



Trailblazers in Learning

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



IMPORTANT DATES

September *Fairness*

September 30, 2016

Character Counts, 9:30 AM

October *Responsibility*

October 4, 2016

PTA Meeting

October 5, 2016

Walk to School Day, 7:30 WGV Park

October 6, 2016

Box Top begins

Friday, October 14, 2016

First Quarter Ends

Monday, October 17, 2016

Hurricane Make Up Day, Normal School Day

October 19, 2016

Teacher Tailgate

October 21, 2016

Box Tops Ends

October 25, 2016

SAC Meeting, 4 PM Room 520

October 28, 2016

Character Counts, 9:30 AM

November *Citizenship*

November 4, 2016

Fall Picture Retakes

November 8, 2016

PTA Meeting

Friday, November 11, 2016

Veterans Day – Student/Teacher Holiday

RIEDL'S ROUNDUP

Mill Creek's commitment to LEARNING!

I recently spent time with the School Advisory Committee (SAC) describing in detail Mill Creek's plan to increase student achievement. Mill Creek continues to achieve at high levels as seen throughout the classrooms each day. As Lead Learners (teachers and staff), it is critical that we face our current reality and make adjustments in our instructional practices to meet the demands of increased learning expectations, while continuing to meet individual learning needs. We celebrated the learning gains from last year's FSA assessment. In August, Mill Creek was recognized again this year as an A school. Throughout the state, schools saw a decline in student achievement measured by the FSA; however, Mill Creek students continued to show learning proficiency and even more important, increases in learning growth! We believe our students are so much more than a number so celebrating the growth of our students confirms that serving our students with prescribed learning experiences will continue to be our priority at Mill Creek. Although the FSA only illustrates a slice of the excellence in learning at Mill Creek, it does confirm learning is a MUST! Our school improvement plan identifies specific goals and action steps that Mill Creek will accomplish in the 2016 - 2017 school year. Our goals are to increase the percentage of students scoring proficient on the FSA assessment administered in 2017, and to continue to see our students at Mill Creek make learning gains. We believe EVERY student at Mill Creek is talented and we will provide what they need to be SUCCESSFUL! Our detailed plan will be updated and located on our webpage by mid-October.

Teachers and staff continually engage in learning opportunities to increase their level as a practitioner. As we prepare to reach the needs of every learner in our building, we strive to provide a rigorous education that equips our students with the necessary tools to be high achievers in a world that is ever changing. So, I leave you with this, we will do "Whatever It Takes," to meet the needs of our students. Whether that is learning a new strategy or improving those strategies we already know work well, we are committed to "Every Child, Every Need, Every day!"

One way we meet the needs of ALL learners is during **All Star Time**. The purpose for All-Star time is clear—to provide a time in the day where students are grouped based on needs and are retaught based on assessment data. This structure ensures that we are providing a mastery approach to learning where all students are given equal opportunity to meet all curricular standards. Students are monitored on a regular basis and moved within groups to meet specific needs. We are excited about this time; however, I need your assistance in making sure your child is at school by 8:25 each morning. We move to All-Star time at 8:35 AM and it is difficult for students to start their day with success if they are late. I truly appreciate your commitment to Mill Creek and the learning of your child.

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader

PTA NEWS

Congratulations!
Teacher of the Year
- Carolyn Ramsay

and Rookie
Teacher of
the Year -
Danielle
Johnson



Please make sure that ALL **Scorecard order forms** and money are turned in ASAP. If you received the initial scorecard and do not want to purchase it (except couch potato buyers - it is yours to keep), please return it in as soon as possible.

5th Annual Walk to School Day is next week. Please send in the sign up paper if you are planning to walk so the school has a better idea of how many walkers there will be and to ensure there is enough breakfast items.

Spirit Wear: We are anxiously awaiting our first shipment. It was very large so is taking a little bit longer to get back. As soon as we have the date for distribution, We will let everyone know.

McTeacher Night: A big thank you to all the teachers and staff for all their support and for working so hard at McTeacher night. And a special thank you to all the families that came out to support our school.



The members of the St. Johns County School Board have selected four finalists to be interviewed for the next Superintendent of the St. Johns County School District (SJCS D): **Dr. Elizabeth Alves, Dr. Vickie Cartwright, Mr. Tim Forson, Mr. Mark Porter.** To view the interview schedule, visit the SJCS D's homepage at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us and click on the Superintendent Search button. Candidate interviews with the School Board are open to the public and will take place on Thursday, October 6 in the Auditorium of the SJCS D Administrative Building, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, 32084. Please refer to the interview schedule for specific times on October 6. In addition, all employees and community residents are invited to a community reception for the finalists on Thursday, October 6, at 6 p.m. at First Coast Technical College - Building C, 2890 Collins Ave., St. Augustine, 32084. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from and meet each of the finalists as well as provide input to the School Board for consideration.

We had many entries in this week's **Mustang Pride** drawing. Congratulations to our Mustang Pride recipients:

Natalie O, Sanyati P, Nicole M, Alex L, Dimitri M, Evie B, Jolie H, Riley W, Helena S, Jaylessa R, Wesley B, Blake K, Natasa B, and Mia H



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.

Resource Classes

¡Bienvenidos a Español ! Welcome to Spanish!

My name is Paola Blankenship. And I am very excited to teach Spanish for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at this wonderful school. I have been teaching Spanish for five years in two different states. Studies have shown that there are many benefits of speaking more than one language, it is preferred over being monolingual by international companies. For the past several weeks we have been working on basic conversation in Spanish including greetings and introductions. Students have worked in groups and presented their basic conversation. Everyone did a good job!

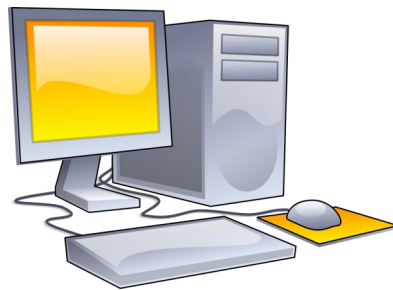


The Wonderful World of SCIENCE

There will be outstanding scientific learning happening in the month of October! Our kindergarten friends will be learning about forms of energy and vibrations. Our 1st graders will explore Earth in space and time as they learn about stars, constellations and gravity. Students in 2nd grade will investigate Earth structures as they learn about rocks. This month, 3rd graders will learn about the diversity and evolution of living organisms and interdependence. Our 4th grade friends will participate in weathering and erosion labs. Students in 5th grade will explore force and changes in motion. I look forward to lots of fun and fabulous learning in the science lab!

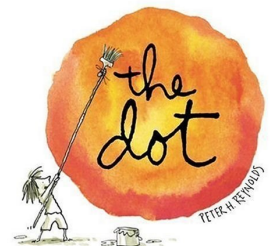
Mr. Drinkuth, in IT, gives us the scoop on all that was studied in the computer lab last month:

- ◆ Parts of a computer
- ◆ Browsers
- ◆ Computer Etiquette
- ◆ Keys on the Keyboard
- ◆ Critical Thinking Skills
- ◆ Reading and Phonics
- ◆ Math



Our new kindergarten friends joined the upper grades and began their exciting adventure of book check out this month. We love to put books in the hands of excited little readers. In our media lesson we read the book *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. This is a wonderful book about how someone with a fixed mind set can change to a growth mind set simply by encouragement (in this case from her teacher). The theme of the story is to make your mark (the dot) and see where it takes you. The students had a great time learning that something small can become something great by creating just a mark (or dot). Next time you visit the school, take a look around and see where their dots (mark) took them!

Until next month, happy reading.... Mrs. Bergmann



Resource Classes



We are off to a GREAT start in music class! Students of all ages have been learning about RHYTHM PATTERNS. They are great at SHOWING what they HEAR by using HAND SIGNS and SYMBOLS (lower grades) or by NOTATION (upper grades). Ask them to show you – they are AMAZING at it!

Here are a few fun online games and apps they can use at home to help them advance in music class:

RHYTHM CAT APP: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/rhythm-cat-learn-to-read-music/id488167475?mt=8>

NOTATION / COMPOSITION: <http://www.classicsforkids.com/games/compose/compose.html>

MUSIC VOCABULARY FOR NOTATION

K-2nd: Quarter Note (ta), Quarter Rest (shh) and Eighth Notes (ti-ti)

3rd– 4th: Quarter Note, Quarter Rest, Eighth Notes, Half Note (ta-a), Half Rest (shh – hhh)

5th: Quarter Note, Quarter Rest, Eighth Notes, Half Note, Half Rest, Whole Note (ta-a-a-a), Whole Rest (shh-hhh-hhh-hhh), Dotted Half Note (ta-a-a) and Sixteenth Notes (Ti-ki-ti-ki)

Physical Education

We just finished learning and practicing throwing skills. Now they are using their underhand rolling skills in Bocce Ball.

The students are using strategy and skill for success. They have an opportunity to demonstrate safety, proper technique and sportsmanship.

