



THE TORCH

Monday	2-17	No School – President’s Day
Tuesday	2-18	TORCH News from 3:00-3:45. Bookshelf open from 4:00-6:00 pm. Related Arts Day D
Wednesday	2-19	Early Release Day – Dismissal starts at 1:45. Jr. River Run practice from 2:00-2:20. Related Arts Day E
Thursday	2-20	Robotics Club from 3:00-3:45. Related Arts Day F
Friday	2-21	Wear Patriotic attire in Honor of George Washington’s Birthday. Art Leaders from 2:45-4:00. Related Arts Day A

Hello Wards Creek Family! Our School Advisory Council needs your help in completing our annual Needs Assessment survey. This is a chance for you to give feedback about WCE. We value your input and would really appreciate your help in completing this quick survey (only 17 questions). Please take a brief moment to complete the survey so we can work together to make WCE the best that it can be. <https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=98L0678K>

Wards Creek has two Odyssey of the Mind teams. These teams have been working hard to prepare for the Regional Tournament. Our teams will compete on Saturday, February 29th at Gamble Rogers Middle School. If you would like to know more about Odyssey of the Mind, please come out to cheer on our teams at this free, fun-filled event. There will be activities for children, food trucks, and souvenirs at the event as well. Go Odyssey Warriors!

PTO Slate Committee applications due Tuesday, February 18th, and can be sent to wardscreekpto@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

News from PTO:

On Tuesday, March 3rd, from 5:00-8:00 pm, we will have another McTeacher Night. Come out to McDonalds to see your favorite Wards Creek teachers and staff. Just like earlier this year, you will need to bring the flyer with your child’s name on it for Wards Creek to receive a portion of sales (These flyers will be coming home soon). This is a great and easy fundraiser. Then, on Thursday, March 5th, from 6:00-7:30 pm, we will have the annual Bingo for Books. Join us for fun and food...a meal with 2 slices of pizza, a cookie, and a drink is only \$5 per person. For this event, please RSVP via the signup link below no later than Friday, February 28th, and make sure to tell us how many meals you need so we can have enough food for everyone. The entry fee is a gently used book. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0845aaa62da7f94-bingo>. These events are going to be so much fun.

SJCSD has placed 3 school year calendars on the district website. Public input can be provided through February 27th. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/calendar/proposed/>

Help show WCES some LOVE this month by sending in your box tops by Tuesday, February 18th. A huge thank you to all that have already sent box tops in with your children. Information regarding how to send them in digitally is attached. Check the box top app for updates and bonus box top information. Online grocery orders from Instacart, Sams Club, Shipt, Target.com, Target pick up/drive up, Walmart Grocery, and Walmart.com are eligible to earn box tops too. You must forward your email receipt from the retailer using the email address you set up your Box Top account with to receipts@boxtops4education.com and they will be credited to our school within one business day. Paper receipts must be scanned within 14 days of the date on receipt.

Social Services News:

There is a free educational program for families experiencing a mental health condition. More information is available at: <https://nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs/NAMI-Family-to-Family>.

Spotlight on Third Grade:

Third grade has been busy preparing for FSA. We are working on strategies to help us in both math and reading. In reading, one strategy we have been using is UNWRAP. Each text that we read, we Underline the title, Number the paragraphs, Walk through the questions, Read the text, Answer the questions and finally Prove our answers. For math, the strategy we are working on is CUBES. We Circle any key numbers and units. We Underline the question, Box math action words, Evaluate and Eliminate and finally Show our work. By practicing these strategies, we know we will do our best when it is time for FSA! We also enjoy learning through field trips. Last month, we went to MOSH and had a great time exploring the museum. We went to see the "Energize Me" show. We had fun learning about different types of energy!

Spotlight on Fifth Grade:

Our fifth grade leaders recently participated in an in-house field study experience focusing on the American Revolution. Each class had the opportunity to rotate through seven different presentation stations. Each station informed students about the historical events during the time of the American Revolution, the importance of these events, and connected an individual or group activity to the content. For example, at one station students made a "Liberty Tree" bracelet. The bracelet was representative of Paul Revere, one of the Sons of Liberty who descended from a Silversmith. Paul Revere is most known for his famous ride to warn the colonists that the British were coming. However, Paul Revere also used his occupation as a Silversmith to produce engravings and other artifacts with political themes. Another station involved students working together to decipher a code, much like the Culper Code which was used by the Culper Spy Ring in 1778 to inform George Washington of the British military plans. This code allowed George Washington to gain an advantage against the strong British military. Having a hands-on experience at each station was a great way for students to engage with the content and solidify their knowledge of the information. If you know a fifth grader, ask him/her about their American Revolution experience!

See attached information regarding the SLAMfest event on Thursday, April 16th.

The fifth annual Glow Run will take place at 7:45 pm on Friday, April 3rd. All of the proceeds from this event go back to our local schools. <https://www.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=10227>

The Snack Order Form and Instructions have been added to the Wards Creek Website and can be located at: <https://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cafe/>