



# The TORCH

Wards Creek  
Elementary

**April 2023**

Wards Creek Family,

Spring is here, the flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and the final quarter of the 2022-2023 school year has begun. In addition to the wonderful PTO events planned for April, STAR and FAST testing for students begin. Please be sure to keep up to date with everything happening by reading the TORCH, teacher newsletters and connecting with the PTO Facebook page.

**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!



### **Artome Art Show**

We are excited for the annual Artome Art Show **on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6PM-8PM!** To start off the night, our amazing chorus will be performing from **6:00-6:30PM in the cafeteria.** We will have 3 spaces filled with artwork for viewing. Families are encouraged to view the online Art Show beginning on April 20<sup>th</sup> and make purchases before the in-person live event. Only credit or debit card will be accepted at the event, no cash or check. Please see flyers for more details. We can't wait to see you there!

### **Coming Up:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Kennedy
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Student Teacher Holiday
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Student teacher holiday
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Wear your CAMO
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Patrols to Sea World
- 15<sup>th</sup> - PTO Mother/Son Event at Sharks Game
- Week of the 17<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Recognition Week
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip to the Zoo
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Wear Blue and Green for Earth Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Interims issued
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip to IMAX
- 25<sup>th</sup> - PTO Spirit night Tropical Smoothie
- 26<sup>th</sup> - District STEM Expo
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Artome Art Show and Spring Fling 6:00-8:00
- 28 – Dress like a superhero



### **FAST Dates 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

May 1-2: Fifth Grade

May 4-5: Fourth Grade

May 8-9: Third Grade

#### **Fifth Grade Science**

May 15-16

### **Extended Day 2023-2024**

Extended Day Registrations start Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>. We offer the following options paid monthly:

- Morning Care Only \$150
- After Care Only \$250
- Dual Care \$350
- Wednesdays Only \$120
- Drop-in rates \$40 per day

Applicants must be completely registered as a WCE student before Extended Day can process your registration. The normal \$100 registration fee will be discounted to \$75 if paid by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Families will be able access forms and information on our WCE website under the Extended Day tab. Payments can be made via SchoolPay. Once in SchoolPay, look for the 23-24 REGISTRATION – Ext Day tab. There are 10 equal payments for the year all due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month (July – April). The first payment for the year will be due prior to the start of school on July 15, 2023.

### **Star Testing Dates K-2<sup>nd</sup>**

April 17-18: Second Grade

April 20-21: First Grade

April 24-25: Kindergarten

### **SOCIAL STUDIES ADOPTION**

The St. Johns County School District has begun the review process for the Social Studies Instructional Materials Adoption. Please read the attached flyer for more information. Parents and Community Members are encouraged to participate in the adoption process. If you would like to serve on a school committee and formally review the resources as a part of the school review team, please contact Mrs. Haynes at Wards Creek Elementary by April 21, 2023. Committee membership is limited. School administrators will select the appropriate number of reviewers from the list of interested participants.





Welcome new Warrior

Dr. Jessica Hamelin, Assistant Principal

Hello Warrior Families!

I am thrilled to join the administration team at Wards Creek Elementary. I've had an exciting first week here at WCE! Please don't hesitate to reach out, should you have questions, concerns, or a celebration to share! A little about me...I earned my Bachelor of Education Degree as well as a Masters Degree from Jacksonville University. I also earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of North Florida. I have served in various roles in St. Johns County School District. These roles included teacher, instructional literacy coach, assistant principal, and most recently a program specialist at the district level. I love MTSS, the PLC process, curriculum and instruction, and exceptional student education. I am passionate about collaborative learning, inclusion, curriculum support, community involvement, and servant leadership. I am looking forward to finishing the year strong and proud to be a Warrior!

Sincerely,

Dr. Hamelin



APRIL 2023

# WCES PTO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WWW.WARDSCREEKPTO.COM

## DATES TO REMEMBER

4/4 - 4TH GRADE TRIP TO KENNEDY SPACE CENTER  
4/5 - SPIRIT NIGHT AT WHIT'S  
4/7 - NO SCHOOL  
4/10 - NO SCHOOL  
4/14 - SAFETY LEADERS TRIP TO SEA WORLD  
4/15 - MOTHER/SON AT JACKSONVILLE SHARKS  
4/18 - 1ST GRADE TRIP TO THE ZOO  
4/25 - INTERIMS ISSUES  
4/25 - 2ND GRADE TRIP TO IMAX  
4/25 - SPIRIT NIGHT AT TROPICAL SMOOTHIE - TBD  
4/27 - SPRING FLING & ART SHOW

## APRIL SPIRIT NIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH  
5-9PM

**WHIT'S**  
FROZEN CUSTARD  
*made fresh daily*

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH  
4-8PM

tropical **CAFE**  
SMOOTHIE  
eat better. feel better.



## Congratulations

**Mrs. Brown's Kindergarten class!!**

**They were the winners  
of most students at  
Mc Teacher night!!**

**Thank you to all Warriors for helping to  
earn \$1,281.26 towards our school!**

# MOTHER/SON EVENT

**SATURDAY APRIL 15TH 7:00PM**



**FOOTBALL GAME**



**\$23.00 A TICKET**

The fun doesn't stop once the game is over. You will be able to meet the Sharks Players as well as the Attack Dance Team for pictures and autographs after the game.

## WCES PTO Spring Fling

**It's PTO's favorite fundraiser  
of the year!**

**Thursday April 27th**

**6-8pm**

**Wards Creek Cafeteria**

**Spring Fling Donation Baskets  
Art Show featuring your students artwork  
Mister Softee**



## **WARDS CREEK ELEMENTARY PTO**

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### **NEW 2023-2024 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

**President - Debra Cook**

**1st VP - Kasey Lenoir**

**2nd VP - Emily Cloer**

**Treasurer - Dianna Hansen**

**Corresponding Secretary - Nicole Bigam**

**Business Partner Liaison - Jennifer Taylor**

**Parliamentarian - Megan Weber**

**Volunteer Coordinator - Auston Moore**

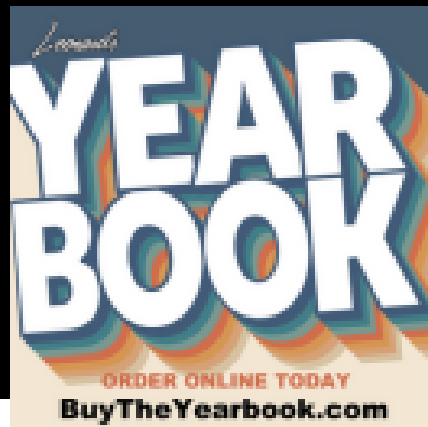
**Room Parent Liaison - Brie Colitzas**

**Teacher Liaison - Rachel Dyer**

**SAC Liaison - Danielle LoPinto**

**Event Coordinator - Melissa Debski**

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**ONLY 60 YEARBOOKS LEFT UNTIL WE ARE  
SOLD OUT! PURCHASE YOURS TODAY!  
\$30.00**





## **STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK**

**MAY 1-5TH**

**"OUR SCHOOL WOULD BE A CIRCUS WITHOUT YOU"**

**PARENTS, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE  
SNACKS/SUPPLIES FOR THE TEACHERS IN BULK, WE  
WILL HAVE A BOX IN THE FRONT OFFICE TO DONATE  
ITEMS THE ENTIRE MONTH OF APRIL**



## **STAR-FAST Testing Dates**

**April 17th-18th    2nd Grade**

**April 20th-21st.    1st Grade**

**April 24th-25th    Kindergarten**

**May 1st-2nd    5th Grade**

**May 4th-5th    4th Grade**

**May 8th-May 9th    3rd Grade**

**May 3rd & May 10th    ESE**

**May 15th-16th    5th Grade**







# April 2023



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Mother/ Son Night  
Saturday 4/15 7pm



BOARD MEETING  
3:30PM

3

4  
4th Grade Field  
Trip to Kennedy  
Space Center

4

Spirit Night at 5  
**WHIT'S**  
FROZEN CUSTARD  
*made fresh daily*

Early Dismissal  
1:45pm



6



7



10

11

11

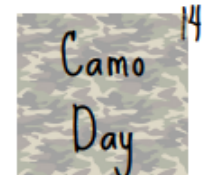


12

Early Dismissal  
1:45pm



13



14

17

18  
1st Grade Field  
Trip to the Zoo

18



19

Early Dismissal  
1:45pm



20



21

24

25  
Spirit Night at  
**tropical CAFE**  
SMOOTHIES  
2nd Grade Field  
Trip to IMAX

25



26

Early Dismissal  
1:45pm



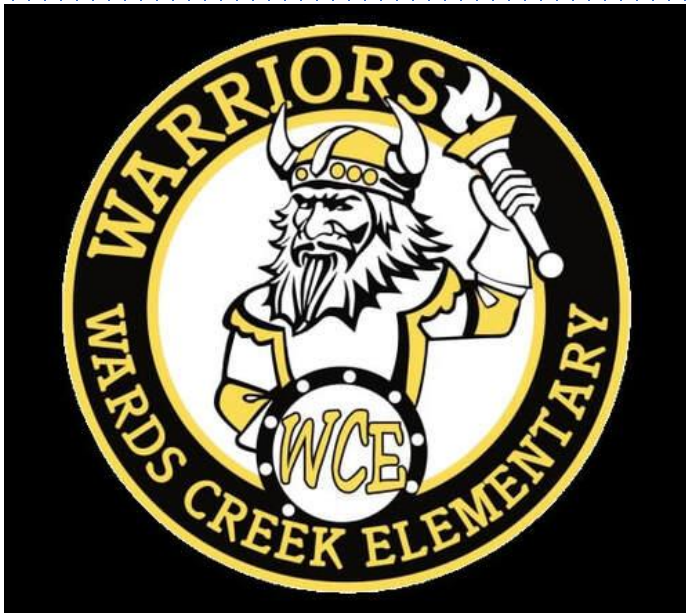
27


PTO Spring Fling  
Art Show  
6-8pm




28








**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