

Mustang Messenger *March 24, 2016*

Riedl's Roundup

Success at Mill Creek!!

As Spring Break moves forward, I know many of us are hoping for warmer weather in the coming days! Flowers are blooming, warmer days will soon fill the air, and yes, even the pollen is swarming as a thick blanket in the air... If you walked our halls right now you would hear sneezing and see eyes watering, a sure sign that spring has arrived! The world around us begins to take on new life during the spring, revives itself from the "touch" of cool weather that has graced our presence in recent months, even days! As we enter in our final countdown of the year, our speed continues to charge ahead to the point sometimes we feel like there isn't a second to breathe and enjoy the new life spring brings...

With this breath of freshness, I wanted to revisit a few "Mill Creek" expectations that will ensure our students finish the year STRONG!!! School begins at 8:30, and we know that when students arrive early or on time, they have a much better day and this also establishes routines for life. We have continued to help car rider line move at a much quicker pace by opening the bus lane, so we need your help now in getting your child to school on time! Thank you, as our families are always so responsive to request!

In addition, for the safety of all students, I would like to kindly remind families of our dismissal policy to remain in vehicles and access student pickup through the parent pickup line. I realize the line gets long, however, we continue to work hard to move the line as quickly as possible. I truly appreciate your attention to this request as it slows down dismissal when parents are gathered as students exit the building. Please refer to our webpage for additional dismissal information. We are very accommodating to our families and will work with you should an emergency arise, please call the front office for assistance.

Finally, FSA testing begins immediately after Spring Break for 3rd and 4th grade students on Wednesday, March 30. Our students are more ready than EVER... Teachers and students have been working hard increasing the level of complexity and rigor in the learning, giving students ownership of their learning, and creating learning environments that are collaborative, where students are "co-creators" of their learning. It is so exciting to see the amazing learning that is taking place!

As we know, FSA testing can be very stressful on our students and teachers and we want to continue to encourage and let them know just how much we BELIEVE in them!!! Please use these few tips as a way to ensure that our students are confident test takers as we approach this "testing season."

- Please make sure your students are at school **on time** – 8:30. We begin testing at 8:45 and we cannot allow students arrive late to disrupt the learning environment. This adds stress to our students if they have to make up tests!
- Please ensure that your student has a good night sleep. We all have different bed times, but we know our kiddos need a great night sleep to do their best thinking.
- Please ensure your student has a good, hearty breakfast. Of course, students are always welcome to eat at school!
- Most Importantly, **BELIEVE** in your student(s). Let them know how proud you are of them and they can conquer the world! You may just want to write them a few words of encouragement on the day of their testing to let them know how much you care about their work and KNOW they are 100% capable of performing at high levels.
- And finally, continue to talk with your students. Give them an opportunity to share their feelings, strengths, and fears! It is amazing what our children will share with us when we just sit and listen!

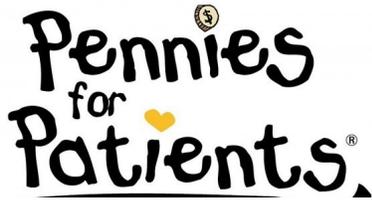
Thank you for continuing to partner in learning with us at Mill Creek. I say it often, we have the BEST students in the world, sweet, loving, and SMART and it all starts with family. Your leadership in the home and partnership in education makes the DIFFERENCE! Thanks Mill Creek for supporting our students and staff as we build the "leaders of tomorrow."

Enjoy your Spring Break and we will see you back at "The Creek" very soon!

Mrs. Riedl, Learning Leader

Student Council News

Pennies for Patients will begin on April 4th and will end on April 22nd. Flyers and collection boxes will be sent home on Friday, April 1st. More information about this project will be shared in the next newsletter.



Please take a minute, before **March 31**, to complete the Mill Creek Parent Survey at <https://>

School Access

Please remember you may not go beyond the front office at Mill Creek for conferences, learning celebrations or any other events including field trips without having a current approved volunteer application on file. Please fill out the online application using the link below. Please note that this process can take up to 2-3 weeks so if you are planning to coming to the school for any activities, please go ahead and complete the application now.

www.stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply



Pacetti Bay Middle School welcomes all rising 6th grade parents to attend an open house on **March 31st from 5:30-7:00pm**. This is a chance to meet 6th grade teachers, the administration team, and learn more about what to get prepared for the middle school years ahead.

PTA NEWS

Ready.Set.Glow 5k Join us for the first annual Ready.Set.Glow 5K and fun run. A joint collaboration between Mill Creek Elementary, Wards Creek Elementary and Pacetti Bay Middle School to encourage health and fitness in our community as well as raise needed funds for advancements in education. To Stay Updated and to receive more information go to their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1668450000076104/>

Helping Hands meets every Thursday morning at 8:00 in the Cafe.

Always stay connected on Facebook and Mustang PTA at <http://mcepta.weebly.com/>



Registration

The St. Johns County School District will hold pre-registration for children entering kindergarten and students new to St. Johns County Schools on the following dates:

April 8 from 9 AM-1 PM

May 9 from 1 PM-5 PM (school tour timeslots available from 2:45-5 PM).

Registration this year at Mill Creek Elementary is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please be sure to sign up for a timeslot on the Sign Up Genius located on our website <http://www-mce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/>.

Please visit Mill Creek's website <http://www-mce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/> for additional registration information, including necessary documentation you will need to bring with you. You must

Counselor's Corral

Even a short break from school can put a "Brain Drain" on our students (though no one denies we all need a break!). Here are a few tips for keeping sharp over the holiday:

- Incorporate learning when you can: Museums, parks, and zoos are an excellent way to do this. Pick up a board game that requires teamwork and strategy. It can increase reading, math and social skills.
- Stick to a routine. Making an effort not to get too far away from normal eating and sleeping schedules will make transitioning back into school easier.
- Take a walk outside to get your blood flowing and your brain engaged!

Have fun!! We will all meet again after Spring Break rested and relaxed and ready to finish the year strong!

(Adapted from "A Child's World Learning Centers" and "Oxford Learning Tips")

- Megan Day, Guidance Counselor