



THE TORCH

OCTOBER EDITION



WARDS CREEK

A continued thank you goes to all our families for your constant involvement, support, and encouragement that you provide to our students each and every day. The partnership between school and home has never been more important. Please make sure to read the information in the TORCH and the PTO Newsletter so you are up to date with all things Wards Creek.

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



The saying, "Time flies when you are having fun," seems like this school year. It's hard to believe we are approaching the completion of the first quarter. The progress the students have made has been remarkable. They are practicing the Warrior Way, and I believe this will be the best year ever at WCE. I'm extremely thankful to the parents for helping us establish the routines and expectations and in your continued trust that we are doing everything possible for your child. And it's been enjoyable learning alongside our teachers during their Professional Learning Communities (PLC) meetings. They have been having great dialogue in charting the course for students' success in achievement, learning, and leadership.

October is the month I consider the most critical in ensuring academic growth and learning for all. Similar to establishing relationships and rituals and routines within the first few weeks of school, it is important to have critical conversations with parents for those students performing below expectations so we can strengthen the partnership between home and school. If we begin with the end in mind, the data we should start with is the FAST reading and math achievement levels, the end of the year standards.

If your child's score is below a level 3 after the first progress monitoring assessment, the teacher will be reaching out to you for a conference during this month. The goal would be to put in plan in place for a partnership in helping your child make tremendous strides prior to the 2nd and 3rd progress monitoring assessments.

It is important to note that the FAST achievement level does indicate success within all essential standards to be taught during this school year. So, a lower score than what you may have anticipated would likely be because your child does not have the background knowledge for that standard yet. In this case, the report card would help identify how your child is progressing with the material being taught in class. For K-2, you'll want to learn more about which benchmarks your child has received an "I" for Needs Improvement. In 3rd-5th grade you will want to know more about the essential standards your child is struggling with that may have resulted in your child receiving less than a "B" on the report card.

Within these conferences, the teacher will identify the gaps in your child's learning and the plan in place to bridge that gap. The teacher will be able to provide you with suggestions of how you can reinforce the learning process at home too.

If your child is "on target" with the FAST, please continue to encourage your child to become even more proficient by increasing their scale score. Although parent/teacher conferences are not required for students at expectation, your child's teacher should be able to share what enrichment activities are taking place in the classroom to increase the rigor your child would need to continue to show growth in their learning.

In a previous TORCH edition, I was able to share some information about incorporating higher order thinking skills at home through Bloom's Taxonomy question stems. I have shared those again, along with several other attachments that you may utilize in reinforcing learning opportunities.

Why Read 20 Minutes at Home
Bloom's Taxonomy
Parent Questions for Critical Thinking
Preparing my Child for Rigorous Assessments
Parent Tips
Teachable Moments
Reading Strategies
Math Strategies

Thanks for your continued support. This will be the best year ever!

Partners in Learning,
Kevin Klein
Principal

CHARACTER COUNTS!

Club

THANKSGIVING BLESSING BAG NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATIONS

Drop off location: Wards
Creek Elementary

Turn in by October 21



OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER



TRUSTWORTHINESS



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



FAIRNESS



CARING



CITIZENSHIP

PILLAR OF THE MONTH

Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do
• Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act – consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

3rd - 5th Grades

CALLING ALL STARGAZERS

Join us to explore the wonders of the night sky

WCES
November 8th
6 - 8 PM

The Ancient City Astronomy Club (ACAC) will be bringing their telescopes and knowledge to share with 3rd - 5th grade students and their families.

This is a free event, however, donations to support our STEM program are appreciated.

Red Ribbon Week

Unity Day October 16 promotes a "Bully Free" zone - everyone is encouraged to wear Orange from head to toe. Then Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 23- Oct. 31. This is a wonderful time to promote school spirit as the days are focused on a great message - encouraging students to make good choices when it comes to character, safety, and health! Please see the attachment for the schedule of Red Ribbon Spirit Days.



A Note About Clubs and Transportation

Once a student joins an after-school club, a recurring transportation change for the day of that activity will take place in PikMyKid. Parents will have to make a change in the PikMyKid app if they wish for their child to ride the bus or be car-rider on the designated activity days.



October 2024



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

 30	 1 Book Fair Night 5:30-7:30pm	2 Custodian Appreciation Day Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	3 Please Donate Candy for the Halloween Dance	4 Wear Pink 
 7	8	9 Boo Grams Sale Begins Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	10	11 Harry Potter Day  Halloween Dance
14	15	16 Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	17	18 Toy Story Day 
21 Fun Run Fundraising Begins	22 	23 Early Dismissal 1:45pm 	24  Boo Grams Sale Ends	25 Wear Spooky Clothes WCES Night at Sykes Family Farm
28 Red Ribbon Week	29	30	31 Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character  Halloween Literacy Parade	

COME DRIVE THE BUS WITH US

MUST HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

8:00am to 11:00am



PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPUS TEST TRACK
3640 GAINES ROAD
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084



Mission Statement

At WCES we ensure Achievement, Learning, and Leadership for ALL.

Vision Statement

To build and sustain a culture that provides a safe environment where all stake holders collaborate to ensure growth and achievement for all.



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



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