



THE TORCH

JANUARY EDITION



WARDS CREEK

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we eagerly anticipate the opportunities awaiting us in 2025. The New Year brings fresh opportunities, and our collective commitment to achievement, learning and leadership will remain steadfast. Let's continue to support each other, strive for excellence, and make 2025 a year filled with growth, learning, and joy!

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



It is great to have the students back on campus. We are enjoying hearing about all their excitement from winter break. We are ready to pick up right where we left. It was an amazing first semester and it will be an even a better second semester as we continue to witness student growth in achievement, learning, and leadership.

January is the month for re-establishing the classroom family and importance of rituals and routines. Our teachers have been using "family time" to review the Warrior Way expectations and importance of the social contract. The learning that takes place over the next two months will be the predictor of eventual success with the end-of-the year state assessments.

The results of the second progress monitoring for kindergarten-2nd grade reveals the great learning that is taking place. Those teachers have been diligently analyzing individual results and working within their professional teams to intentionally plan lessons to remediate and/or enrich within their intervention block. The 3rd-5th grade teachers will be doing the same after their students take the assessment this month.

Assessments results are located with the portal: <https://flfast.org/families.html>. The portal brochure is attached. These should be available within two weeks of the testing window for the grade level. If your child's score is below a level 3, he/she may need additional support to help bridge the academic gap. If your child is "on target," please continue to encourage him/her to become even more proficient by increasing their scale score. Although parent/teacher conferences are not required for students, your child's teacher should be able to share what they have in place to bridge the learning gap for those students not at expectation. Likewise, for those at expectation, they would be able to describe the enrichment activities that are taking place in the classroom to increase the rigor your child would need to continue to show growth in their learning.

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.

Partners in Learning,

Kevin Klein
Principal



**CHARACTER
COUNTS!**
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER



TRUSTWORTHINESS



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



FAIRNESS



CARING



CITIZENSHIP

PILLAR OF THE MONTH Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

2025



Wards Creek Elementary is now a Guy Harvey Conservation School. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Ximena Vergara, Wards Creek met the requirements to become a Guy Harvey Conservation School.

Guy Harvey Conservation Schools receive the following benefits:

- Experiential learning support through eligibility for field trip grants
- Notification of new GHF educational content
- Guy Harvey Conservation School plaque for display
- Recognition in the community as a dedicated conservation school
- Guy Harvey Auction Item giveaway for school fundraising event
- Eligibility for participation in Guy Harvey Conservation Online Student Art Contest
 - Eligibility for recognition as the Guy Harvey School of the Year with attendance for two school representatives at the annual Guy Harvey Foundation gala event

STEM Club

Congratulations to the WCES robotics team on securing a bid to the NEFL regional tournament!

This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovation that the team has demonstrated throughout their journey.

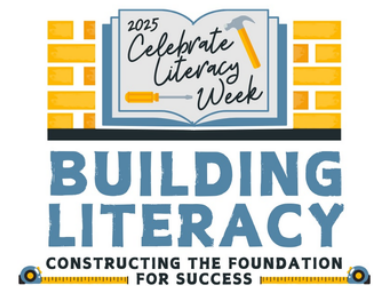
Competing at a regional level offers an invaluable opportunity for the team to showcase their skills and creativity while engaging with other passionate robotics enthusiasts. It also provides a platform to learn from their peers, exchange ideas, and gain insights that could propel them to even greater successes in the future. Best of luck to the WCES robotics team as they prepare to take on this exciting challenge and make their mark at the NEFL regional tournament!



Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

January 27–31, 2025

Please see the attachments for more information on the week!





SAC (School Advisory Council) needs parent/community participation to make decisions that will benefit our students, teachers, and community. Please consider joining us in person or virtually on January 16th at 3:30 and future meetings. We meet once a month for about 30 minutes.

Please see the school website for our meeting dates, minutes, and agendas. Hope to see you at the next SAC meeting.

Email Kelly Neel (SAC Chairperson) directly for questions or for the link to attend the meeting virtually:

Kelly.neel@stjohns.k12.fl.us



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.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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January 2024

Happy New Year

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

		1	2	3
		Winter Break 		
 6 Daddy Daughter Dance Tickets On Sale	 7 BOARD MEETING	8	9	 10 Wear Yellow
13	14	15	 16	 17 Marvel Day - Dress like a Superhero
 20 No School	 21 Spirit Night at Willie Jewell's	22	23	 24 Grease Day - Dress 50's or 60's
 27 Wear Exercise Clothing	 28 Wear Hat & Scarves	 29 Wear School Spiritwear	 30 Wear Hawaiian Clothes	 31 Wear Construction Clothes