



Trailblazers in Learning

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



IMPORTANT DATES

March

Trustworthiness

March 3, 2017
Mustang Gallop

March 7, 2017
PTA Meeting

March 8, 2017
Teacher Luncheon

Friday, March 10, 2017
Third Quarter Ends

Monday – Friday, March 13 – 17, 2017
Spring Break – Student/Teacher Holiday

Monday, March 20, 2017
Teacher Planning Day – Student Holiday

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Classes Resume for Students

March 28, 2017
SAC Meeting

March 31, 2017
5K Ready Set Glow Run

April

All Pillars

April 4, 2017
PTA Meeting

April 6, 2017
Box Top Begins

April 7, 2017
Spring Pictures

Friday, April 14, 2017
Student /Teacher Holiday

April 20, 2017
Spirit Night

Ready to Write!

Next **Tuesday, February 28**, our 4th and 5th graders will take the FSA Writing Assessment. They have been working incredibly hard this year becoming published authors and perfecting the craft of their writing. However, as the Lead Learners(teachers) in the classroom, we also have been working to develop ourselves in the craft of writing and how to develop our Mill Creek Writers. We could not be more PROUD of the way our writers have progressed throughout their years as Mighty Mustangs! We are “SUPER” excited about the performance of our student and know they are looking forward to showing their perfection at writing! They know, not only how to write about their opinion, but also how to convince others to support their opinion all while holding on to a different perspective to write a counter claim. That is impressive!

4th and 5th grade teams, along with the entire Mill Creek staff have worked diligently this year to strengthen their Informational and Essay Writing Units. Although students have been experiencing writing in these different types of genres for a few years, teachers worked to align writing vertically, between grade levels, to ensure that we know and understand the different levels of our writers! Students have been using thesis statements, supports, and meaningful information from text to support their writing. In addition, this year our focus was on elaboration, how to help our writers learn how to information from a text and paraphrase and cite appropriately without copying text. This type of writing is even hard for adults at time, but our students have risen to the occasion! Writing is one of our students’ favorite times of the day, as they have seen how writing can be an expression of their beliefs and values. We are so proud of them and excited to see their accomplished work as writers on the FSA Writing assessment.

As a reminder, it is critically important that our students come with well-prepared minds and bodies to do their BEST work. Please ensure that your child has a good night’s sleep, a well-balanced breakfast and most importantly is **HERE** and **ON TIME** to school on Tuesday. This will set them up for SUCCESS. Thank you in advance for your support and commitment to your child’s education and the continued learning at Mill Creek. Our learning community’s strength comes from your constant love, dedication, and support!!! THANK YOU!

As a reminder, **NO VISITORS or GUEST will be allowed in the building on Tuesday due to testing**. We want to ensure a quiet, uninterrupted learning environment for our students. Thank you for your cooperation and support during this very important time of testing.

Your Learning Leader, Amanda L. Riedl

FSA TESTING DATES

Please go ahead and note these grade level testing dates on your calendar. ***Teachers will communicate the exact dates your students' class will be testing.** Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days. We will be sharing more information and helpful tips as we move closer to the testing dates.

3rd Grade

March 27 & 28—FSA ELA

April 10, 11, 12 & 13—FSA Math

4th Grade

February 28—FSA Writing- **NO VISTORS IN BUILDING**

April 10 & 11— FSA ELA

April 17 & 18—FSA Math

5th Grade

February 28—FSA Writing— **NO VISTORS IN BUILDING**

April 17, 18, 19 & 20 — FSA ELA

April 24, 25, 26 & 27—FSA Math

May 2 & 3—FSA Science



Lost and Found items are donated at the end of every month. If your student is missing an item, please have him/her stop

by and see if the item is here. As a reminder, items that are labeled are much easier to return to the rightful owner.

Mill Creek Parent Needs Assessment Survey

The Mill Creek Parent Survey is now available at <https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n4K3no44>.

This survey will give us the specific parent feedback we need as we continue to strive to provide the best learning for our students. The survey will be open **now until March 10**. We will also have a computer available in the front office if you would like to complete the survey at the school. We appreciate you sharing your feedback with us.

School Access

As required by Florida state law, everyone **MUST** have a cleared background check to go past the front office at Mill Creek Elementary. Picture ID (driver's license) is also required to enter the building at all times. You **MUST** have a background check and be cleared to volunteer at the school, attend any conferences, attend field trips, and to have lunch with your child. So now is the time to go ahead and apply for school access. **Please make sure all spouses, grandparents, siblings over the age of 18, etc. who may visit the school are also approved to enter the building.** The school access application is on-line at: <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply> The cleared application is good for 3 years and can be updated in the front office or renewed at any time. At no time should you have to resubmit another application. If you have any questions or need further assistance please contact Mrs. Larson at 904-547-3720 or tina.larson@stjohns.k12.fl.us

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

Madelyn B, Eva M, Zoe C, Paisley C, Mitchell D, Giovanni F, Cynthia T, Avalon M, Emily P, Riley S, Danny S, Rylan B, Mason R, Reese G, Faith G

Kindergarten Registration Dates

Please visit our registration page ([here](#)) for information on Kindergarten Registration.

Registration will not take place if you do not have all current documents that are required. Upcoming dates for Kindergarten Registration for the 2017-2018 school year:



Friday, March 24, 9 am—1 pm

Tuesday, April 4, 1—5 pm

Monday, May 15, 9 am— 12 pm

Resource Classes

Your Tech 411 for February,

This past month Kindergarten and First grade students were introduced to a website called Teach Your Monster to Read. Teach Your Monster to Read is an award-winning series of games that has helped over half a million children learn to read. Students were engaged and enjoying their time in the computer lab while learning to read.



Below is how students learn from the game:

"The game takes children on a magical journey, meeting colorful characters along the way and collecting fantastic rewards. When children are engaged, they're motivated to learn. As they progress, they rehearse a range of essential reading skills; matching letters to sounds, blending, segmenting, tricky words and reading full sentences."

Have a great day!

The Wonderful World of SCIENCE

There will be outstanding scientific learning happening in the month of March! Our kindergarten friends will be learning about the 5 senses. Our 1st graders will explore movement. Students in 2nd grade will investigate magnetism. This month, 3rd graders will learn about energy. Our 4th grade friends will participate in labs on migration. Students in 5th grade will explore weathering. I look forward to lots of fun and fabulous learning in the science lab! - Mrs. Whitworth



"News from the Spanish world. Noticias del mundo hispano".

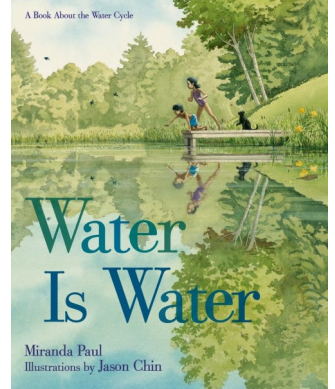
In our Spanish class, we are working on a little research about our Spanish speaking countries. The students are working in groups of two. Each group has one Spanish speaking country. We are using technology to find out about their currency, population, capital, location, and exchange rate! We are finding out how much our US money is worth somewhere else. When they are finished with the research, we will work in posters to show our knowledge about Spanish speaking countries. So much to learn! Muchas gracias. Thank you so much. - Mrs. Blankenship

Good news. The SJCSO maintenance crew lowered our basketball hoops. We now have them at 8 feet. Which is 2 feet lower than they were. All students k thru fifth will have more success shooting baskets. I try to enable the students to be successful in all our activities. My goal is for them to enjoy physical activity and hopefully they will remain active throughout their lives. - Coach Larkin



Resource Classes

The kindergarten and 1st graders have had a great time making storm clouds. We read the books *Water is Water* and *Over in the Wetlands*. These books covered the water cycle and a hurricane. We created a rain cloud and a hurricane cloud in the classroom! The second grade finished up their research on their chosen historical figure for their living museum. We continue with our novel study in third grade, building our bank of characters and determining their internal character traits. – quite a diverse group of characters in this novel. We have some real poets in fourth grade! We are doing our final edits and final drafts of our Haiku poems. Check them out at the Night of the Arts. They will be on display in the media center. We dove even deeper into our novel with the 5th grade. We are half way through and talked about the characters ethnicity, internal characteristics and important facts we've learned and how they drive their behavior. - Mrs. Bergmann



MUSIC at MCE: March is National "Music In Our Schools" month! Here at MCE, we will be celebrating with a special performance by our D-Day resource classes, plus our 4th grade Chorus and our 5th grade Orff Ensemble. The performance will be on **Wednesday, March 8th at 9:15AM** in the Café.

You are invited! Hope you can make it! -Mrs. Neal

February is the month to think nice thoughts and do kind deeds. Our art students have been creating kinetic art. We have been making cards with moving hearts. Grades 5th, 4th, and 3rd cut special cuts and folded paper so that when the card was flat the heart was flat and when the card was open the heart moved to a standing position. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade explored drawing patterns and free drawing hearts on gingerbread people.

- Donna Locke, Art Teacher

Counselor's Corner

During K-2 Counselor resource this month our lessons will be focused on safety. One of the goals of the comprehensive school counseling program at Mill Creek is to prevent problems before they happen. A safety prevention program is beneficial to not only students, but their families, our school, and the community as well. The safety prevention program that will guide safety instruction this month is provided by The Monique Burr Foundation, Child Safety Matters. Child Safety Matters is a research based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that is fun and engaging. It promotes safety and empowers students with rules and strategies that they can use to help the adults in their lives keep them safe. If you have any questions about Child Safety Matters or the comprehensive school counseling program at Mill Creek, please feel free to contact your school counselor.

Virginia Berges, School Counselor