



# Trailblazers in Learning

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

August  
*All Pillars*

**August 26, 2016**

Family Movie Night 6:30-8:30 pm

**August 30, 2016**

SAC Meeting, 4 PM Lower Filly Room 520

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  
Two sessions: 5:30 and 6:30 PM

**September 15, 2016**

Curriculum Night 3-5  
Two sessions: 5:30 and 6:30 PM

**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, 4 PM Lower Filly Room 520

**September 30, 2016**

Character Counts 9:30 AM

In the last newsletter of each month, we will dedicate this section to showcasing our Resource Classes and what the students are learning.

SSYRA



### The Media Moment by Abby Bergmann.....

The media center is excited to see so many new faces and of course returning faces back in the media center. During the month of August the students are involved in our beginning of the year media center orientation about rules, expectations and procedures for book check out. We will then move in to the introduction of the new Sunshine State Young Reader Award nominated books for grades 3-5. Our second graders will be partaking in the new Sunshine State Junior program. If you would like to see more about these programs please visit their website at [www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html](http://www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html). Our first graders will get to meet the new Florida Reading Association nominated books that they will get to vote on. Last, but certainly not least, our new kinder friends will be learning all about what we do in the media center and how to take care of the library books that they will be borrowing. Of course no one wants to be a book bully!

### Welcome to Tech with Mr. D!

We are looking forward to an exciting year. A large number of students come to the lab with a very limited knowledge of how to use a mouse and/or keyboard. It is my job to get everyone, starting at the Kindergarten level, interested in technology, engaged, motivated and functioning on the computers. The goal of the computer lab is to learn about technology but also to prepare students for the new computerized testing procedures called FSA. (Jim Drinkuth)

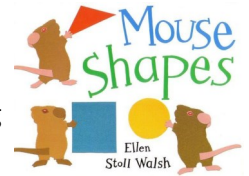


### The Wonderful World of SCIENCE

I am so excited for another fun filled year of hands on learning in the science lab! We are off to an awesome start with all grades reviewing science lab safety rules and learning about the nature of science. Additionally, our 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about the scientific method. There will be sensational scientific learning happening in the month of September! Our friends in K and 1, will explore how their five senses help them make observations. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will learn about Earth systems and patterns. This month, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will work on plant structures and animal classifications. Our students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade will learn about Earth in space and time and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade friends will explore properties of matter. I look forward to lots of fun and fabulous learning! (Peggy Whitworth)

### **News From Art:**

We are ready to hit the trail. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade artist have been leading fashion designers and created just the right boots for trailblazing into learning. They have learned the meaning and used the elements of art: color, value, shape, line and texture. They have also learned the meaning and used the principles of art: pattern, balance, contrast, rhythm, emphasis, unity, and movement. Grades 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> have also been learning and using the elements and principles of art. They have used color, line, texture and pattern to create colorful galloping steeds for their trailblazing adventure in the world of art. Kindergarten have been exploring shapes and finding they can be combined to create things we see in our world such as houses, trees, wagons, and even a sneaky cat. Ms. Locke read the book **Mouse Shapes** by Ellen Stoll Walsh in which clever mice created giant scary mice using shapes to scare the cat away. Pre-K listened to the book, Little Quack by Lauren Thompson with pictures by Derek Anderson. They colored circles and ovals to create brave Little Quack swimming in the water.



Personal information: Ms. Donna Locke graduated from the University of Texas with a BA in Visual Arts and certified to teach K-12. She has been an art educator for over 30 years in Texas and Florida and has taught Pre-K through high school and several adult community service classes.

### **Physical Education with Coach Larkin:**

Mill Creek physical education provides a quality program that helps build the foundation for developing an active lifestyle. Students participate in developmentally appropriate activities that help them learn skills, knowledge and gain confidence in their abilities. The environment is safe and non-threatening and provides opportunities for success.



### **Counselor's Corner by Joan White**

This year the school counselors will be teaching guidance resource classes to all Kindergartners, 1st graders and 2 graders. We have started the year with a lesson about respecting ourselves and others by listening. We learned that we listen with not just our ears – but with our:

Eyes – looking at the person speaking  
Hands – still and by our side or on our lap  
Mouth – quiet when others are speaking  
Heart – caring about what the person is saying  
Brain – thinking about what is being said



Next, we will move onto Bullying – what it is, how it affects us, and how to get help if being bullied.



### **WELCOME TO MUSIC!**

We are looking forward to a GREAT year in music class at MCE. Grades PreK-5<sup>th</sup> will be **singing**, playing **instruments** and enjoying fun **movement** activities as we follow the ORFF Method of learning – which is so much fun!

Stay tuned to our newsletters for great **online music sites** that your student can access from home to practice music by playing great educational games, which will help prepare them for our end of the year music assessments.

In addition to classroom music, we offer 5<sup>th</sup> grade **CHORUS**, which is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/S0QungCOO6KRVx7t2>. And **ORFF ENSEMBLE** (an instrumental group) which is a group of selected 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who display great musicianship, manners and maturity. All communication is done through our music resource classes.

*Mrs. Neal*

## PTA NEWS

Movie Night is tomorrow night for those of you who have registered.

**The deadline for t-shirts, couch potato and box tops has been extended to Friday, August 26th.**

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

## GET INVOLVED

Message from our PTA: We want to do everything we can to **help out the families devastated by floods in Louisiana** and make it easy for our parents to donate.

We will have a box set up in the front office this week for people to drop off items. Please drop items off during school hours or have your child bring the items to their teacher. The items will be delivered to Pacetti Bay Middle School on **Friday, August 26.**

Here is a list of items needed: boxes to pack supplies, Ziploc bags, shampoo, conditioner, soap, feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotions, medicines, band aids, paper products, batteries, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, diapers/wipes, formula, bottles, baby items (clothes, blankets, ointments), clothes, blankets, towels, pillows, coloring books, toys, and snacks.

## REMINDERS

### Early Dismissals

If your child is leaving early please send in a note to your child's teacher stating the need and reason for the early checkout request.

To assist our front office please pick up your child before **2:15pm** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and by **1:15pm** on Wednesdays.



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 flyers.**



**School Advisory Council Mission:** SAC was created to enhance student's learning through the cooperative efforts of parents, staff members and others in the community.

**The School Advisory Council Responsibilities:** \*Review the school budget and make recommendations to the principal \*Approve the vision, mission and goals of the school for inclusion in the school improvement plan \*Approve all professional learning activities for which teachers request payment \*With the collaboration of the school staff, make recommendations on how to spend school recognition money.

**For more information about SAC, visit <http://www.mce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/sac/>**

**First meeting will be August 30, 2016 at 4 PM in Room 520, Lower Filly.**