



The TORCH

Wards Creek
Elementary
December 2022

Happy Holidays

Hello Wards Creek Family!

The holiday season is upon us, and we look forward to a month of great events. Please see the “Coming Up” section for all WCES events in December. It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through the school year. As we come to the close of the second quarter and the end of 2022, we hope that you take time to enjoy friends and family during the holiday season! Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy new year. We will look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023.

Mission (why we exist) – At WCES we ensure *Achievement*, *Learning*, and *Leadership* for *ALL*.

Vision (what must we become) – To build and sustain a culture that provides a safe environment where all stake holders collaborate to ensure growth and achievement for all.

Together Everyone Achieves More – GO TEAM Warriors!



The Giving Tree

WCES has a tradition called the Giving Tree. Each year the program is set up to assist some of the families in our school and local community that are in need of assistance during the holidays. Please sign up to donate to these children if you can!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d48a8af29a7f94-wces3>

All donations are due no later than Monday, December 12th. Please consider ordering online and having the items sent to directly to our school:

Wards Creek Elementary

ATTN: Giving Tree

6555 State Road 16

St Augustine, FL 32092

There will also be a collection bin in the front office where items can be directly dropped off by parents or students. Items will not be collected in the classrooms. When ordering online, please use the gift receipt option to indicate which child the items are for. When dropping off gifts in the front office, please have all items labeled to clearly show which child they are for.

Thank you so much for your help and generosity!

Coming Up:

- 12/2 Dress like a Penguin for Antarctica Day
- 12/9 Wear red and green for poinsettia day
- 12/12 PTO Holiday Grams begin
- 12/13 Spirit Night at Jeremiah's
- 12/16 Wear your Pajamas day
- 12/16 Venardos Circus
- 12/17 PTO Grinch Fest Movie Night
- 12/20 Leaders with Characters Awards
- 12/21 Second Quarter Ends
- 12/21 Early release - students dismissed at 1:45
- 12/21 Chorus performance in St. Augustine
- 12/22-1/03/23 Winter Break

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found before Winter Break.

All items that remain after Wednesday, December 21 will be donated to charity.



Winter Break

We will have early release
Wednesday, December 21.
Dismissal will begin at 1:45.
School will resume for
students Thursday, January
5, 2022.

The ESE Support Facilitation Teachers would like to remind all parents that their ESE child K-5 has access to Reading Rangers. Reading Rangers is a reading support program that can be used at home and in the classroom with independence or minimal support from their classroom teachers. Reading Rangers is a **reading practice program based on the Science of Reading filled with engaging experiences to help improve essential literacy skills** and can be used with any core curriculum or intervention. All log on and password information was sent home during the month of October. Please do not hesitate to call or email your child's support facilitation teacher if you require assistance with this resource.

Second Grade News

Second graders are practicing reading the books they have chosen to read to their class. This has been a second-grade tradition for many years. Around Thanksgiving, they select a book and get it approved by their teacher. Then they practice, practice, practice reading so that they are ready to read it to their classmates. Each student is assigned a date for their presentation. It's always a highlight of December!





Welcome new Warrior Ms. Monica Johnson, 1st Grade Teacher

My name is Mrs. Monica Johnson. I have been married to Mike for almost 30 years (12/12). We have a daughter named Brittany, and two sons named Derek, and Jayden. We also have 11 animals! (Not Mike's choice - 😊) We have a Labrador/Rhodesian Ridgeback (150 lbs.) named Toby and a Yorkie/Maltese (8lbs.) named Tiara. We have 8 cats (6 inside) and 2 outside that I am still trying to catch for a couple of years. We also have a guinea pig named Truffles. I love to play with our animals and play board games with my children. I also like to do crafts, read books, and enjoy time outside on my back porch swing!

I have lived in Florida for most of my life but moved to St. Johns County 15 years ago. I graduated from UNF and have been teaching first grade for 7 years. My heart belongs to first grade. I love this age group because they are full of questions that we can explore. Their minds are like sponges and absorb so many foundational skills that they will use throughout their lives. I love being part of their journey and having them a part of my heart!



Students Arriving Early

• We appreciate our student helper (Patrols, Media Aides) assistance in the mornings and your dedication as parents to dropping them off early. Please be aware though, that the BUS loop is a dedicated bus lane in the morning, starting at 7:40 a.m. Early busses must drop-off students at that time, and we cannot have any other vehicles dropping off in that lane after 7:40 a.m. If, by chance, you are running late, you will need to enter the car lane loop. You can pull into the parking area, but you will need to escort your student across the car line to the entry area. Thanks, again for your support!

WCES PTO Business Partners

Platinum:

- Anderson Realty
- Smiles by Glenos
- The Village Chiropractic Center
- Henry Orthodontics
- iNoodle Ramen & Dumpling

Silver:

- Tropical Smoothie
- 123 EZ Bookkeeping
- All Florida Soft Water
- Gators Dockside
- Jessica Rust - Slate Real Estate
- Craig Dewhurst State Farm Agency
- Taylor English Duma LLP
- 2 Creeks
- Home Depot Home Services
- Summit Funding, Inc.

Gold:

- Motto Mortgage Company
- Peterbrooke Durbin Park
- Christ & Susan Fedor - Florida Local Team
- Simone's Wood Fired Craft Kitchen
- Murabella Animal Hospital
- SJC Junk
- Willie Jewells
- St. Augustine Boat Tours
- Pam Belcher - Real Estate
- Our Lady of Good Counsel

Banner Only:

- Coldstone Creamery
- Bailey Martin Realtor
- Just Speechie
- Nicole with Pixie Dust Vacation Planners, LLC.
- Bernard & Schemer, PA
- Creative Farmhouse Designs

In Kind:

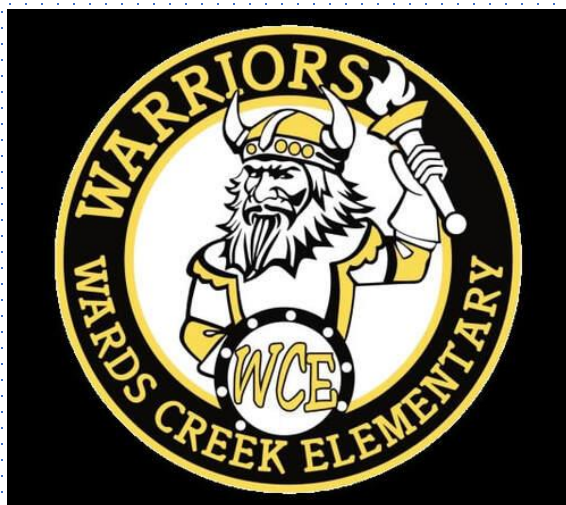
- Henry Orthodontics
- Garage Organization and Outdoor Concepts
- Sign Gypsies
- Papa Johns



December 2022



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Grinch Fest - Saturday 12/17 3pm - Purchase your tickets online.		 Spirit Night at 2Creeks	 Dress Like a Penguin
5 Holiday Grams on Sale  BOARD MEETING 3:30PM	6	7  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	8	9  Wear Red or Green
12 	13	14  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	15	16  Pajama Day!
19 	20	21  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	22  winter break Begins	23  MERRY Christmas
26 	27	28	29 	30
← Winter Break →				



FORTIFYFL
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



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