



# Trailblazers in Learning

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

### August

#### *All Pillars*

**August 23, 2016**

Volunteer Breakfast 8:45 am

**August 26, 2016**

Family Movie Night 6:30-8:30 pm

**August 30, 2016**

SAC Meeting

### September

#### *Fairness*

**Monday, September 5, 2016**

Labor Day – Student/Teacher Holiday

**September 6, 2016**

PTA Meeting 3:15 PM, Media Center  
Scorecard Fundraiser Begins

**September 13, 2016**

Curriculum Night K-2

**September 15, 2016**

Curriculum Night 3-5

**September 20, 2016**

Fall Pictures  
Scorecard Fundraiser Ends

**September 23, 2016**

Mother/Son Cornhole, 5:30-8 PM

**September 27, 2016**

Spirit Night at McDonald's (McTeacher  
Night), 5-8 PM  
SAC Meeting

**September 30, 2016**

Character Counts 9:30 AM

## RIEDL'S ROUNDUP

Welcome back to the 2016 - 2017 school year. I am so excited about what the new year holds for us as a learning community. From day one our students were engaged in learning! Throughout the classrooms, you can see students thinking. I have listened to the learning conversations and viewed student work that is already beginning to emerge. Our "trailblazers" have kicked learning into high-gear with a mindset to only get SMARTER, and more RIGOROUS. I want to begin our first newsletter with a few key parent communication avenues that will keep you updated on the current events and learning practices throughout the year:

**REMIND:** This year, we will continue to utilize REMIND as a parent communication in addition to blackboard. REMIND is a simple text features that allows me to send our entire Mill Creek community reminders of important information. Check out the REMIND link located on the MCES home page to sign up.

**Mill Creek Messenger:** The Mill Creek Messenger is the weekly school newsletter. I use this platform to educate our parents of instructional practices, deepen the understanding of our instructional practices, learning goals, and standards for our parents and families, and keep you updated on current events. In addition, I use the newsletter as reminders, safety tips, and frequent communication. In addition to my informational piece, other important information is shared throughout the newsletter from various departments at Mill Creek. This year we are excited to highlight our Resource classes each month and the learning experiences that are offered to students each day. This is a highlight of our student's day!

**Mill Creek webpage:** Mill Creek's webpage is not only informative, but we work to keep it interactive with videos and learning in the building. Our webmaster, Mrs. Kathleen Richards, in addition to Mrs. Tompkins, updates the site weekly. Please never hesitate to let us know if you view information on our website that is not updated!

**Curriculum Nights (formerly called OPEN HOUSE) September 13(PreK – 2nd grade) and September 15 (3rd -5th grade):** This year we will continue to host our Curriculum Night. However, to accommodate our growing number of students, we will host two nights, **September 13 for grade PreK, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and September 15 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.** Although the evening will be spent with grade level and individual classroom teachers and becoming acquainted with specific classroom practices, the highlight of the evening will be a focus on student learning and what is expected from students during the course of the year. We are encouraging our parents to make this an "adult only" evening so parents are truly able to engage in the learning expectations, classroom rituals and routines and be able to ask the very important questions that you may have about your child's year of learning. We realize that for some of our families this is difficult; however, we are asking that parents plan to attend this event without their children. This will be the only time we ask throughout the year for an adult only evening as we know and are committed to Mill Creek being a child-centered organization. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and support.

Finally, I wanted to remind our parents of **parent drop off and pick up**. Although the first few days have taken a little longer, we are proud to have decreased our time significantly with over 1100 students. In fact, we have had a very successful dismissal that has been celebrated throughout the district. That is only done with the help and support of our AMAZING families! THANK YOU SO

MUCH!!!! As a reminder, we request that parents please remain in their vehicles and use the Parent Pick Up line. I realize it is time-consuming, but for the safety of our students, it is imperative that we do not have parents gathered outside the doors waiting for their students. In addition, I wanted to remind parents that students can be dropped off in the morning at 8:05. If you arrive early students will be asked to remain outside until 8:10. A Mill Creek staff member will supervise this group until students move into the building. This ensures students arrive safe and secure for a successful day of learning!

What a kickoff it has been at Mill Creek. Our goal is for Every child, Every Need, Every Day to be served in an environment of excellence. We encourage you to become an active participant in your child's education and look forward to serving as your teacher and leader. I feel completely blessed and honored to lead at Mill Creek and have committed to the LEARNING FOR ALL...

Your Learning Leader, Amanda L. Riedl, Principal

## 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](mailto:tina.larson@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## PTA NEWS

The Mill Creek Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a membership group for parents, teachers and community neighbors. Become active in your child's education! Our PTA holds fun family events, offers great family discounts and services and raises money for the school. Join today!

[www.mcepta.weebly.com](http://www.mcepta.weebly.com)



The St. Johns County School District has launched a new electronic flyer (eflyer) approval process and communication system, Peachjar. The St. Johns County School District cooperates with approved community partners by posting eflyers online and distributing them electronically through our service provider, Peachjar. As part of our efforts to be more environmentally friendly, embrace innovative technology, and maintain fiscal responsibility, we have transitioned from paper to electronic flyer delivery.

Please make sure you visit our website (click [here](#)) to see Mill Creek's current peachjar flyers.



**A Five-Star School**

**Mill Creek has just been named a Five-Star School and is the recipient of the Golden School Award!!**

*Thank you to all parents, staff and community members that helped us achieve these accomplishments. We couldn't have done it without you!*



### Transportation Changes

Should you need to change your child's dismissal transportation, please email or send a written note to your child's teacher BEFORE 8:00 AM. If there is a situation during the day and a change in normal dismissal is needed, please email [mcestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:mcestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us) BEFORE 2 PM (1 PM on Wednesdays). Include your child's name, grade, teacher and how they need to get home. We will no longer be able to accept phone calls for transportation changes.

**Please remember to always label any items brought to school like a lunchbox, sweater or jacket, water bottle, thermos, etc. We already have lost items. Starting at the end of September, any items not claimed by the end of each month will be donated to charity.**

### Attendance Line

If your child is going to be absent, please report it to us by calling our attendance line: (904) 547-3737. Then follow up with a written excuse for the absence when the child returns.