



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 November/December 2016

Table of Contents

- Jarrell's Journal-Page 2
- SS Book Adoption-Page 3
- VPK- Page 3
- Interims-Page 3
- Gifted Parent Training-Page 4
- Habits Connection-Page 5
- Safety Leader Spotlight-Page 6-7
- Clinic New-Page 8
- Tech Bytes-Page 9
- Warrior Highlights-Pages 10-14
- Platinum Business Partners-Page 15
- Attendance-Page 15-16
- Advertisements and Announcements -Pages-17-18

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

Happy Fall to all our Warrior families! I hope that you are all recovering from any storm damage you may have experienced. As a whole, our school community did pretty well, but you don't have to look far to see many families that are still in great need. Due to the devastating impact that the storm had on our beautiful city and its families, our school has chosen to focus our community service efforts in a wonderful new direction this year. You'll be hearing more about that soon but thanks in advance for your compassion and generosity for our fellow St. Augustinians. I like to look forward and keep my eye on our goals and the direction we are moving. But sometimes, we need to reflect and look back on our accomplishments and milestones. Just recently, I was delighted to receive a handwritten letter from Governor Rick Scott congratulating our school for our academic achievement on last year's state assessments. Check this out:

Percent Scoring Satisfactory or Higher	Rank among Elementary Schools
English Lang. Arts (ELA) Achievement	133 out of 1829
Mathematics Achievement	162 out of 1828
Science Achievement	103 out of 1763

These scores indicate that our school was in the top 10% statewide for all 3 categories! Congratulations to our students, parents, and faculty/staff for your contribution to this amazing achievement! I hope that you have been able to participate in some of our wonderful activities so far this year. We love having parents volunteer and be a part of the many meaningful events we plan for our students. The Fall Festival was a tremendous success and we appreciate all who volunteered and participated. Our outstanding PTO is always looking for helping hands so please reach out if you'd like to be more involved. We have plenty more planned as the year continues, so check our website school calendar to stay "in the know!"

Edie Jarrell



The St. Johns County School District is currently reviewing materials for the Florida Instructional Materials adoption for Social Studies. The courses being considered for adoption are listed on the district website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/textbooks/adoption/> along with online access information. Digital and print materials are also available for examination at The Fullerwood Center, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, 32084, from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM weekdays, excluding holidays. This list will be updated if more items are submitted for review. Check the website frequently for updates. Please call 904.547.3947 for more information if needed.

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.



Interims are released online for grades 3-5 on
Wednesday, 11/16

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/>



You're Invited

St. Johns County School District's
Gifted Parent Training Night

Thursday
October 20th
6:30 pm– 8:00 pm

@ Liberty Pines Academy

10901 Russell
Sampson Rd, St
Johns, FL 32259

Topics Will Include:

- Understanding Gifted Characteristics
- Goal Setting
- Mindset

Contact Helen DiMare with questions:

Helen.DiMare@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Family Connections Action Team

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

Supporting the Leader in Me Initiative

We are often asked how parents can support their school's leadership initiative. Each time we are asked we give the same answer "Use the 7 habits language at home."

As the school year unfolds, the children are learning the language and meaning of the 7 habits. By hearing the same language at home and at school, you send the children a strong message of what you believe is important and that we are all on the same team-the team that wants to succeed. When parents and schools support one another, the sky is the limit!

Below is a summary of each of the habits:

Habit 1: Be Proactive (You're in charge)

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind (Have a Plan)

Habit 3: Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)

Habit 4: Think Win-Win (Everyone Can Win)

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood (Listen Before You Talk)

Habit 6: Synergize (Together is Better)

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw (Balance Feels Best)

<https://theleaderinmeonline.org/en/Resources/7HabitResourcesForFamilies.html>



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 Cooper Lyles, Sydney Prater, Olivia Hill, Allison McKay, and Alivia Maroni.
You ROCK!

Our Safety Leader Food Drive was a success!
Our school helped feed over 75 people in our
community this Thanksgiving.
Thanks for your support!



Happy
Thanksgiving

Nurse Boyd's Reasons to Keep My Child Home Today

Parents,

Please help keep the spread of illness at a minimum by following the bottom St. John's County Illness Guidelines.

- Fever greater than 100. Student must be fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT any medication to help reduce fever including Tylenol or Motrin.
- Vomiting and diarrhea more than once. Must be vomit and diarrhea free for 24 hours to return to school.
- Many children may wake up with an upset stomach, which may not always lead to illness, but if they are lethargic and do not have an appetite, keep them home for observation. If they feel better, you can bring them in with an excused tardy.
- Rash accompanied by fever or rash that is oozy or weeping. Please seek medical advice from your physician. Many rashes can be viral or bacterial in source of may be an allergic reaction. Your physician can diagnose which and help you seek the best treatment.
- Many sore throats are from seasonal reactions to pollen. However sore throats may be from other contagious sources. If a sore throat is accompanied by fever or rash, please seek medical attention and do not bring to school.
- Coughing is common as cold season approaches. If you child has a cough that is not eased by over the counter or home remedies and is preventing your child from having a productive school day, please keep them home for observation. If the cough is preventing from sleeping, please keep home.
- Discuss hand hygiene with your child. Many children do not know how to properly wash hands. Have your child sing a short song lasting about 20 seconds while rubbing soap between fingers and all of hand surface and palm. Then rinse after.



Technology Bytes - Nov 2016

Cyberbullying

If your child is old enough to go online alone, unfortunately the chances are that he/she **WILL EXPERIENCE CYBERBULLYING**. It is a sad sign of our times that online bullying is at an all-time high. Being bullied is one of childhood's greatest challenges. It is also a very difficult issue for most parents. But with big challenges comes big learning opportunities.

Empowering your child with guidelines and steps to take if cyberbullying happens. Here are a few things you may want to discuss with you child:

- Talk to your child about cyberbullying - BEFORE IT HAPPENS.
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their online experiences.
- Tell them NEVER to respond to the bully.
- Tell them to NEVER delete the hurtful text from their device.
- If you or your child knows the bully, contact the parents to reconcile the issue.
- If the bullying is happening on a game or app site, contact the site administrator - reputable sites have policies that prohibit bullying. (If they do NOT have such policies, perhaps it isn't a good site your child to use.)
- If it does happen, have your child step away from that site or app for a while to break the pattern of behavior.
- Contact mobile carriers to report bullying is it involves phone calls to text messages.
- There is a department within St. Johns County Sherriff department that responds to cyberbullying.

For more helpful tips check out this web page or google cyberbullying:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/cyberbullying>
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/cyberbullying-toolkit?utm_source=Cyberbullying+Toolkit+Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

Warrior Highlights!

Cool Kindergarten

Congratulations to our Character Counts Responsibility Recipients: Corbin Fisher, Nathaniel Gill, Emma Daugherty, Nicholas Ng, Sierra Jones and Madison Leonard.

At the beginning of October, the Kindergarten students, teachers and volunteers tended to our "Kindergarden." We weeded, planted new flowers and added some fall décor. It was also exciting to see the flowers growing and blooming from last year's planting! Thank you to everyone who helped and donated supplies!



Excellent ESE!

Team Baker has been very busy since the school year started. We are learning to synergize to accomplish great things. We recently worked together to create our own Dalmatian costumes for the Literacy Parade held on campus on October 31.



We also have been working hard during the day to make strides in the classroom. We are working on increasing our reading skills as well as our math skills. We have also been learning about the life cycle of chickens and watching our own eggs hatch in the classroom. The baby chicks began hatching this week and we couldn't be more excited!

Our class also recently went on our first field trip of the year. We went to Nease High School where we were able to hang out with the football team. While there, we went through various drills and exercises and learned how important each of us are as a member of a team.



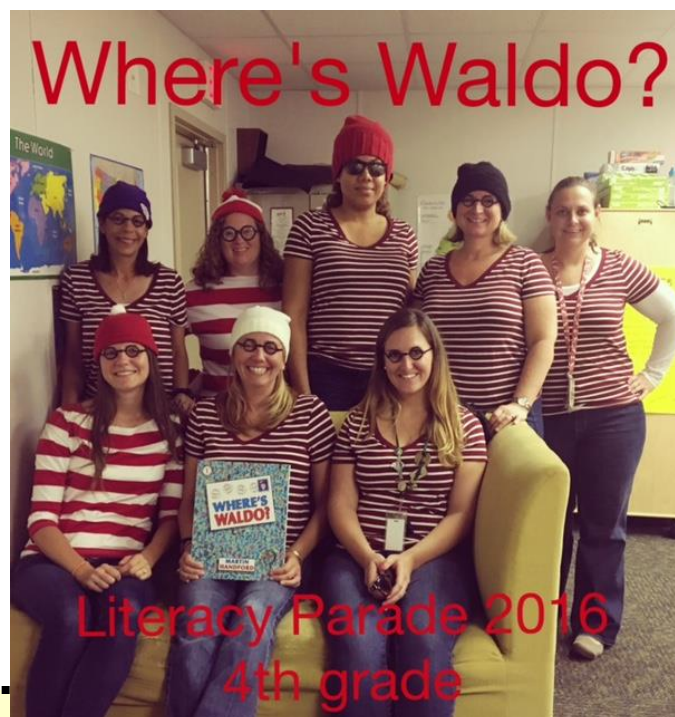
News from the PE Hut!

All 3rd 4th and 5th grade students interested in participating in the Junior River Run this year be on the lookout for the registration form being sent out during P.E. Registration forms are to be sent back to Coach Henson by Dec. 7th. The Junior River Run is on March 11, 2017. This event is designed for all types of runners. Our goal by the end of the training program is to be able to run a 1 mile fun run at the event without stopping. We will complete a 9 week after school training program. Practices will be held after school on Monday's until 3:20 and Wednesday's until 2:20. I look forward to another great event.

Warrior Highlights!

Fabulous Fourth Grade **Literacy Parade 2016!**

Fourth grade enjoyed the 2016 Annual Literacy Parade! Many of our students had never heard of the Where's Waldo series and they got a couple chuckles from our costumes. The fourth grade team is always looking for ways to enrich our students experience with literacy. We believe that **Readers Are Leaders!**



See the next
page for
more 4th
Grade news!

Fabulous Fourth Grade Continued

A visit from our neighborly Meteorologist!

Our 4th graders welcomed First Coast News Meteorologist Lauren Rautenkranz to Wards Creek! Lauren did a tremendous job talking to our students about the effects of hurricanes on our beautiful state. She explained how erosion and storm surge effected our local coasts after hurricane Matthew. The students got a glimpse of how a meteorologist crunches data to figure out what weather we will have during the week. Our students were surprised to find that it takes a lot of work to be a meteorologist. From data crunching to creating your own graphics, it's a hard task! As Lauren says "The weather doesn't stop on the weekends!" it's a full time job. She shared with us that she was On Air for 56 hours during the week of Hurricane Matthew. Now that is dedication!



Phenomenal Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students had a blast participating in the literacy parade this year at Wards Creek.



We even had a few Oompa Loompas show up and join Willy Wonka.



Warrior Highlights!

Terrific Third Grade

We are all busy working with a great computer based reading program called Achieve 3000. This is a fantastic way for your child to practice FSA style comprehension questions. On November 1, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades started a contest to see which class can complete the most activities scoring 75% or higher on the first try. The contest will run through November 30. Activities completed at home or school will count toward the contest. The winning class will enjoy a visit from the ice cream truck! As of the first count Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Truelove, and Mrs. Oswalt are in the lead for 3rd grade. Keep reading!

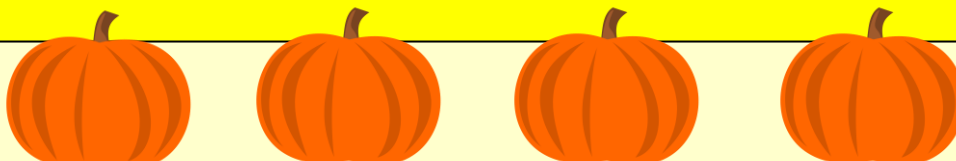
The 3rd grade realized that the dirtier we are, the better! At least when it comes to learning about plants. We had the incredible learning experience of hosting Ms. Em in October. She taught us how to be gardeners! It was very exciting to be able to plant our own vegetables and flowers to take home with us. Ms. Em came to us from Em's Outdoor Store for this messy, but memorable activity.

Ms. Em began with a power point presentation which informed us about plant's root systems, the function of their stems and leaves, and how they produce food. We were then able to go outside to paint our pots, fill them with dirt, and pick a vegetable and a flower to plant. We got really dirty, but it was fun. It was a field trip and experience that came right to our front door and something we will never forget!



Fantastic First Grade Fun!

First grade students will be learning about bats, spiders and pumpkins in the coming weeks. We continue to participate in STEM activities about once a month. The most recent challenge was to build a tower using only toothpicks and jelly pumpkins. All the students were very excited to be using candy, but then a bit disappointed because we were not actually going to eat the candy! In their groups, they figured out different ways to build a base for their tower, and then build up from there. They found that toothpicks are not sturdy building tools, and the pumpkins were heavier and stickier than they first thought. Their perseverance was amazing for first grade students! They kept working and changing strategies until almost every group got some sort of tower to stand up. Next challenge on the horizon - designing a new set of wings for a paper bat that will allow it to fly the longest distance!



Continue the Conversation



Computer Class Happenings With Mrs. Battaglino

This month in computer class our Big Rock is digital citizenship. Digital Citizenship is making safe and responsible choices with technology.

In **Kindergarten**, good digital citizens are *Careful Clickers*. We continue to practice our mouse skills while gaming with *Teach Your Monster To Read*. <http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/u/15910>

In **1st and 2nd grade** we created *word clouds* that represent our leadership character traits. We were mindful of **careful clicking** as we used this cool website: <http://www.tagxedo.com/>

We are also learning to identify our *digital footprint*. Every time you go online you leave a digital footprint that can be searched, copied, shared, and seen by anyone. It is also permanent. We watched this video in class: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwY6KsipuJQ&index=1&list=PLUHEaG6i5ojrwT81hRKLWc9C8P_1B33KL

In **3rd through 5th grades** we created graphic organizers to demonstrate our learning about the internet using *PowerPoint*. Our current project involves the topic of *Cyberbullying*. Using digital gaming we are deepening our understanding of this impactful possibility and increasing our understanding of what to do if it happens to us. The *Technology Bytes* section of this newsletter provides valuable cyberbullying tips for you and your child. The game can be found at: <https://digitalpassport.org> **All students** continue to remain mindful of their digital decisions and proper care of technology.

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



Restore a sense of hope for the upcoming season.

Jacksonville

Arlington/Beaches
Anne and Donald McGraw Center
for Caring of Community Hospice
 4715 Worrall Way
 Jacksonville, FL 32224
 Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016
 10 – 11:30 a.m.
 Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Westside/Baker County
Dr. Gaston J. Acosta-Rua Center
for Caring of Community Hospice
 5450 Ramona Boulevard
 Jacksonville, FL 32205
 Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon
 Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Northside
Northside Administrative Office
of Community Hospice
 13453 North Main Street, Suite 403
 Jacksonville, FL 32218
 Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon

Mandarin/Southside
Charles M. Newlaser Educational
Institute of Community Hospice
 4266 Sunbeam Road, Building 100
 Jacksonville, FL 32257
 Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon
 Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.

St. Augustine

St. Johns County Administrative Office
of Community Hospice
 525 State Road 16, Suite 112
 St. Augustine, FL 32084
 Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon

Nassau County
Council on Aging
 1367 South 18th Street
 Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
 Friday, Nov. 18, 2016
 9 – 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon

Orange Park
Clay County Administrative Office
of Community Hospice
 728 Blanding Boulevard, Suite 1
 Orange Park, FL 32065
 Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016
 10:30 a.m. – noon
 Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016
 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Visit CommunityHospice.com for information about the Community Hospice Tree of Life and Candlelight Service of Remembrance scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 at the Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring in Jacksonville.

Hope for the Holidays is supported through a generous donation from the Carl S. Swisher Foundation, Inc.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A Community Hospice program for the bereaved

The festive holiday season can be challenging for those experiencing the death of a loved one. They may find themselves torn between the need to grieve and pressure to get into the holiday spirit. Regardless of when the death took place, a loss can be felt more acutely at this time.

Community Hospice of Northeast Florida invites you to attend *Hope for the Holidays*, a workshop created for family, friends and caregivers who have experienced the death of a loved one. The workshop will help attendees reflect on their loss, learn ways to cope with grief during the holiday season, and to determine what is right for them and their families. They will learn how to refocus energy on positive activities that honor and remember their loved ones and will leave with a renewed sense of hope for the upcoming season.

Hope for the Holidays is open to the public. There is no charge to attend, but attendees should RSVP by calling 904.407.7001.



904.407.6500 • 866.253.6681 toll free • CommunityHospice.com • 4266 Sunbeam Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32257
 Community Focused • Community Supported • Serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties since 1979