



# THE TORCH

AUGUST EDITION



## WARDS CREEK

### WARRIORS

Warrior Families,  
As the new school year approaches, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for another great year of achievement, learning and leadership. Our theme this year is Lights, Camera, Learn and we will take every opportunity to shine our lights brightly for all to see on and off the camera.

WARDS CREEK  
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN  
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes  
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams  
Assistant Principal

*Update with*

# MR. KLEIN



THE EXCITEMENT OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS ARRIVED. WE WELCOME ALL NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS TO THE WARDS CREEK FAMILY! THOSE RETURNING WARRIORS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE HOW THIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS AN ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIP IN HELPING GUIDE THE LITTLE ONES IN THEIR SCHOOL JOURNEY.

THE YEAR HAS ALREADY HAD A FEW FUN EVENTS. WE WERE ABLE TO INVITE OUR NEW KINDERGARTEN WARRIORS TO GET A CHANCE TO VISIT THE SCHOOL AND HAVE A GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY IN SIGNING THEIR NAME TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL STUDENT. WE ARE ALREADY IMPRESSED WITH HOW WELL-PREPARED THESE STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY.

WE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO TOUR OUR SCHOOL. OUR SAFETY PATROL LEADERS DID AN AMAZING JOB DISPLAYING THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SHARING THEIR PERSPECTIVE AS THE LIFE OF A WARRIOR. BOTH OF THESE EVENTS BROUGHT ME MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN GETTING THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTED. PERHAPS WHAT WAS MOST HEART-WARMING WAS SEEING THE CURRENT WARRIORS HAVING SUCH PRIDE IN SHOWING NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THAT WCE IS AN AMAZING PLACE TO BE.

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR AMAZING PTO IN CONTINUING TO THINK OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL. OUR GOAL IS THAT WE HAVE 100% PARTICIPATION IN JOINING PTO AND AT LEAST ONE EVENT. TAKING PRIDE IN BEING A WARRIOR MAY BEGIN BY ORDERING YOUR CHILD SOME WARRIOR GEAR. PLEASE VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.WARDCREEKPTO.COM/STORE.HTML](https://www.wardscreekpto.com/store.html) TO ORDER SPIRIT WEAR. IN ADDITION, PTO HAS A FEW FACEBOOK PAGES THAT STAY ACTIVE WITH THE IMPORTANT EVENTS AND INFORMATION. WCES PTO PAGE:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/GTFUWVRKPWWTCXZ3/?MIBEXTID=LQQJ4D](https://www.facebook.com/share/gtfuwvrkpwwtcxz3/?mibextid=lqqj4d). WCES FACEBOOK GROUP:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/CA3IZTRIZJWHIHQC/?MIBEXTID=WUAL2A](https://www.facebook.com/share/ca3iztrizjwhihqc/?mibextid=wual2a)

ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH, YOU SHOULD RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER. THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ROOM NUMBER AND HELPFUL DIRECTIONS OF HOW TO FIND THE LOCATION AS YOU ENTER FROM THE PARENT PICKUP/DROPOFF DOORS.

BECAUSE OF OUR ENORMOUS ENROLLMENT, MANY GRADE LEVELS MAY BE LOCATED IN AN UNFAMILIAR LOCATION FROM YEARS PAST. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FINDING THE ROOM, THERE WILL BE ADULTS AVAILABLE TO GUIDE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION IN THE HALLWAYS, HOMEROOM LISTS WILL NOT BE ON DISPLAY. YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THEIR GRADE LEVEL FAMILY MEMBERS WITHIN THE CLASSROOM.

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY - PLEASE COMPLETE

OPT-IN TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

[HTTPS://WWW.STJOHNS.K12.FL.US/SCHOOLMESSENGER/](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/)

PRIOR TO HAVING ACCESS TO ANY ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, DURING THE SCHOOL HOURS, ALL INDIVIDUALS MUST BE COMPLETE THE SCHOOL ACCESS FORM. IF YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE ON FILE, NO NEED TO DO IT AGAIN. PLEASE HAVE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS COMPLETED THIS IF THEY MAY COME TO SCHOOL.

TO VIEW YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION. REPORT CARDS WILL BE ISSUED ELECTRONICALLY ON [HTTPS://WWW.STJOHNS.K12.FL.US/HAC/](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### AUGUST DATES

Thursday, August 8th - Teacher Assignment on HAC

Friday, August 9th - Meet the Teacher

Sunday, August 11th - Chalk the Walk 5:30-6:30pm

Monday, August 12th - First Day of School

8/12-8/15 Kindergarten Staggered Start

Friday 8/16 First Full Day for Kindergarten Classes

Friday, August 16th - Spirit Day - "The Spotlight is on Me" Wear  
Sunglasses

Tuesday, August 20th - Spirit Night - Whit's Frozen Custard

Friday, August 23rd - Spirit Day - Lilo & Stitch Day - Wear  
Hawaiian/Luau Clothes

Tuesday, August 27th - Curriculum Night (3rd-5th) 5:30-6:30pm

Thursday, August 29th - Curriculum Night (PreK-2nd) 5:30-6:30pm

Friday, August 30th - Spirit Day - Academy Awards - Dress your Best

Friday, August 30th - Fall Picture Day



## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

### NEW DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

IN OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY, WE WILL BEGIN USING A DISMISSAL PLATFORM, PIKMYKID. THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF PIKMYKID ALLOW YOU TO EASILY CHANGE PICK UP MODES, QUICKLY DELEGATE TO AN ALTERNATE INDIVIDUAL FOR PICKUP AND EVEN SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE PICKUP ACCOMMODATIONS DIRECTLY FROM YOUR PHONE! THIS APP ALLOWS YOU TO BE IN FULL CONTROL OF YOUR CHILD'S DISMISSAL AND GIVES US, WARDS CREEK ELEMENTARY, COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING EVERY DISMISSAL. AS WE BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE PIKMYKID DIGITAL PLATFORM, YOU WILL NEED TO DOWNLOAD THE PIKMYKID APP. PLEASE SEE ATTACHEMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

# Visiting Wards Creek Elementary

Time to complete the SJCSO School Access Form for the 2024/2025 school year. ALL INDIVIDUALS over the age of 18 who plan on visiting Wards Creek Elementary and entering the building must complete the school access form. The form is found at <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply/>  
APPROVAL IS VALID FOR THREE YEARS.



The St. Johns County Volunteer Application is an application for clearance to be on school campus. Whether you are attending a conference with the teacher in person, volunteering in the classroom/events, escorting your kindergartener to class on their first official day of school, volunteering in the lunchroom, joining us for a presentation/celebration, and/or attending a field trip, you must have completed the above form. This is a district policy with no exceptions.



THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER



PILLAR OF  
THE MONTH  
All Character  
Traits

**READING 30 MINUTES DAILY MAKES YOU SMARTER.**

**OUR BRAINS ARE A CONNECTION OF ELECTRICAL SIGNALS. THE MORE CONNECTIONS WE HAVE (AND MAKE) THE BETTER WE CAN PROCESS INFORMATION.**

**READING IS A FORM OF TRAINING OUR BRAINS TO MAKE MORE OF THESE CONNECTIONS.**

**WITH READING, THE ABILITY TO NOT ONLY STORE BUT ACTUALLY APPLY WHAT WE LEARN IS IMPROVED.**

