



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 March/April 2017

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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

Spring is here and it brings many things our way. We are beginning the final quarter of our school year. The days will pass quickly and we will be saying farewell to this school year before you know it! During this final quarter, we will be working hard to cover all the content so our students will be ready for the next grade. We also will be administering our summative assessments to measure our students' growth and proficiency. And we will find time to make some fun memories before summer comes our way!

Edie Jarrell



At Wards Creek Elementary, we value the attendance of each individual student every single day. Consistent attendance in school is highly correlated with successful school outcomes including academic achievement and an overall sense of belonging to the school community.

It is tempting to extend your vacation by a few days, but remember, those days count as absences. Just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time. So make sure your child is in school every day, right up until Spring Break starts. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning.


Spring Break begins on Monday, March 13th
Students return to class on Tuesday, March 21st



SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN THE WGV

5K / FUN RUN

MARCH 31, 2017

FUN RUN 7:45PM  5K 8:00PM

RING POWER CAMPUS

500 World Commerce Pkwy, St Augustine, FL 32092

ALL RAGERS RECEIVE:
T-SHIRT
BIB
FINISHERS MEDAL

***\$25 ADULT**

\$15 STUDENT

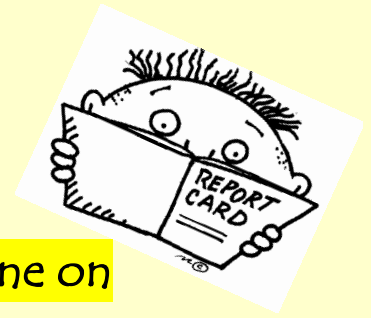
\$10 FUN RUN

FUN FOR ALL AGES

*PRICE INCREASE ON FEB. 20 AND MAR. 31

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK @READYSETGLOWWGV OR READYSETGLOWWGV@GMAIL.COM
for more information.

Proceeds to benefit World Golf Village area schools. (Pacetti Bay MS, Mill Creek Elementary, and Wards Creek Elementary)



Report Cards for grades 3-5 available online on
Monday, 3/27/2017

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.

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



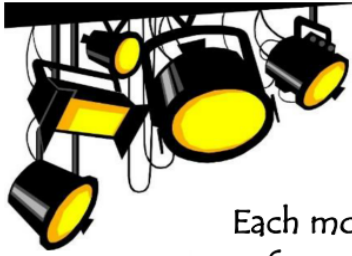
ATTENTION RISING 5TH GRADERS!

Safety Leader Applications for 2017-2018 are
available!

Visit our webpage for an application and more info.

If you have questions please see Mrs. King. 😊

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



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 5th grade students.



Safety Leaders proudly standing from left to right Madison Stevens, Ayla Caterson, Abby Maddern, Alivia Maroni, Annaliese Seidel, & Dylan Matthews.
You ROCK!

Safety Leader Applicant Timeline 2017

- March 6-10: Applications available. Mrs. King to visit 4th grade classrooms to answer questions.
- March 31st: Applications due.
- May 1 - 3: 4th Grade Safety Leaders announced! 😊
- May 2 - 5: New Safety Leader training
- May 8th: 4th Grade TAKEOVER! Fulltime Safety Leader!



Bella Gosse, was nominated numerous times this month by teachers and staff. We even received a note from a parent who was amazed at how helpful Bella is! Thank you for going above and beyond! 😊 Great job!



Mrs. Lawless was so impressed with Morgan Caruth and the initiative she took when she saw a student drop something in the hallway. Morgan took the time to examine the item and then deliver it to the correct location. We are so lucky to have students like Morgan at our school. Thank you for your caring leadership!





Early KG registration is **HERE!**
Click the link below to schedule an
appointment.

[http://www-
wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/](http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/)



Family Connections Action Team: Supporting the Leader in Me Initiative

Readers are Leaders!

Every year we join in this month-long celebration designed to encourage reading as a fun activity for the whole family. Reading, and understanding what you read, is a skill that everyone needs to be successful. The best way to improve understanding is to read a lot. There is nothing like a challenging book to lift you up or take you to another world. Developing a love of reading will be an asset to your child in all areas of school and give him/her a jumpstart to a lifetime of reading! Below is a list of books that your child will enjoy while also reinforcing the 7 Habits at home. Additional suggestions can be found at The Leader in Me Online.

Habits 1-7

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids by Sean Covey

Habit 1: Be Proactive

The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

Click, Clack, Cows that Moo by Doreen Cronin,

Pancakes, Pancakes by Eric Carle

Habit 3: Put First Things First

Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London

Jamaica's Find by Juanita Havill

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

The Very Clumsy Click Beetle by Eric Carle

Let's Be Enemies by Janice May Udry

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand Then to Be Understood

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman

Habit 6: Synergize

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall

Clifford's Spring Clean-Up by Norman Bridwell

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D. B. Johnson

Lower elementary (K-3)
Read the book together.
Ask your child questions
about how the characters
used the habits.

Upper elementary (4-5)
Your child reads the book
to you. Ask questions
about how your child uses
the habit.

Adapted from The Leader in Me Family Newsletter by Dr. John and Jane Covey

Warrior Highlights!

Cool Kindergarten

We would like to congratulate the following Character Counts recipients who were chosen for being leaders in Caring: Macy Walker, Gabriel Eubanks, Natalia Will, Rylee Reagor, Kaylee Miller and Christopher Kilmer. Awesome job!

Kindergarten has had a wonderful month learning about the life cycles of plants and bugs! We are anxiously awaiting our seeds to grow and the arrival of our butterflies!



Fabulous First Grade

First graders had the opportunity to complete a research project these past two months about presidents. Each student chose one president to research; this consisted of using multiple sources of information, such as books, newspapers and the internet to gather facts for a report they had to write. Many of the first graders were lucky enough to be able to collaborate with a class in either third or fourth grade for some pointers on how to research and write a report. The students also had to prepare a visual aid about their president. Once all this hard work was complete, we opened up a "living museum" and invited parents and other students to meet all our presidents; the students dressed up like their president, and were asked questions about him from our visitors. We had some very creative and clever costumes on display, and the students really enjoyed this project from beginning to end. We are looking forward to using what we learned about researching and writing reports because we will complete our annual animal projects this spring.

Fantastic Fourth Grade

Mrs. Lawless' 4th grade class had a spectacular time celebrating their achievements and progress in writing with "The Writing Grammys" before their FSA Writing test this month. They are so proud of their accomplishments!



Last month Mrs. Lawless' class also connected 4th grade Science to music when they created their own musical instruments to learn about sound.



News from the PE Hut!

Congratulations to our Junior River Run participants for completing their run on Saturday, March 11.

Character Cup is March 22nd

Triathlon Club signups are coming soon.

Field Day Volunteers needed!

March 22nd: Kindergarten and 1st Grades



Warrior Highlights!

2nd Grade Explores the Estuaries

Spring break is right around the corner and 2nd grade is gearing up for our science units on habitats and life cycles. We are kicking off these units with class visits to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve. Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve is dedicated to the conservation of natural biodiversity and cultural resources through research and monitoring to guide science-based stewardship and education strategies.



The students love to observe the estuary with binoculars. They are able to view various species of birds, fish, and other plants and animals in their natural habitats. Inside, the students get to learn about different objects, natural and manmade, found in the estuary. They even get to pet a turtle and a conch! Most of the students are amazed when they walk in the main room and see a giant whale hanging from the ceiling. This trip is such an engaging trip that gets our students excited about habitats.

Warrior Highlights!

Check out Fifth Grade's Community Service Focus! The flyer below was made by our 5th Grade Web Warriors!

Please Help St. Francis House



5th Grade is collecting lights and locks to help St. Francis House throughout the month of March. Please bring your donations to the school office or send them in with your child. Thank you for your generous support!



Happy Spring! The Media Center is buzzing with activity! We had so much fun celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. The whole Related Arts team got in on the festivities! We are getting ready to prepare for our Battle of the Books, which will be held on May 10. More information on that will be coming soon! We have begun our first steps in refreshing the library, which will continue throughout the summer. Among our many enhancements, we will be adding a mural, some fresh paint, a new name, and a new floor plan. We hope to welcome the addition of a parent section in the coming months. If you have any books appropriate for adults that you would like to donate, please send them in to the media center. Thank you for your continued support as we build our community of readers at school and at home!



Continue the Conversation



Computer Class Happenings With Mrs. Battaglino March 2017

We continue to learn and grow in the computer classroom. In **Kindergarten** we are practicing our digital writing as we type “I like” stories in Microsoft Word. We are learning about typing uppercase letters, spaces, and periods all while we are crafting our stories. As our stories are completed and published you can view them at:

<http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/battaglino-d/689-2/>

We are also sharpening our math skills with the awesome Mathseeds.com.

In **1st and 2nd grade** we continue our internet research and PowerPoint creation. As we publish our presentations they can be viewed at:

<http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/battaglino-d/digital-portfolios/>

In **3rd through 5th grades** we continue to explore computer coding. Each student has a code.org account where we are creating algorithms using Blockly code. Students were given their login credentials and have been encouraged to extend their learning at home. Mrs. Battaglino is also challenging your students to become Imagineers and Digital Designers of the future! Watch your emails to learn more about this project.

All students continue to remain mindful of their digital decisions and proper care of technology. Please continue this important conversation with your warriors. Technology is AMAZING. Younger and younger children have their own personal devices. Make digital citizenship a part of your daily conversation.

Thank you for your support at home. Enjoy *continuing the conversation!*

Platinum Business Partners



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

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

904-940-0361

WWW.THEVILLAGECHIROPRACTOR.COM



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

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

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

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



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 and reachoutandread.org

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

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - Jacksonville
Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System



A program just for brothers and sisters of children with special needs.

Brothers and sisters, ages 8 - 13, of kids with developmental disabilities in St. Johns County now have a program that's just for them called Sibshops. They'll have a chance to meet other kids whose brothers and sisters have special needs and talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sibling with a disability. Most important, they'll have fun! This wonderful program is at no cost to your family.

February 17, 2016

(9:00-12:00 P.M.) @ Palencia Elementary, 355 Palencia Village, St. Augustine, 32095. Registration is required. Register online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sibshops-a-program-just-for-brothers-and-sisters-of-kids-with-special-needs-this-program-is-brought-tickets-29053298197>

March 20, 2016

(9:00-12:00 P.M.) @ Fullerwood Training Center, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, 32084. Registration is required. Register online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sibshops-a-program-just-for-brothers-and-sisters-of-kids-with-special-needs-this-program-is-brought-tickets-29054244026>

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
 Website: 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