



THE TORCH

FEBRUARY EDITION



WARDS CREEK

As we move into the month of February, we are excited to continue the journey of learning and growth. We encourage all families to stay engaged with our school events and to help create an environment of support and enthusiasm. Let's make February a month of full of growth, learning, and kindness!

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



As we enter the month of February, the Character Counts pillar that will be the focus of discussion during “family time” is Caring. I would like to take this an opportunity to continue to thank the Warrior community for their support. It is truly heartwarming to know how much we come together as a family.

I would like to recognize those that volunteer inside the school. There are those that assist in providing special attention to our students in their academics. There’s nothing that brings about more determination in a student to build confidence in their abilities than when they are in an individualized or small group setting. This attention and differentiated learning provides a safe environment for them to take risks and understanding that, although learning is hard, someone is there to cheer them on.

The stakeholder group of our School Advisory Council (SAC) has been an invaluable resource in our determination to reach the goals within our School Improvement Plan. They are the voice of the community in feedback to the administrative team about how to maintain a partnership with the school and parents. They also help us take action for those requirements from the state level and in providing approval for many school initiatives.

Also, I remain amazed about how fortunate our school is to have such a fabulous Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). They are at the school about as often as I am, and all because they want amazing opportunities for our students and to show our faculty/staff how much they are appreciated. Throughout the year there have been fun-filled events for us to come together. This month we have two of my favorites, with the daddy/daughter and mother/son events. The smiles on your child’s face details the joy they have.

All of our lives are busy, and some may not have the opportunity to volunteer their time or make it to the events. I am overwhelmed by how generous you have been in your participation in our fundraisers. These proceeds have been so impactful in providing opportunities for our students in which not be possible with the funding the school receives. Whether it has been the multiple laptops and laptop carts the students use for state testing and classroom learning, the upgraded sound system in the cafeteria, or the shade cover in the courtyard for outdoor learning and assemblies, each time I see students benefitting I can’t help but me humbled by the continuous generosity. This is why I don’t mind being the object of laughter from the students by being slimed, kissing a pig, getting my hair dyed then shaved off, and the other adventures. My nervous anticipation as I await will be requested of me with the Buddy-a-Thon fundraiser after Spring Break.

I am humbled by the fortunate blessing to be the principal of the Warrior Family and can’t thank you all for support of our school and being a partner in the success of the school.

Kevin Klein
Principal



THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER



PILLAR OF THE MONTH Caring

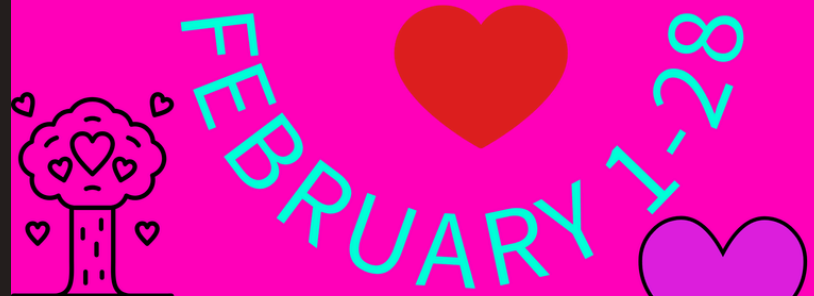
Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need • Be charitable and altruistic



"It is difficult to put into words how amazing Give Kids the World is, and what it meant for our family and other families that go on that trip. It is because of fundraising and donors that the Village is able to make each child's dream trip come true. I could go on for days about how magical the experience was, and how much it made us come together as a family after going through a year of cancer treatment with Sloane."

Ashley Stadt, second grade teacher

SHARE THE LOVE FUNDRAISER



THIS FUNDRAISER IS TO COLLECT COINS FOR "GIVE KIDS THE WORLD VILLAGE"

EVERY CLASS WILL COMPETE IN THE FUNDRAISER

WARDS CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE CLASS WITH THE MOST COIN WEIGHT WILL WIN A PIZZA PARTY



Robotics Club



Wards Creek Elementary Robotics team's hard work, dedication, and collaboration paid off. The Team made it to the state competition February 8th at Sea World. Congratulations to all! Thank you to All Florida Soft Water for sponsoring the team's trip to Sea World.



In addition to the team recognition, Ms. Vergara was nominated for the Coaches' Hall of Fame award.

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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 20th 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.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Betty Griffin Center "A DAY WITHOUT VIOLENCE" 2026 Art & Poetry Contest

It takes a community to end domestic abuse and it can begin with just one day without violence. Students from all over St John's county can submit original artwork or poetry reflecting a day without violence to become part of a countywide awareness campaign.

Awards: 1st Place – \$50.00, 2nd Place – \$25.00 and 11 honorable mentions will be presented \$10.00! All 13 winning artists and 12 poets will have their art or poem reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center "A Day Without Violence" 2026 Calendar. They will also receive special recognition and have their work displayed at the "A Day Without Violence" Art Display during the month of October.

For More Information Visit <https://bettygriffincenter.org>

Entry drop off locations: Betty Griffin Thrift Shoppes or any of the 6 St. Johns County Libraries

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Rules: · Art should be in color size 8 1/2 by 11-size – Horizontal /landscape

- NO computer graphic images.
- All art must be original hand-drawn/painted 2D media. No crafts.
- Drawings on poetry entries will not be eligible. only the poems.
- Only one entry per student– either poetry or art will be accepted.
- No forms of violence to be depicted in poetry or art.
- No violent images, weapons, blood, or gore. (violent images with a ban sign through will not be eligible)
- No use of copywrite images

All Entries Due April 30, 2025



February 2025



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

			1	2		
 <p>BOARD MEETING 12:00 PM</p> <p>Heart the Halls</p> 	3	4	 <p>K-2nd Stargazing Event 6pm</p>	5	6	<p>Willy Wonka Spirit Day</p>  <p>Dustin & Diamonds Dance</p> 
10	11	12	13	14		
	Interims Issued	Early Dismissal 1:45pm		<p>Happy Valentine's Day</p> <p>Student Holiday</p>		
17	18	19	20	21		
<p>No School</p>  <p>HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY</p>	<p>Spirit Night at</p> 	<p>Early Dismissal 1:45pm</p> 		<p>Little Mermaid Spirit Day</p>  <p>Field Day</p> <p>Mother Son Skate Event</p> 		
24	25	26	27	28		
		<p>Early Dismissal 1:45pm</p> 		 <p>Dr. Seuss Day</p>		