



THE TORCH

SEPTEMBER EDITION



WARDS CREEK

UPCOMING DATES

- 9-02 Labor Day - No School
- 9-06 Spirit Day Paddington Bear - bring a stuffie to school
- 9-10 King of Pops Fundraiser
- 9-11 Interims in HAC
- 9/13 Spirit Day - Freaky Friday - Dress like your teacher
- 9-20 Teacher in service day - No school for students
- 9/23-9/27 Celebrate Freedom Week
- 9/25-10/4 - Fall Book Fair
- 9/27 Spirit Day - Barbies vs Superheroes

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



Warrior Families,

This has been probably the best opening month of August in my years at WCE. Despite a few changes in routines and procedures, you have been resilient in adjusting to the expectations. Those efforts in establishing the Warrior Way will help ensure that the rest of the year we can focus on the mission statement: "At Wards Creek Elementary School we ensure Achievement, Learning, and Leadership for ALL.

Thank you to those who are recognizing the deliberate actions being taken by our staff and the PSA with arrival and dismissal procedures. What may be viewed by some as aggressive, most individuals have appreciated that we are trying to make this an efficient process. Please continue to encourage your children to be ready to exit and enter your car with a purpose. Children will rise to those expectations. If you do need assistance, reminder to roll down your window. Also, if your child needs more time to buckle, please pull off to the grass area.

We appreciate those that were able to attend the curriculum nights. This will help establish that partnership that your child will recognize as an ongoing process throughout the year. Please help reinforce that expectation that children should read on a nightly basis and need to practice skills to become proficient. Attached are a few other suggestions for activities at home. What helps students the most is that their parent takes a genuine interest in their learning by asking questions and allow them to share their thinking. This is your chance to remind them that you are just like them when they were little, asking questions for curiosity and understanding.

Interims for the 1st quarter will be available on September 11th. However, keep in mind that, because the first few weeks are about establishing relationships, rituals, and routines, there may not enough information regarding your child's academic progress. The first round of progress monitoring diagnostics will be concluded by the end of the month. You will be receiving a parent report of your child's current mastery of the grade level expectations for the end of the year. Homeroom teachers will be reaching out to families in October to devise a plan for those students who may need additional support in mastering the standards.

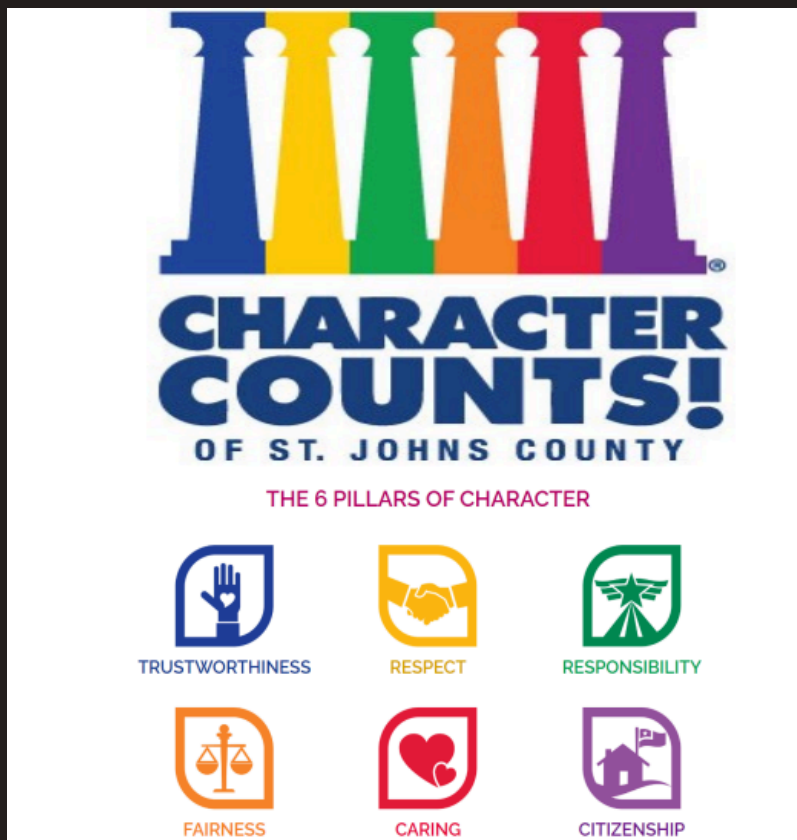
With appreciation,
Kevin Klein

CHARACTER COUNTS! Club

Who can join: 25 students will be selected from 3-5 grade. Interested students will fill out the character club application. Application is due to Kelly Allsup, room 210, character education teacher by September 5th. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Only chosen students will be notified NO later than September 11th.

Character club will begin on Tuesday, September 17th from 3:05-4:05pm in the character education room, 210. Ms. Allsup will be doing monthly service project with the students. The projects are:

1. September Fairness: Welcome! Create fliers for all projects. Start pen pal writing to students in China.
2. October Responsibility: Thanksgiving Blessing Bag
3. November Citizenship: Operation Shoe Box Fill
4. December Respect: Holiday cards to senior living home
5. February Caring: Animal Food Drive
6. March Trustworthiness: Positive Grahams for testing
7. April All pillars: Teacher appreciation gifts/ Finally party



PILLAR OF THE MONTH Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

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.



A note from Ms. Vergara

This year in the STEM lab, we'll be promoting conservation by recycling old crayons, markers, batteries, and printer cartridges. You're welcome to send any of those items to the lab with your student at any time. Thank you



Items unclaimed in the lost and found will be donated at the end of each month. This will help provide a safer and cleaner space in the office where the lost and found is located.

ATTENDANCE POLICY Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education. Excessive absences impair a student's educational progress, impacts whether the student passes or fails a grade, and may result in court proceedings and/or the loss of driving privileges. Students will be considered absent when they miss 50% of their school day. Absences shall be classified and treated as follows: Excused absences include: personal illness, family emergency, death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments. Unexcused absences include: shopping trips, pleasure trips, suspension from school, appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency, truancy. For a complete list of excused and unexcused absences, students and parents should refer to the Student Code of Conduct
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/conduct/>



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