



The TORCH

Wards Creek
Elementary

February 2023

Dear Wards Creek Family,

Thank you for a successful start to 2023. There are many great events during the month of February. Please look at the upcoming dates and read the entire newsletter to keep up to date with all the news and school events.

The second round of FAST and Star testing for students finished at the end of January. We are seeing great student growth and will continue to see improvement as we focus on our mission. If you have any questions regarding the assessment results, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued partnership.

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!



Welcome new Warrior
Ms. Minter. Fifth grade ELA teacher

Hello! My name is Britaney Minter. I just moved here In May of 2022 with my husband, two kids, and 2 dogs. I'm really enjoying teaching 5th grade ELA/Social Studies! I love my new found family here at Wards Creek Elementary! I LOVE READING and Football!! Go JAGS! My family and I love the beach and we love dogs! We are animal lovers all around! We also have a special spot for the military as my husband is a veteran and our oldest son is a Soldier in the U.S. Army! I am currently undefeated in I Spy, and I enjoy a good laugh! I am so excited to be apart of the amazing family at Wards Creek and I'm excited to grow with our students and our school!



VPK

Sign ups for VPK will start on Monday February 6th. There will be a sign-up Genius list on our WCE website under the VPK tab. We will leave the registration open until March 3rd. At that time, we will do a lottery draw for 12 VPK spots in our FULL DAY blended program. We will contact you if your child's name is drawn and the registration process will begin. Please keep in mind that there is a fee of \$350 per month plus an initial registration fee of \$100.

If your student's name is not drawn, we will leave them on the sign-up list to serve as a wait list for possible dropouts.

Again, a lottery draw will determine the next child offered the vacated VPK spot. Good Luck to all of our future Warriors

Coming Up:

2/2 2nd and 3rd grade Field Day

2/2 Interims issued

2/3 Dress like a Twin

2/ National School Counselor Week

2/10 Daddy/Daughter Dance

2/10 Wear your favorite football team shirt

2/10 Last day to purchase Valentine Grams

2/17 Wear blue for kindness day

2/17 First annual STEM Expo

2/20 Presidents Day – No School

2/21 Simones PTO Spirit Night

2/24 Dress like Superman

PTO Spirit Night

Join us at Simones
February 21. We look
forward to seeing you!



Tissue Box Book Challenge

Do you love reading? Do you like to be challenged? Then this project is for you!

The directions are simple:

- *Read a book! It can be any book you choose, just make sure you have read the whole book.

- *Get a tissue box. It can be any shape, empty or not.

- *Decorate the entire box with a theme, setting, or character of the book you read.

- *Bring your box to the library with the bottom of this form filled out by Tuesday, February 14th.

- *All boxes will be on display for the whole month of February.

- *On February 16th, all staff members will vote on their favorite box. The winner will be announced on Torch News!

STEM CLUB

Good luck to our Warrior STEM club! They will be competing in the First Lego League Challenge qualifying event for St. Johns County schools taking place at Webster Elementary February 11th .

STEM SHOWCASE

We're excited for the amazing student response to participate in the WCES STEM showcase coming up on February 17th, from 9am – 11:30 am. Friends and family wishing to come check out the projects must have filled out the school access form:

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>, and be approved ahead of time.

Odyssey of the Mind

Some of our students will be competing in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on Saturday, February 25 at Gamble Rogers Middle School in St. Augustine. There are two teams which consist of 3rd - 5th grade students from our school and a few others. It is a full day event with activities and performances throughout the day. If you have ever wondered what Odyssey is about, I recommend attending this free event and supporting our students. There will be food trucks and souvenirs.



Betty Griffin Center "A DAY WITHOUT VIOLENCE" 2024 Art & Poetry Contest

It takes a community to end domestic abuse and it can begin with just one day without violence. Students from all over St. Johns County can submit original artwork or poetry reflecting a day without violence to become part of a countywide awareness campaign.

AWARDS: 1st Place -- \$50.00, 2nd Place -- \$25.00 and 11 honorable mentions will be presented \$10.00 each! All 13 winning artists / 12 poets will have their art or poem reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence" 2024 Calendar. They will also receive special recognition and have their work displayed at the "A Day Without Violence" Art Show.

RULES: To be eligible, artwork must be in color and able to be reproduced at 8 x 10 and suitable for framing (**horizontal format only**). All original 2D media is acceptable. No crafts, please. The theme "A Day Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or words. An entry form must accompany each submission.

All entries due April 30, 2023

For more information, visit : <https://bettygriffincenter.org>

Entry drop off locations: At one of the Betty Griffin Center Thrift Shoppes or any of the 6 St. Johns County Libraries.

"Information contained in these materials are neither sponsored by nor endorsed by the School Board of St. Johns County, its agents or its employees."

Gobi and author, Dion Leonard, visit Wards Creek

Thank you, Ms. Fanning, for arranging a wonderful learning experience. It was a treat to hear all about Gobi's adventures.





St. Johns County School District

Proudly hosts

Teacher Recruitment & Job Fairs



Teacher Recruitment and Job Fair

Saturday, February 25, 2023

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Nease High School Media Center

Teacher Recruitment and Job Fair

Saturday, March 25, 2023

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Nease High School Media Center



Live



WORK



Play

Register at: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/recruitment/jobfairs/>

Must have a complete application at
<https://www.applitrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

See you there!



St Johns County School District

Next Hiring for

Substitute Guest Teachers

Posting Feb. 6, 2023 – Feb. 12, 2023

in AppliTrack Application System

SJCSD is ready to hire substitute guest teachers who are ready to make a difference for students in

Pre-K - 12th grade. Daily hourly rate \$15.00.

The substitute guest teacher role provides:

- **Opportunity to put your degree to work.**
- **Flexibility – you pick the days and schools.**
- **An opportunity to work with diverse student populations.**
- **An opportunity to contribute to the learning and development of the students in our school district.**

Come join our team.

Applicants who hold a minimum of an Associate degree or equivalent of 60 credits or higher and who are 20 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Preferences given to applicants that have graduated or are graduating from an Education program. All applicants will be reviewed for strong teaching potential, above average references, experience in critical need areas, and/or an education degree.

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: <https://www.applitrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

Questions? Please call 904-547-7636 Smartfind Helpdesk or application questions call AppliTrack helpdesk 547-7631





PTO FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

WWW.WARDSCREEKPTO.COM



Happy Valentines Day from Wards Creek PTO!

FEBRUARY IMPORTANT DATES:

2/2 - FIELD DAY 2ND/3RD
2/2 - INTERIMS
2/3 - DRESS LIKE A TWIN
12/10 - WEAR YOUR FAVORITE FOOTBALL SHIRT
2/10 - LAST DAY TO PURCHASE GRAMS AT 5PM
2/10 - DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE - SOLD OUT
2/15 - RESOURCE OFFICER DAY
2/17 - WEAR BLUE FOR KINDNESS
2/20 - PRESIDENTS DAY
2/21 - SPIRIT NIGHT AT SIMONE'S
2/24 - DRESS LIKE SUPERMAN

FEBRUARY SPIRIT NIGHT:

FEBRUARY 21ST
5-8PM
SIMONE'S IN MURABELLA



IT'S A 50'S SOCK HOP!

PTO PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023
5-8PM
SOLD OUT! NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR



\$30 EACH

NATIONAL RESOURCE OFFICER DAY
THANK YOU DEPUTY FERRIS FOR KEEPING US SAFE!





VALENTINES GRAMS



ON SALE UNTIL 5PM ON FEBRUARY 10TH

Chocolate Rose

\$3.00



Limited Quantity
May contain traces of nut

Squishy

\$1.00



YOU CAN PURCHASE THROUGH THE FLYER SENT HOME OR ONLINE AT OUR SCHOOL STORE.

GRAMS WILL BE DELIVERED ON VALENTINES DAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

What does your PTO do?

YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS



FALL FESTIVAL, GRINCH NIGHT, DADDY/DAUGHTER
DANCE, ICE CREAM SOCIAL, TALENT SHOW,
MOTHER/SON EVENT

FUND TORCH PARTIES FOR STUDENTS
PURCHASED LEGOS FOR STEM, INSTRUMENTS &
CHAIRS FOR MUSIC, PE SUPPLIES
LAPTOP CARTS FOR THE SCHOOL
TEACHER APPRECIATION EVENTS & GIFTS
5TH GRADE CELEBRATIONS
COMPLETED WATER FILL STATIONS
GOODWILL DONATIONS
SPIRITWEAR/FUNDRAISERS
PURCHASED INDOOR/OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT
AND MORE!

WANT TO BE A PART OF 2023-2024 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD?

EMAIL:

WARDSCREEKPTO@GMAIL.COM




February 2023



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	2 2nd/3rd Grade Field Day	3 Twin Day 
6  BOARD MEETING 3:30PM	7	8  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	9	10 Football Shirt  Sock Hop 5pm
13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	16	17 Wear Blue for Kindness
20 	21 Spirit Night at 	22  Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	23	24 Dress like Superman 
27	28			

February





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.



#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM




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