



THE TORCH

April Edition



WARDS CREEK

As the days grow longer and the flowers begin to bloom, we're excited to welcome the month of April with continued learning, exciting events and a touch of spring beauty! Read on to discover what's happening at Wards Creek Elementary this month.

WARDS CREEK
ELEMENTARY

KEVIN KLEIN
PRINCIPAL

Julie Haynes
Assistant Principal

Jill Williams
Assistant Principal

Update with

MR. KLEIN



The mission statement at Wards Creek is: "At WCES, we ensure Achievement, Learning, and Leadership for All." In addition to encouraging students to have a growth mindset for learning, developing their character is also critical for future success. As Theodore Roosevelt stated: "To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

Character education is about individual student growth. In SJCSD, we discuss the 6 pillars of Character Counts - Citizenship, Respect, Fairness, Caring, Trustworthiness, and Responsibility. As we enter the month of April, we will be revisiting all the traits during "family time."

I encourage you to ask your child to provide more insight into the pillars. They should be able to describe the topics that are discussed during "family time" and describe what takes place during our Character Counts Related Arts class. They should also be able to detail what it means to "Shine Their Light" and the purpose of a class social contract.

On Thursday, April 16th, we will be holding a Volunteer Appreciation breakfast. The flyer is attached in this newsletter. This is just a small token of our appreciation for the selfless efforts this community puts into giving up their time for the school. This definitely exemplifies the character trait of Citizenship:

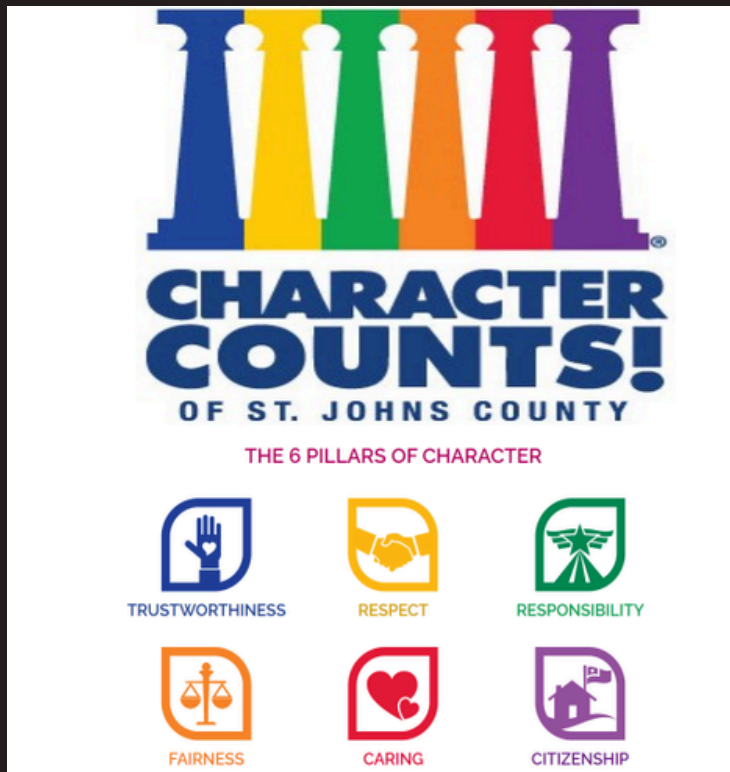
- Volunteering to help and assist others
- Cooperating for the common good
- Being involved to better society
- Participating and not expecting a reward

Each year the school nominates three individuals to be recognized as recipients of the "Volunteer of the Year" award. This year's nominees are: Cassidy Neel (youth category), Bronte Martin (adult category), and Kathryn Marti (senior category). I'll be joining them on April 3rd at a nice reception for all the district nominees.

Your homeroom teacher may have already reached out to request volunteers in assisting by proctoring during the end-of-the year testing. State statute details that an additional observer in the classroom must happen if the homeroom teacher is administering the assessment for his/her students. The best testing conditions for students is to test in the same room and with the same teacher in which they have had all year. Without the volunteers your child may need to take the assessment with a different teacher. Please email your child's teacher if you may be able to spend a few hours in a grade level classroom for the best testing conditions.

Partners in Learning,

Kevin Klein
Principal



PILLAR OF THE MONTH

All Pillars

Be trustworthy, be
respectful, be responsible,
be fair, be caring, be an
upstanding citizen

Stem EXPO update

District Elementary STEM Expo is Wednesday, April 30, 2024 (3:30 PM to 5:30 PM) at Wards Creek Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you at the event. It will be a great showcase of STEM projects from around the district.

Congratulations to the following students, whose projects will represent our school at the district's STEM Expo:

Fifth grade:

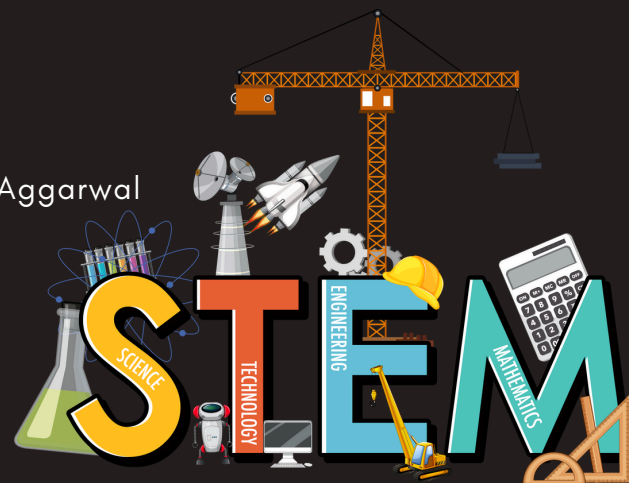
- "Extracting DNA from Fruits" by Ananya Kothalanka
- "Which Salt Works Best to Melt Ice" by Amanda Collazo
- "Breaking Point of Suspension Bridge" by Anna Polf

Fourth grade:

- "Accessible traffic light for the visually impaired" by Shanaya Aggarwal
- "Clean Water: Natural Filtration System" by Ella Casey

Third grade:

- "Biodegradable -Banana- Plastic" by Sarvan Potla



EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEANUP

**Saturday, April 19, 2025
9:30am-11:30am**



4 LOCATIONS:

Atlantic/Neptune Beaches: Atlantic Blvd Beach Access
Jacksonville Beach: Latham Park
Ponte Vedra Beach: Mickler Beach Access
St. Augustine Beach: St Aug Pier

If you would like to sponsor and/or donate food/prizes:
annemarie@beachesgogreen.org

**Please join us at Mickler Beach to help with
beach cleanup - look for Mrs. Ximena Vergara**

WARDS CREEK ELEMENTARY

ONLINE

ART SHOW

ONLINE ART SHOW START: APR 17, 2025

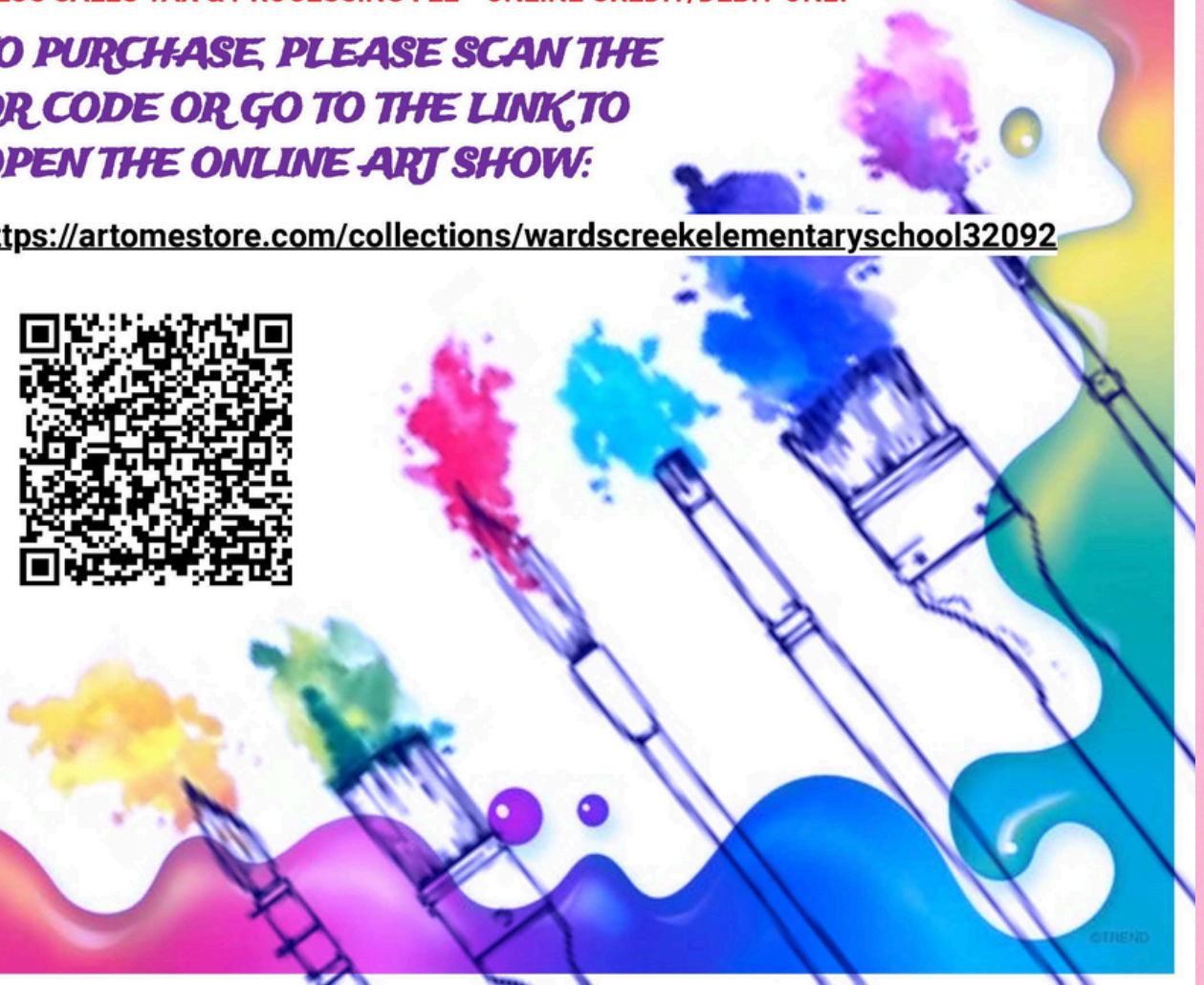
ONLINE ART SHOW END: APR 27, 2025

FRAMED ART FOR: \$ 30.00

PLUS SALES TAX & PROCESSING FEE - ONLINE CREDIT/DEBIT ONLY

**TO PURCHASE, PLEASE SCAN THE
QR CODE OR GO TO THE LINK TO
OPEN THE ONLINE ART SHOW:**

<https://artomestore.com/collections/wardscreekelementaryschool32092>





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 April 17th 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.

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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