



# Trailblazers in Learning

Mill Creek Elementary  
3750 International Golf Pkwy  
St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Phone: (904) 547-3720



## IMPORTANT DATES

December  
*All Pillars*

**December 16, 2016**  
Box Top Ends

**Wednesday, December 21, 2016**  
Second Quarter/First Semester Ends  
**EARLY RELEASE**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January  
*Respect*

**Wednesday, January 4, 2017**  
Teacher Planning Day – Student Holiday

**Thursday, January 5, 2017**  
Classes Resume for Students/Second Semester Begins

**January 10, 2017**  
General PTA Meeting, 3:15 PM

**Monday, January 16, 2017**  
Martin Luther King Day – Student/Teacher Holiday

**January 27, 2017**  
Character Counts

**January 31, 2017**  
SAC Meeting

February  
*Caring*

**February 2, 2017**  
Box Top begins

**February 3, 2017**  
Father/Daughter Dance

**February 7, 2017**  
PTA Meeting

**February 16, 2017**  
Box Top Ends

## RIEDL'S ROUNDUP

### What a wonderful time of year!

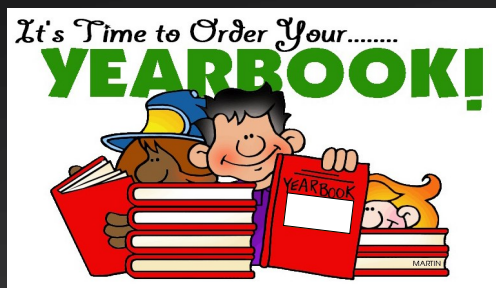
What a wonderful time of the year! We hear that often right now and I want to capture the “wonder” that is happening at MCES as we bring 2016 to an end! On Wednesday, we kicked off the day with a beautiful performance from the Mill Creek Orff and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus. Under the direction of Mrs. Paige Neal, assisted by Mrs. Abby Bergmann, Ms. Tiffany Riner, and Ms. Jamara Washington, the students brought to life the winter season with instruments, singing, and performing. It was simply beautiful. The students did an amazing job and I felt so proud to be part of such a special time. Thursday, we held our first annual Career Day coordinated by Mrs. Joan White and Ms. Virginia Berges, our Guidance Counselors. Students were dressed for success as Mayor Nancy Shaver, Mayor of St. Augustine, kicked off the morning reminding students of the importance of being mindful of the opportunities they will have in their lifetime to invest in careers of their choice. The morning was crisp and student excitement filled the air! Such a wonderful time of the year!

It is through these events and the constant recognition of student learning, student leadership, and student involvement that continue to drive the excellence at Mill Creek. Each year during this time, celebrating student learning becomes a highlight. Students are showing gains in Reading and Math, reaching personal goals, and becoming independent learners. Even though we have grown, and the number of students and families that attend Mill Creek may suggest that creating a family community of learners would be impossible, our Mighty Mustang Family continues to excel in achievement! That is something that is celebrated daily with the learning community. Thank you for supporting the learning at Mill Creek!

I have said many times, “I don’t think you can find a better place to learn, adults and children, than Mill Creek.” It is especially this time of year that I am reminded what an honor it is to serve the Mill Creek Learning Community. My final thoughts to you as 2016 comes to a close, “Thank you.” Thank you for always showing up when your child asks, thank you for supporting teachers, staff and leadership when we call or ask for assistance. Thank you for giving of yourself countless times throughout each day to ensure your child is equipped with the necessary tools to be successful; and mostly, thank you for providing the love and support that continues to motivate “our” students at high levels. And finally, thank you for continuing to partner with us in your child’s educational journey as we continue to move our learning community from “great to greatest.”

Blessings!

Your Learning Leader, Amanda L. Riedl



### **YEARBOOKS**

Yearbook Order Forms have been sent home.

Yearbooks are \$20.

You can also order online at

[www.leonards.com/yearbooks](http://www.leonards.com/yearbooks) and use access code C376386.

**All yearbook orders are due February 15, 2017.**

Congratulations to this week's **Mustang Pride** recipients:



Karissa K, Naomi G, Carmindy W, Isabella W, Shane T, Dakota M, Alejandro M, Ryder G, Karla B, Giana M, Raylyn B, Brady A, Bennett H, Mackenzie L, Tristan K

excited to announce that after school Spanish classes are coming to Mill Creek and currently enrolling for the January sessions.

L.E.E. is a program offered to all regular and extended day students at the school. The program is designed to encourage students to develop a love for Spanish while offering language instruction. This program was founded in 2003 and there are currently 13 participating schools in the St. Johns County School District. In addition, for the last 11 consecutive years, a L.E.E. student has won the Scholar of the Year award for Elementary at the State level, a recognition sponsored by the Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA).

The program starts the week of January 9 and meets once a week (Mondays) for fifteen (15) 90-minute sessions. The cost of the program is \$255. Online enrollment can be completed at <https://goo.gl/MfSZXd>.

For more information on this program, please email us at [LEESTjohns@aol.com](mailto:LEESTjohns@aol.com) or visit <http://leestjohns.pbworks.com>

Monday is the last day to buy candy grams. The cost of each candy gram is \$0.50. CASH ONLY. Complete the order form and return it in an envelope or baggie with your money by December 19. Candy Grams will be delivered on December 21. All money collected will be donated to The Empty Stocking Fund, sponsored by the St. Augustine Record to help local families in need during the holidays. Thank you for supporting Student Council and helping those in need in our community. To download the order form, click [here](#).

### **Language Enrichment Exploration (L.E.E.)**

Did you know that introducing young children to a second language can give them a chance at greater fluency and access to professional opportunities later on? Spanish is the second most-spoken language in the world according to census reports.

The Language Enrichment Exploration (L.E.E.) is

Mustangs, make sure you register for the  
Character Counts Six Pillars 6K/3K Run-  
Walk!

We want to bring home the trophy this  
year so come out, participate and help us  
represent Mill Creek's great character!

Register at

[http://racesmith.com/RACES/  
CHARACTERCOUNTS.HTML](http://racesmith.com/RACES/CHARACTERCOUNTS.HTML)

5TH ANNUAL

CHARACTER  
COUNTS! In St. Johns  
County

SIX PILLARS  
6K3K  
RUN • WALK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017, 9 AM.  
PALENCIA ELEMENTARY



Register by January 14, 2017, to receive a performance  
tech t-shirt and other goodies from sponsoring businesses and  
community organizations! The first 500 finishers will receive a  
collectible dog tag.

REGISTER AT: [RACESMITH.COM/RACES/CHARACTERCOUNTS.HTML](http://RACESMITH.COM/RACES/CHARACTERCOUNTS.HTML)

## Resource Classes

**Art News:** Check out the pink flamingos in the hall. First graders have been making and using tints. White added to any color or neutral is a tint. Tints are not on the color wheel. So, first graders know - PINK IS NOT A COLOR! Pink is a tint of red. - Mrs. Locke

Your Tech 411 for December,

Over the last month, we have been working on a site called [www.turtlediary.com](http://www.turtlediary.com) in the lower grades. It is a site that reinforces Math, Language Arts, Science and computer skills (ex. keyboarding, coding). The site uses interactive activities that engage the students to learn about new topics and practice ones that they have already studied in their classroom. We are learning to navigate a webpage and to use good listening skills. Kindergarten used a science website called Sid the Science Kid. In the computer lab, we are using Google Chrome with an ad blocker. The students do not see any ads when they are on websites here at school.

Happy Holidays!!

-Mr. Drinkuth



Stay  
active  
everyday

A word from Coach Larkin: Stay active during the winter break. Everyone should try to get 30 minutes a day of physical activity. You can do 3 ten minute activities to accomplish your 30 minute daily total. Some suggestions; play outside with a friend, go for a walk with your family, dance, jump rope, play tag, shoot a basketball, kick a soccer ball, play catch, do exercises (jumping jacks, push-ups, sit-ups). Be creative with safety being your first priority. Enjoy the break having fun with physical activity.



# Resource Classes



Hola Mill Creek Community;

For the last two weeks we have been learning the Alphabet in Spanish, students are using different methods to learn the Spanish alphabet. To start, we practice the sound of each letter and we talk about the difference between English and Spanish alphabet. Students are writing the sound of each letter in their journals. Then, I show them a video - song about the each single letter sound from the Spanish alphabet. Students work in pairs and practice their first name and last name using the alphabet in Spanish. Finally, each student presents for the whole class. They get excited to be able to spell their own names in a different language! To reinforce what we learned, we will be playing Bingo using the Spanish letter (making out the sound). Talking about the difference of the letters in both languages encourage students to a higher level of thinking. It's very important for the 5th grade students to know it because this is the base for the Spanish class that they will be taking in middle school.

"Es un honor y un privilegio enseñar a la comunidad de Mill Creek". "It is an honor and a privilege to teach the Mill Creek community".

¡Muchas Gracias! -Mrs. Blakenship

## El alfabeto

a	a	ah	n	ene	eh-nay
b	be	bay	ñ	eñe	en-yay
c	ce	say	o	o	o
ch	che	chay	p	pe	pay
d	de	day	q	cu	koo
e	e	ay	r	ere	er-ay
f	efe	effay	rr	erre	er-ray
g	ge	hay	s	ese	es-say
h	hache	ach-ay	t	te	tay
i	i	ee	u	u	ooh
j	jota	hota	v	ve	vay
k	ka	ka	w	doble ve	do-blay vay
l	ele	el-lay	x	equis	ay-kees
ll	elle	ay-yay	y	i griega	e-gree-ay-ga
m	eme	eh-may	z	zeta	say-ta

Yo sé el alfabeto. ¡Ole!

## Media Moment...

Our fabulous fifth graders are doing a great job connecting our characters and chapters in *Seedfolks* to each other and our overall theme is starting to take place.

Fourth grade was given a challenge- they were given a writing prompt and had to write a 4 sentence passage. Then they needed to identify the key words and convert their passage (prose) to poetry by using the structural elements of poetry.

Close reading is our topic for third grade. As we lead in to our novel study we are talking about close reading and strategies that we can use to help us comprehend our reading.

Our super second graders are finishing up our nonfiction text feature project – helpful flip books so that we know how to use the nonfiction text features to help us understand nonfiction text.

First and second grade are working on cause and effect. We have begun reading our Florida Reading Association Award nominated books and we started with *Because I Stubbed My Toe*. This is a silly book that shows a chain of events that happen all because the main character stubs his toe. -Mrs. Bergmann

