

December 2019



**December**  
**All Pillars**

December 20 - Second Quarter/First Semester Ends

December 23 - January 2 - Winter Break

**January**  
**Respect**

January 3 - Teacher Planning Day, Student Holiday



# Mustang Messenger

## Mill Creek Academy – Built to Last!

This year St. Johns County School District celebrates 150 years. I attended the celebration and learned why SJCS D continues to lead in innovation, high academic success, and most importantly, commitment to community. Mr. Forson shared memories of prior teachers, leaders, and students that have paved the way for what continues to be the most successful district in the state of Florida. At the heart of the organization is the commitment and investment that the community has to supporting each other throughout the years. Artifacts shared from throughout the years identified the strong foundation that has been established, for example teaching practices from 1933.

- The next generation will be the stewards of our communities, nation and planet in extraordinarily critical times.
- In such times, the well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good moral character.
- People do not automatically develop good moral character; therefore, conscientious efforts must be made to help young people develop the values and abilities necessary for moral decision making and conduct.
- Effective character education is based on core ethical values rooted in democratic society, in particular, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, justice and fairness, caring and civic virtue and citizenship.
- These core ethical values transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences.
- Character education is, first and foremost, an obligation of families and faith communities, but schools and youth-service organizations also have a responsibility to help develop the character of young people.
- These responsibilities are best achieved when these groups work in concert.
- The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.

This was a great reminder to me why I feel so blessed to lead in a district that is student-centered and family-oriented, continuing to embrace best practices that focus on the whole child. It is through our continued commitment to developing our students in academics and good character, that give our students the necessary skills to be successful throughout life.

As we bring 2019 to a close, I wanted to remind all our families that you are important to our students and to MCA. We embrace the partnerships we have developed with our families and know that without your support and commitment to learning at home, our job would be impossible. Thank you for partnering with us, thank you for being there any time we need your support, and thank you for always trusting that we love our students and will do whatever it takes to ensure they succeed. Just as SJCS D has been doing for 150 years!

**I pray that all our families have a blessed holiday season!**

Mrs. Riedl

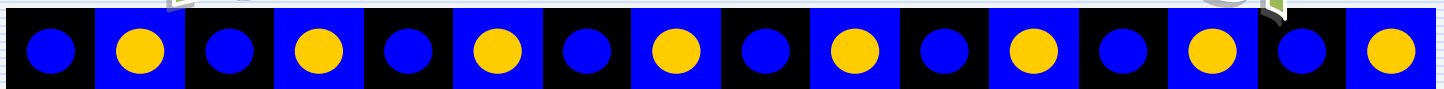
# Congratulations!

Mr. Mike Martin was voted the School Related Employee of the year. Thank you for everything you do at MCA. We are truly grateful for you!



**Yearbooks are now on sale. The cost is \$30 until January 17, at which time the price will increase to \$32. We will not have extra yearbooks available for purchase at the end of the year so please purchase now. You can order online at [Leonard's](#) and enter access code C480720. [Yearbook Order Form 2019](#)**

## Yearbooks for Sale!



# spelling bee



Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2019 Spelling Bee. We would like to send an extra thank you to Ms. Andrea Jackson for organizing the event.

All the students did a great job!

Congratulations to the winners: Jack Holt and Claire Holt  
Good luck representing MCA in the District Spelling bee held this month.





The girls had an amazing season. While our record wasn't exactly where we may have wanted it to be, the effort and determination the girls showed throughout the season was truly remarkable. Each and every girl made such great improvement throughout the season both mentally and physically. I was so proud of all of their hard work and I am so excited to continue to watch them grow.- Coach Yuro

# MCA 2019 Volleyball

## MCA 2019 Volleyball

Throughout the 2019 volleyball season our Mill Creek Academy middle school boys displayed natural athleticism, dedication, and leadership. Each athlete played a critical role to come together as a cohesive team. Our returning seventh grade boys led the charge and were quick to help others develop their new volleyball skills. Our sixth grade boys brought great energy and effort to the team- never refusing a challenge. Next season looks bright as our current boys continue to develop their skills and as we add from our rising fifth graders. -Coach Coulter





**Land of the Free  
Because of the Brave**

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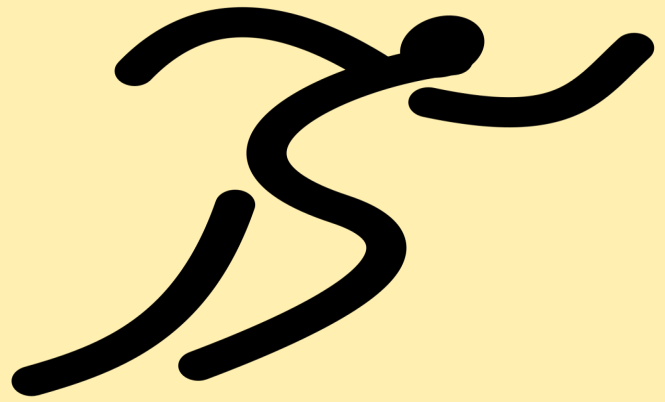


**Veterans  
Day  
Program**





The CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee is calling all walk-



ers, runners and fitness enthusiasts to participate in the CHARACTER COUNTS! 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at 9 a.m. The run/walk will begin and end at Palencia Elementary School located at 355 Palencia Village Drive, St. Augustine.

Walkers and runners will enjoy a course running through the neighborhoods of Kensington and Las Calinas and can choose to participate in the 6K (3.73 miles) or 3K (1.86 miles) distance.

Registration fees are as follows:

|                                  |                           |                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>6K:</b> \$25 before January 1 | \$30 January 1-January 31 | \$35 on race day |
| <b>3K:</b> \$20 before January 1 | \$25 January 1-January 31 | \$30 on race day |

Registration forms and more information are available online at [www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html](http://www.racesmith.com/races/CHARACTERCOUNTS.html).

Race proceeds support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS D). The run/walk is open to all ages, and the top three winners will be awarded in each of the age categories as well as the overall male and female finishers. A cash donation will be awarded to the top three to five schools with the most registrants. Last year these schools were Ocean Palms Elementary, Alice B. Landrum Middle, Otis Mason Elementary, Palm Valley Academy and Palencia Elementary. All race registrants will receive a t-shirt and other goodies from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a commemorative dog tag which is the sixth design in its series.

This event is produced by the CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee and is presented by Beaver Toyota with support from businesses and community groups. Action News Jax CBS47/ FOX30 is the official media sponsor of this run/walk.

The SJCS D, along with area businesses, youth organizations and civic groups, selected the national character education program of CHARACTER COUNTS! as a countywide initiative to instill positive character traits in young people throughout the county. Additionally, the SJCS D became the first school district in Florida to implement Pursuing Victory With Honor in all of its athletic programs. Character education is an important part of every School Improvement Plan and a major component of the Student Code of Conduct and the school district's Strategic Plan.