We are in full swing with contacting local businesses to partner with. Join us in thanking our Business Partners; Platinum Level - The Village Chiropractic Center, Dr. Berry and St. John's Pediatric Dentistry, Gold - The Village Dentist, Bronze - Tropical Smoothie and Seaside Children's Dentistry.

Our first Spirit Night will be at Tropical Smoothie, Tuesday, Sept. 27th, 3-7pm. They will donate 10% of all proceeds during this time. Hope to see you there!

Box Tops- Congratulations to Ms. Shreves' class, they brought in the most Box Tops for our summer collection! Hope they enjoy their party in a box prize. Please do not forget to send in your box tops!

Spirit Wear shirts will be in early next week and will be delivered as soon as possible!

Our annual Spooktacular and Business Expo will be held on Friday, Oct. 21st. If you would like to be a part of our business expo, please contact us for more information. Information will be going home the first week of October.

Hope you are all enjoying the school year so far!

Ann Gillette  
President, WCE PTO

## A Note from your ILC: Christa Ritchie



Dear Parent/Guardian of students in grades 3-5,

Now your child can improve his or her reading skills at home with the same great technology program we're using in school: KidBizPro.

Throughout the week, KidBizPro will send lessons. Every student in the class gets the same basic lesson, but the content is customized to match each child's own reading level. The lesson comes with a variety of fun activities to improve your child's comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. As your child's reading level improves, KidBiz will increase the level of difficulty so he/she remains challenged and interested. Doing his or her best on the activities will ensure the best match between your child's ability and the content delivered. It is also important that your child's answers to the questions reflect work completed independently and without extra assistance.

Your child will use this program in class, but you can also share in the fun at home - or anywhere a computer is connected to the Internet. Here's how:

1. Log on to <http://login.achieve3000.com> with username and password from your child's teacher.
2. Note: For security reasons, passwords are not printed. Please ask your child for his/her password. **If your child does not know his/her password, please contact your child's teacher or Achieve3000 Support at [www.achieve3000.com/customer-support](http://www.achieve3000.com/customer-support) or at 877-235-2525.**
3. Encourage your child to follow these five easy steps:

**Step 1:** Respond to the Before Reading Poll.

**Step 2:** Read the Article.

**Step 3:** Do the Activity Questions.

**Step 4:** Respond to the After Reading Poll.

**Step 5:** Answer the Thought Question.

4. Explore other KidBiz features, including other articles, the Stock Market game, puzzles, and more.

We hope you enjoy exploring KidBiz with your child.

Mrs. Ritchie

## Helpful Reading Parent Tips From your Instructional Coach Christa Ritchie



### Just Take 20 to Make Reading a Regular Routine!

The habits and dispositions your child forms while he or she is young and impressionable will last a lifetime! Help your child develop the love of reading that leads to lifelong literacy by making reading a regular part of your family's daily routine. Reading experts recommend kids read at least 20 minutes every day. If you make reading for 20 minutes a daily routine your child will read over 3,600 minutes in a year. Wow! You can also add some variety to your routine by reading to your child on some days, having your child read to you on other days, or doing a combination of both by taking turns reading to each other. See the suggestions below to help foster your child's love of reading and to make it special, fun and purposeful!

#### **How to establish a daily reading routine:**

1. Select a special time for reading each day.
2. Choose a comfortable place where you can read together.
3. Find a great book. If you are reading to your child, choose a book that your child will enjoy. You may be tired of your child's favorite book, but he or she is not. If your child is reading to you, choose a book that is easy for your child to read so that sharing books at home is an enjoyable event. When your beginning reader encounters a difficult word, provide the word to keep the story moving and enthusiasm for reading high.
4. During and after reading, check for understanding. Choose one or two questions to start a discussion such as:
  - What happened in the book?
  - Who was the book about?
  - What was your favorite part of the book?
  - Did you like this book? Why or why not?

## Wards Creek Counselor's Corner

With the 2016-2017 school year in full swing, I wanted to provide Wards Creek Families with several guidance updates. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Stacy Neal back to the Guidance Department! Mrs. Neal has once again taken on the role as a Guidance Para and is a huge asset to the program.

This year brings research based programs to the students at Wards Creek. The Second Step program helps students learn about the concepts of empathy, anxiety, emotion-management, and problem-solving skills and how to put these concepts into action. Each grade level has a lesson from the program during their scheduled resource time. The program was launched with each grade level being presented with a lesson on empathy.



WCES is pleased to have "HeartMath" installed in the Guidance Small Group Classroom. This program uses biofeedback (finger sensor) to help students learn to connect their hearts and minds in order to breathe correctly and use self-calming techniques.

Finally, on WOW Wednesdays, the guidance department is pleased to bring in "community helpers" to present to our students. Some local businesses are presenting topics such as dental hygiene, "Spill the Bucket" (bug education), a photo journalist, CPR, etc.

Please feel free to contact the Guidance Department with any questions at 547-8743, [Leanne.Adolf@St.johns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Leanne.Adolf@St.johns.k12.fl.us), or [Stacy.Neal@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Stacy.Neal@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Leanne Adolf

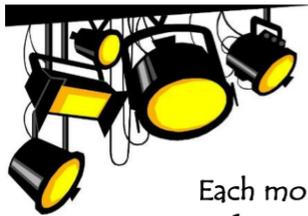
Guidance Counselor

Need information on local resources for education, employment, transportation, etc.? Check out the Episcopal Children's Services- St. John's County Resource Guide:

<http://www.ecs4kids.org/sites/default/files/St.%20Johns%20County%20Resource%20Guide%202015%20for%20Website.pdf>

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is currently full.

Have a VPK student ready for next year? Click [here](#) to add your child to our waiting list for the 2017-2018 school year.



## 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.



Safety Leaders from left to right:

Ansley Goode, Olivia Hill, Natalie Bastow, Madison Patchan,  
and Hannah DeVelder.

Way to go girls! Keep up the great work!

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August 14, 2016 Newsletter

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## Art Room News

6555 State Road 16, St. Augustine, Florida 32092  
Mrs. Stimson, Art Leader, room 350, 904-547-8730

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Dear Warrior Families!

Thank you for a very warm welcome to Wards Creek Elementary. I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with families and students at the school-wide meet and greet held **August 9, 2016**. There was a lot of enthusiastic discussion over art initiatives for this year and I can already sense a wealth of support which I will greatly appreciate my first year here at Wards Creek.

The first 3 days of school have been wonderful with your children and I am sensing a tremendous amount of excitement and respect towards the arts. These are some really great kids and I am looking forward to all the wonderful things we will accomplish this year!

I plan on keeping you in the loop so please stay tuned for more letters from the art room!

Julie Stimson

**WCES Art Leader**

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### Art Club/Art Leaders Information

I am an advocate of extra-curricular art opportunities and plan on continuing the Wards Creek tradition of offering leadership opportunities in the arts. I am looking into the possibility of opening this opportunity to more students this year and plan on discussing this endeavor with administration. I will be in touch regarding further information as soon as it becomes available.

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### Upcoming Events

**October – November**  
Square 1 Art Fundraiser (stay tuned for more information)

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### Basic Information

I am accepting year-round donations of the following used items which might usually get thrown in the trash:

- egg cartons (all sizes)
- plastic containers such as butter tubs, cool whip tubs, and items with lids
- paper and plastic grocery bags
- coffee tins
- Pringles cans
- shampoo bottles
- magazines
- old books
- card board
- soft drink cans
- newspaper
- Styrofoam items (meat trays are great)
- shoe boxes

...If I think of anything else I will let you all know!

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Page 1 of 1

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Greetings from the nurse! Health screenings for K, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be starting in September. I am looking for volunteers, especially nurses who would like to help! Please email me at [regina.boyd@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:regina.boyd@stjohns.k12.fl.us) if you are interested.

I would like to remind you to please be courteous and do not send children to school with a fever over 100 degrees, has been vomiting or had diarrhea. Please observe at home until symptoms free for 24 hours without medication. Please see the following pages (p. 10-11) for additional illness guidelines that speak to when a child should be excluded from the school day.



I would like to thank the parents who have made donations to the clinic. At this time, donations of new underwear sizes 4-10 are needed, as well as individual snacks and water. It's still very hot out there and I'm passing out water faster than I'm getting it donated. Please send your child with water to help rehydrate through the day.

Thank you,  
Regina Boyd, RN  
School Nurse

Interims are available online for grades 3-5.  
To view your child's progress 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/>



## ILLNESS GUIDELINES

### Health Services

Deciding when to keep your child home from school can be difficult. When a child is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a medical provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis or chicken pox), let school staff know.

**There are several reasons to keep (exclude) sick children from school:**

1. The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, such as with extreme signs of tiredness or fatigue, unexplained irritability or persistent crying.
2. The child requires more care than the school staff is able to provide without effecting the health and safety of the other children.
3. The illness is on the list of symptoms or illness for which exclusion is recommended.
4. The child is not vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons and there is an outbreak in the school.

The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to illness. Children with minor illness need not be excluded unless one or more of the following exists.

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
<b>Chicken Pox</b>	<b>Yes</b> – Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
<b>Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</b> (pink or red eyes with thick mucous or pus draining from the eye)	<b>Yes</b> – May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your help provider decides not to treat your child, a note is needed.
<b>Coughing</b> (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing)	<b>Yes</b> – Medical attention may be necessary. <b>NOTE:</b> Children with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment.
<b>Coxsackie Virus</b> <b>(Hand, foot and mouth disease)</b>	<b>No</b> – May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the child has cough sores and is drooling.
<b>Diarrhea</b> (frequent, loose or watery stools not caused by diet or medication)	<b>Yes</b> – if child looks or acts ill; diarrhea with vomiting; diarrhea that is not contained in the toilet, (children in diapers should be excluded)
<b>Fever with behavior changes or illness</b> <u>Fever</u> is an elevation of body temperature above normal.	<b>Yes</b> – when fever is elevated above 100° and is accompanied by behavior changes or other symptoms of illness, such as fatigue, rash, sore throat, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. Must remain at home for at least 24 hours or until all symptoms subside medication free.
<b>Fifth's Disease</b>	<b>No</b> – child is no longer contagious once rash illness appears.
<b>Head Lice</b>	<b>Yes</b> – May return after treatment and

	removal of all live lice and nits from hair.
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	<b>Yes</b> - Until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice and when able to participate in school activities.
<b>Herpes</b>	<b>Yes</b> - If area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.
<b>Impetigo/Staph/MRSA</b>	<b>Yes</b> - May return 24 hours after treatment starts. Wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides.
<b>Body Rash <u>with</u> fever</b>	<b>Yes</b> - Seek medical advice. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open, weeping wounds and/or is not healing should be evaluated. May return to school when medical provider determines that illness is not communicable.
<b>Mild Cold Symptoms</b> (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough)	<b>No</b> - May attend if well enough to participate in school activities.
<b>Upper Respiratory Complications</b> - large amount of thick nasal discharge - extreme sleepiness - ear pain - fever (above 100° orally)	<b>Yes</b> - Seek medical advice. May return when symptoms are improved.
<b>Ringworm</b>	<b>Yes</b> - May return after treatment begins. Area should be covered while in school for the first 48 hours of treatment.
<b>Roseola</b>	<b>No</b> - Unless child cannot participate in usual activities and has fever.
<b>Scabies</b>	<b>Yes</b> - May return after treatment is started with note from medical provider.
<b>Strep Throat</b>	<b>Yes</b> - May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours.
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b> (mumps, measles, whooping cough)	<b>Yes</b> - Until judged not infectious by a medical provider. Report all cases to Health Services Coordinator.
<b>Vomiting</b> (2 or more episodes in the past 24 hrs)	<b>Yes</b> - Until vomiting resolves or health care provider determines that cause is not communicable. <b>Note:</b> Observe for other signs of illness and for dehydration.

Handout developed by The Children's Hospital School Health Program, Denver, CO (303) 281-2790, 1995, revised 1999, 2001, 2003. **Revised 2012, for use by St. Johns County School Health Services, St. Johns County, FL.** [References](#)

- American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, *Caring for our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards*, Second Edition, Elk Grove, IL 2002

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *ABC's for Safe and Health Child Care. A Handbook for Child Care Providers*. Atlanta, GA. U.S. Department of Commerce; 1996

## **ESE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

St Johns County School District (SJCSD), UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Jacksonville (CARD) and UF Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System Jacksonville (FDLRS-MDC) offer

**Topic: SIBSHOPS: AN OVERVIEW OF A LIVELY PEER SUPPORT GROUP CREATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**Date/Time: 10/4/16 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Location: 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL, 32084**

**WHAT ARE SIBSHOPS:** Sibshops are lively and rewarding events/activities where siblings, ages 8 to 13, of students with disabilities will meet other sibs, have fun, laugh, talk about the facets of having a sib with special needs, play some great games, learn something about the services their brothers and sisters receive, and have some more fun.

### **TAKE AWAY:**

1. Families will obtain an understanding of what Sibshops have to offer for the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person who has a disability
2. Families will find out how to register for upcoming Sibshops in St Johns County.

### **Target Audience:**

- Parents of students with disabilities
- Teachers of students with disabilities
- Siblings of students with disabilities age 8 to 13.

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.

Avery Greene, ESE Program Specialist  
Avery.Greene@stjohns.k12.fl.us  
St. Johns County School District  
Exceptional Student Education Department  
40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

## 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)**

## Technology Bytes by Deborah Battaglino & Dana Smith

Happy New School Year! The start of a new school year is a busy time. It takes weeks of preparation to get everyone ready for new routines. Now that we have begun to settle in to school days, it might be a great time to think about your child's digital activity. When was the last time that you reestablished your guidelines for your child's use of the internet? How are you modeling good digital citizenship?

These helpful links provide suggestions, information and activities:

Common Sense Media; Raising Good Digital Citizens

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/how-to-raise-a-good-human-in-a-digital-world>

Safe Kids Digital Pledge

<http://www.safekids.com/kids-pledge/>

Website reviews

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/website-reviews>

### Warrior Highlights: Super Second Grade

## Here We Grow!

We are extremely excited to welcome Angeline Rajan to the second grade team. Ms. Rajan originally came aboard as an associate teacher in Ms. Rose's class. However, we are happy to announce that Ms. Rajan has split off into a classroom of her own.

Ms. Rajan has a Master's degree in Food Science and Nutrition and completed her teacher education at the University of North Florida. She is certified to teach Elementary Education K to 6. She taught first grade in Duval County prior to coming to St. Johns County.



She loves teaching and is passionate about instilling a lifelong love of learning in all of her students. She has very high expectations of herself as a teacher as well as her students. Ms. Rajan has found that this is a formula for success!

# Warrior Highlights!

## Cool Kindergarten

Kindergarten is off to a great start! We enjoyed meeting our students and parents at our Meet and Greet and Open House. We are settling in to our classroom routines and rituals. Our classes have discussed being bucket fillers, not bucket dippers. Our class mission statements have been made and the students are excited to learn all about our 8 Habits!



## Excellent ESE!

### **Mrs. Hartley's Classroom Happenings**

In our classroom we are currently focusing on learning to be more responsible and independent. We are learning to put first things first without having to be reminded. One of the ways we are learning responsibility is by spending more time with our peers outside of our classroom.

We are also growing in our academics. In math we are practicing to become more fluent in our skills. In reading we are working on building up our independent reading levels and comprehension. During Social Studies we are learning about how our government functions and learning about the accomplishments of some of our U.S. presidents.



## Phenomenal Fifth Grade!

Fifth graders at Wards Creek spent the first couple of weeks this school year establishing routines, discovering opportunities in the classroom for leadership roles, setting personal goals, and building a community of learners. Some classes synergized to take on challenges such as saving Fred the (gummy) worm from drowning, or building the tallest tower with spaghetti noodles and a marshmallow on top. This is going to be a great year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade!



## **Warrior Highlights!**

### Fabulous Fourth Grade

Welcome Back! We have started the year off running in 4<sup>th</sup> grade! Getting to know our classmates through our first assignment of our Me Cubes was fun and helped us to find our voice and inspire others to find theirs! We look forward to sharing them during our leadership day this year! In math we have been working on our multiplication strategies and utilizing place value to create a deeper understanding of why and how we can multiply multi digit numbers together. In science we explored past just our Earth and into the moon and stars! We will begin to delve deep into Florida geography and then Florida's rich history! In ELA students have been creating a strong writing community and will begin looking at the writing process and developing a draft of their own writing! We are looking forward to a great year together!

## Warrior Highlights!

### Terrific Third Grade

Second Year Warrior, First Year Teacher.

Once a warrior, always a warrior is a phrase that I believe to be fully true and a blessing in my life. Last year I had the opportunity to travel 1,105 miles away from the home I grew up in, to Wards Creek Elementary for student teaching in the second grade and Pre-K. This was a whirlwind of learning for me, but I loved every minute. The second I stepped into Wards Creek, I felt a sense of home and belonging. After my student teaching I was able to join the warrior staff as a paraprofessional for kindergarten through second grade. This was a wonderful time for me to learn from other teachers and see the school content in motion in the various grade levels. When last school year ended and I began applying for teaching positions, I hoped with all my heart that I would end up back at Wards Creek. If you have seen me walking in the hallways with my class, you know my wish came true! Third grade welcomed me in this year and I could not be happier to be teaching and learning with the students whom I formed relationships with last year! I love being a warrior!

Ms. Kuhnle

### Fantastic First Grade Happenings

First Grade mixed up a “Recipe for Success with the 7 Habits of Happy Kids” the first few weeks of school. Each class read a book that illustrated one of the Habits, and added a corresponding ingredient to our “7 Habits Snack Mix”. The books were passed from class to class, ingredients were added to our mix, and on the eighth day, we all came together as a grade level to listen to a read aloud of Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon, which illustrated the newest habit of finding your voice. We learned about synergizing, thinking win-win, being proactive and finding our voices. We enjoyed seeing all of our friends from other classes this year.

First Grade also participated in the first of many STEM activities – we experimented with making letters, numbers and shapes with pretzel sticks and pretzel rings. Different groups of students worked together on problem solving and critical thinking, deciding both along and together how to best form some of the more difficult letters. We then answered questions and thought about how to do this activity differently next time. We enjoy synergizing with different friends in our class, and are looking forward to the next activity like this.

# 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)



**EVERY  
MINUTE  
IN SCHOOL  
MATTERS**

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.*



## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)

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