



THE TORCH

MARCH EDITION



WARDS CREEK

As we welcome March and with spring fast approaching, it's a great time to encourage curiosity and get outdoors. The warmer weather provides an opportunity to take learning outside.

Please keep an eye on upcoming events in the PTO newsletter or on the PTO Facebook page.

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



The Character Counts pillar that will be focusing on this month during “family time” is Trustworthiness. I want to continue to thank you for trusting us with your child. Foremost, for believing that the school will do everything possible to keep your child safe. That is my number one priority, because if your child doesn’t feel safe, they won’t be able to Achieve, Learn, and Lead.

I also appreciate the trusting relationship between the teachers and home. I’m thankful to have such an amazing teaching team that genuinely enjoys inspiring children. With this partnership, your child will continue to have a growth mindset and display leadership skills. This will also have a tremendous impact on learning, which achievement will transpire.

Our PTO will have amazing activities for Teacher Appreciation week, which is held during the week of May 4th. However, I have recognized that this month is one of the most critical for teachers to be reassured that they are amazing. Similar to the college basketball theme, this is our “March Madness.” Your child has taken two state diagnostic assessments. The teacher has analyzed those results and has made attempts to customize your child’s learning path, along with all the other students in the classroom. The amount of preparation and determination is commendable. At the beginning of the year our teachers call the home to provide some positive news. I’m hopeful that you would consider reciprocating by sending a short email to the teachers and thanking them for their efforts.

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

Trustworthiness

- Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal
- Be reliable — do what you say you'll do
 - Have the courage to do the right thing
 - Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country



The students brought in over 3,000 pounds of coins during the month of February.
Way to go!!!

Leonard's

PICTURE DAY IS ALMOST HERE!



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**Picture day is on
Wednesday, 3/12
Order Form is
attached**



STEM SHOWCASE FAMILY NIGHT

COME CHECK OUT THE WONDERFUL ENGINEERING AND
SCIENCE PROJECTS DONE BY 3RD - 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

THEN STAY FOR FUN STEM ACTIVITIES LIKE LAND USE IN
YOUR WATERSHED ,CODING, AND ROBOTICS

March 12, 5:30 pm -7:30 pm

Wards Creek Elementary Cafeteria

Animal Shelter Donations

March 1st-31st

***Non perishable items**

WHO?: Animal donations

WHERE?: Drop off at Wards Creek Elementary School

WHAT?: Non perishable items

WHEN?: March 1-31st



Robotics Club



Wards Creek Elementary Robotics team made it to the state competition February 8th at Sea World. The team won first place for their innovation project at the Florida State FLL Challenge Championship.

**Thank you,
Mrs. Vergara,
for another great
season!**

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March 2025



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p> <p>BOARD MEETING 12:00 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Early Dismissal 1:45pm</p> 	<p>6</p>	 <p>7</p> <p>Western Movie Day Dress like a cowboy or cowgirl!</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	 <p>12</p> <p>Family night 5:30</p> <p>Early Dismissal 1:45pm</p> 	<p>13</p>	 <p>14</p> <p>No School</p>
<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p>  <p>Happy Spring Break</p> <p>19</p> 			<p>21</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>Buddy -A- Thon Fundraiser Begins</p> 	<p>25</p>  <p>PreK- 2nd 5-8pm</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>3rd-5th 5-8pm</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>  <p>Pirates of the Caribbean Day Dress like a pirate</p>
<p>31</p>				



Exceptional Student Education

Parent Survey Exceptional Student Education Your Input is Important

Each year, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) conducts a survey designed to provide FDOE and the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, with information on how well Florida's schools are partnering with parents and promoting parent involvement in their child's education. The survey is open to all parents of children with an individual educational plan (IEP) receiving ESE services from preschool age through grade 12.

The 2024/2025 ESE Parent Survey is open beginning February 2025 and will close on 6/30/2025. The survey can be completed on the web or mobile phone by visiting:

2025 ESE Parent Survey - Please see attachment for link.

Your responses will help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families. All information provided will remain confidential. You may submit one online survey for each child receiving services.

Jessica Richardson
Senior Director, Exceptional Student Education

Spring Community Clean-up Event

St. Johns County's Recycling will be holding their Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up in the Silverleaf neighborhood sponsored by Victory Lutheran Church. This community event is scheduled for Sunday, March 23rd beginning at 3PM. We will meet at 70 Silver Forest Drive St. Augustine, FL 32092. Ages 8+ are encouraged to wear a yellow or other brightly colored shirt. Community service verification letters will be given to anyone requesting them.

The St. Johns County Adopt-a-Road Program owes its popularity and success to its many dedicated volunteers. By working together, we build a sense of community pride which in turn leads to a cleaner and safer place to live. When we build a sense of community, we are building a better tomorrow.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the Victory Lutheran Church Office at (904) 642-8900.





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 March 27th at 3:30. 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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