



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

We are well into the 3rd quarter, with loads of activities to keep us all very busy! We will begin our statewide testing soon and our mindset about this is – we are proud of the work our teachers and students have done and our students are looking forward to the opportunity to show what they have learned. One big need is for volunteers to help us proctor our testing sessions. If you have a couple of hours to give, please give our Guidance Counselor, Leanne Adolf a call. We are so grateful for your help with this.

I am delighted to share that Jud Strickland has been appointed as the principal of School M on Pacetti Road. Jud is currently serving as the Principal of Cunningham Creek and is a wonderful school leader. I am very sad to be losing some families to the new school, but I can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that Jud will be at the helm. I know you will find him to be a terrific partner in the education of your children. For those of us who remain at Wards Creek, we will be welcoming new families, living along SR 13, currently attending Mill Creek. Change is never easy, but I am confident that every student will be a classroom of caring teachers and friends, and we will adjust to the new zoning placements.

I look forward to the coming days and hope to see you at some of the special events in the near future. Please feel free to contact us if you ever need anything – we are here to help! Thank you for allowing us to serve your family and play a role in growing your wonderful children!

Edie Jarrell

Hey, Warrior families! It is time for the Book Fair! Our Book Fair will be held in the Media Center from February 10th through February 21st. We will be open every school day from 8:30 until 2:30, with a break from 11:15 – 12:00. We will also be open on Thursday, February 16th until 6:30p.m. Students will be allowed to shop during their Media time. We will have wish lists for teachers, “All For Books” to raise money for classroom libraries, and a contest, too! Please come and join us for the Happy Camper Book Fair!



PTO UPDATE

Warriors,

Thank you for your support of Boosterthon! We have exceeded our fundraising goal! Most importantly the students had a great time learning and running.

Mark your calendars! Don't Forget!

- **Save the date! Father/Daughter Dance on March 3rd. Our Theme this year is Under the Sea. Looking forward to seeing all the beautiful girls in their dresses!** If you would like to volunteer for the dance committee, please email wardscreekpto@gmail.com.
- Don't forget to send in your BOX TOPS! Thank you so much to our Box Top Committee for all your hard work collecting, clipping and counting!
- On March 31st Wards Creek, along with Mill Creek and Pacetti Bay Middle School will host our annual GLOW RUN. Contact Readyssetglowwg@gmail.com for more information.
- It is not too late to join PTO! Please contact us at wardscreekpto@gmail.com.
- Join us for Spirit Night at Gators Dockside on February 23rd, from 5-9pm. They will donate 10% of all proceeds during this time. Hope to see you there!

Recently, my husband had some medical issues that required me to stay at home. I wanted to take a moment to thank the PTO Board for all their hard work and dedication to Wards Creek. I truly appreciate all you do!

Ann Gillette
President, WCE PTO

Interims for grades 3-5 available online as of 2/8/2017

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/>

Children's Museum Events

Wednesday, March 1, 3:00pm - 5:30pm
Weaving (and Loom Making) Wednesday
Ages 4-adult (a family event)

Each child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian
 Cost: \$15 per family team of 2 or 3 5 parent/child teams

tag! You're a weaver! Join the tagteam and textile artists to create works of art using traditional and DIY looms. Child/parent teams will learn to use harness looms as well as construct and use a branch loom of their own.

Saturday, March 4, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Air Play Ages 6 - 12

Cost: \$15 10 participants

tag! You're a scientist! Join the tagteam mad scientists for mind-blowing adventures with air - from windbag challenges to soda bottle races and air cannons. Discover the power of air, create air art, and take home your own air cannon and windbag.

Saturday, March 4, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Ozobots - Robotics and Programming Ages 6 - 12

Cost: \$15 10 participants

tag! You're a programmer! Join the tagteam for a robust, robotic afternoon of challenges with Ozobots - miniature smart robots that can roam freely, be programmed with color-coded lines, and also be digitally programmed.

Saturday, March 11, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Great Tape Adventure - Tape Mural Ages 8 - 12

Cost: \$15 8 participants

tag! You're an artist! Join the tagteam artists to collaboratively create a large-scale mural on our studio walls using painters tape. Explore scale, perspective, and texture as you learn to paint with tape.

Wednesday, April 5, 3:00pm - 5:30pm
Weaving (and Loom Making) Wednesday
Ages 4-adult (a family event)

Each child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

Cost: \$15 per family team of 2 or 3 - 5 parent/child teams

tag! You're a weaver! Join the tagteam and textile artists to create works of art using traditional and DIY looms. Child/parent teams will learn to use harness looms as well as construct and use a box loom of their own.

Saturday, April 8, 9:00am - 11:30am
Mysterious Magnets Ages 6 - 8

Cost: \$15 8 participants

tag! You're a scientist! Join the tagteam mad scientists to discover the mysteries of magnets. We'll explore their properties, create magnetic construction materials, ooey-goey magnetic matter, and magnet art.

Saturday, April 8, 12:30pm - 3:30pm
Mysterious Magnets Ages 9 - 12

Cost: \$15 10 participants

tag! You're a scientist! Join the tagteam mad scientists to discover the mysteries of magnets. We'll explore their properties, create magnetic construction materials, ooey-goey magnetic matter, and magnet art.

Know Before You Go ...

- Space is limited and advance registration is required. Register online at tagmuseum.eventbrite.com
- Parents/guardians must complete information and release forms for each child attending a workshop or camp at **tag!** Children's Museum of St. Augustine. A parent/legal guardian should complete these forms the first time a child attends a tag! event, and they must be updated annually. Forms are available online at <http://www.tagmuseum.org/workshops.aspx> (under Information/Release Forms), or parents may complete the forms at the workshop.
- For information on workshop scholarships, phone us at [\(904\) 647-1757](tel:9046471757) or email bcall@tagmuseum.org.
- Events are held at **tag!** Children's Museum office, 76 Dockside Drive Suite 105 at the St. Augustine Shipyard, behind Target on US Hwy 1.

Greetings from Nurse Boyd!

The school has had confirmed cases of influenza. The teachers and staff are working hard to prevent the spread of all illness by cleaning, reporting symptoms to the nurse and encouraging good hand hygiene. I have attached a CDC article below with information about the flu. Please follow the district's illness guidelines posted on the district's website to prevent illness at school.

Thank you!

Flu Symptoms

Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

** It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.*

Flu Complications

Most people who get influenza will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of the flu, some of which can be life-threatening and result in death. Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections are examples of [complications from flu](#). The flu can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and people with chronic congestive heart failure may experience worsening of this condition that is triggered by the flu.



What are the emergency warning signs of flu sickness?

In children

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

In adults

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms that improve but then return with fever and worse cough

Warrior Highlights!

Cool Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been very busy these past few months! In December, we took a field trip to Sweet Pete's candy store where we learned about matter, density and even made our own candy canes!

We also "traveled" to different countries to learn about their holiday customs and traditions. They went caroling around the school, made edible Christmas trees and played the dreidel.

In January, we enjoyed our Florida style "snowball" fight and enjoyed some "snow"! We welcomed our parents at our Data & Donuts and celebrated our 100th day of school!



Excellent ESE!

Prekindergarten is hosting a Valentine's Day Family Breakfast. Parents and preschoolers get to start their Valentine's Day slowing down and spending time together at school. During the breakfast, the students present their Valentine's gifts to their parents. It is a sweet time of love between parents and children.

Also, in prekindergarten, we are studying Clothing. The preschoolers have a March field trip planned to the Avenues Mall to tour the Belks Department store, play in the play area and then lunch at Chick-fil-lay. Life is fun in preschool!

As part of the prek clothing study unit, Mrs. Shreves brought her baby to school and showed Mrs. Allen's class his baby clothes. Then, to compare clothing, Mr. Klein brought his BIG clothes. The children were able to explore small and big. We discovered that two preschoolers can fit into one of Mr. Klein's shirts!



News from the PE Hut!

Junior River Run is March 11th
 Character Cup is March 22nd
 Triathlon Club signups are coming soon.

Field Day Volunteers needed!

March 1st: 2nd and 3rd Grades
 March 8th: 4th and 5th Grades
 March 22nd: Kindergarten and 1st Grades



Warrior Highlights!

Frosty Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade Wonder Workers
 Fourth Grades' Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Romano have collaborated with our outstanding computer teacher Mrs. Battaglini to start a Wonder Workers Team! The students are diving into coding their robots to complete different tasks. As you can see from the pictures the students set up obstacles, tasks, and directions for the robots to complete. The students work in small groups with their set of robots. The robots have been, interestingly named, Nacho & Cheese, Rob & Bob, and Ketchup & Mustard. These robots not only respond to the coding the students provide but also communicate with one another through sounds and noises. Watch out for the little robots they are on the move!



Warrior Highlights!

Super Second Grade

The second graders began our annual field trip rotation to visit the Sally Corporation. The Sally Corporation designs and builds animatronics and dark rides for theme parks and other organizations around the world. The Lost Kingdom Adventure ride at LEGOLAND was created by the Sally Corporation. Sally has free community tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the public for ages 7 and up. This field trip is one of our favorites because we get to play with the designs, see the artistic process, and there are always surprises around every corner.



Phenomenal Fifth Grade

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and his dream for America, fifth grade students created bulletin boards displaying their dreams for the future. At Wards Creek, we are building leaders with big dreams.



“I have a dream..”

Warrior Highlights!

Fantastic First Grade

First grade is very excited to present our “living museum of presidents” this month. The students have each been researching a president. They have been gathering information from many sources, and will use all this research to write a report about their president. They will also create a visual aid describing their president, and will dress up like that president to become an exhibit in a living museum, which we will present to the parents. Our students have really learned a lot about history, what being the president entails, and many have decided that maybe they, too, might one day want to be president.



*Check out Third Grade's
Community Service Focus on
the next page!*

CLOTHING DONATION DRIVE



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www.stfrancisshelter.org

Over the past 30 years, St. Francis House has saved lives and changed lives through the services they provide. Please join us in helping them help the less fortunate move forward with dignity into a renewed life of hope and a second chance at reconnecting with family and society.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We will be collecting personal care items for St. Francis house all month long between February 1st – February 28th. Donations can be delivered to Mrs. Blaylock's classroom (Blue House – 750) anytime starting Feb. 1st.

WHAT CAN WE DONATE?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Towels | ✓ Toothbrushes |
| ✓ Socks | ✓ Shampoo |
| ✓ Underwear | ✓ Disposable Razors |
| ✓ Soap | ✓ Combs |
| ✓ Toothpaste | ✓ Brushes |

Continue the Conversation



Computer Class Happenings With Mrs. Battaglino

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.

In **1st and 2nd grade** we are learning how to use the internet to learn something new. 1st grade is researching plant life and 2nd grade is researching lifecycles and habitats. As we conduct our research we are discovering the differences between digital reading and reading a book. When we complete our research we will make a PowerPoint presentation that displays our learning.

In **3rd through 5th** grades we are exploring 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!*

Greetings from the Art Room!

February 7, 2017

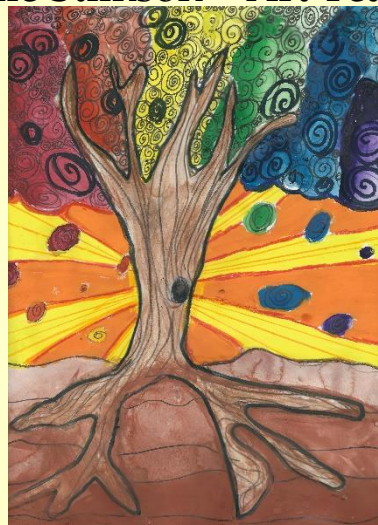


Dear Wards Creek Families,

Greetings from the Art Room! I would like to thank our Warrior Families for their participation in this year's Square1 Art Fundraiser. The students created some beautiful artwork, which I know, must have looked great on all those mugs, magnets, and matted art prints that families purchased! We just received our shipment of new art materials, which your purchases made possible. The children will be so excited to use them! Thank you!

The 5th Grade Art Leaders have been busy this year assisting the school with various creative endeavors. Some of their contributions include: painting wooden guitars for children in hospitals, assisting the PTA with their Pumpkin Painting booth at Spooktacular, contributing hand-drawn posters for Literacy Week, and designing this year's yearbook cover art. After careful consideration and discussion, we have decided on the artwork of Cora John's for the yearbook cover. The artworks of Ryan Brakenwagen, Mia Ligon, Alyson Neal, and Madison Patchan are to be featured on the back cover.

Julie Stimson – Art Teacher



**Cora John's – Ms.
Brock's Class**

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

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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!

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TO HELP US EARN TOWARDS OUR GOAL!



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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>

YOU'RE INVITED!

To benefit Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech -
where children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn to listen and talk.

The Coolest Family-Friendly Event in North Florida!

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Register now to save and guarantee your shirt!



Saturday, March 4, 2017

5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

Kilwins® at the St. Johns Town Center ♦ Jacksonville, Florida

Registration—6:30 a.m. ♦ Race —7:30 a.m.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Souvenir medal for all 5K finishers

Youth-sized shirts (Register before February 14, 2017)

New and exciting business sponsorship opportunities

Top fundraising team captain wins an Ice Cream Party
for up to 50 people

Top individual fundraisers will be “coned” onto our
Kilwins® Ice Cream Royal Court



Clarke Schools
for Hearing and Speech

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Interested in being a sponsor? Visit clarkeschools.org/icecreamrun or call 904-479-6699

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



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