

THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

OUR TRADITION STARTS HERE!

Toro Nation,

A full week of celebrations at TCHS! From welcoming our new 9th grade Toros with our Academy Night to finalizing our Senior Cap and Gown orders...the schedule is full!

Please see the attached information to help your Toro plan.

COME DANCE AND ENJOY AT THE QUEEN OF HEARTS DANCE! WE'LL HAVE THE MUSIC OF DJ ALVAREZ, FUN PHOTO OPS, DELICIOUS DESSERTS, PLUS JUST-MADE COTTON CANDY & POPCORN!

STUDENT TICKET PURCHASED THROUGH THURSDAY, FEB 2, 2023 ~ \$20
STUDENT TICKET PURCHASED ON OR AFTER FRIDAY, FEB 3, 2023 ~ \$25
GUEST TICKET ~ \$25

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE: [TINYURL.COM/QUEENOFHEARTSDANCE](https://tinyurl.com/queenofheartsdance)

IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY GET THE DANCE GUEST FORM FULLY APPROVED BY FRIDAY, FEB 10TH AT NOON. YOU CAN GET THE DANCE GUEST FORM AT THE DEANS' OFFICE.

COORDINATED BY YOUR PTSO AND THE DANCE COMMITTEE



QUEEN OF HEARTS DANCE
FRI, FEB 10, 2023
7P - 9:30P

POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL

OPEN TO UPPERCLASSMEN !!!

GAME: FEBRUARY 17, 2023
KICK OFF AT 7 PM
TOCOI CREEK STADIUM
\$5 TICKET FEE

Practices: Tues + Thurs,
6:30-7:30 PM @ TC Practice
Fields

\$25 PARTICIPATION FEE
INCLUDES A SHIRT

FOR ANY QUESTIONS MESSAGE @
TOCOI_CREEK_JUNIOR_LADIES



NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

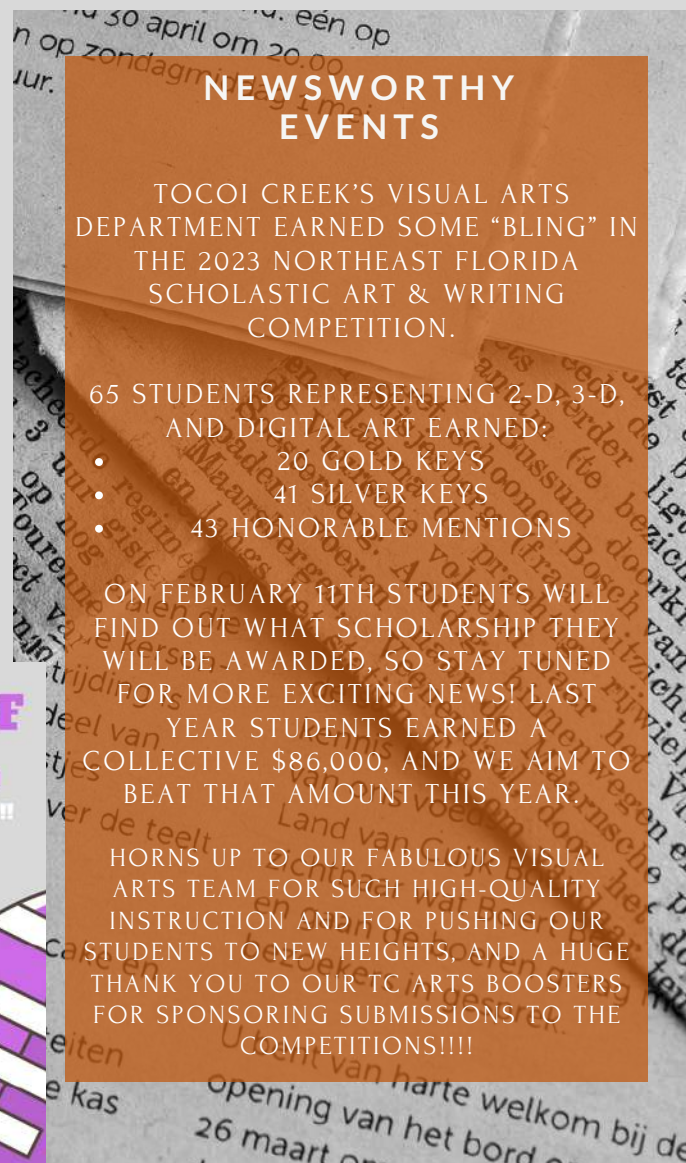
TOCOI CREEK'S VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT EARNED SOME "BLING" IN THE 2023 NORTHEAST FLORIDA SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING COMPETITION.

65 STUDENTS REPRESENTING 2-D, 3-D, AND DIGITAL ART EARNED:

- 20 GOLD KEYS
- 41 SILVER KEYS
- 43 HONORABLE MENTIONS

ON FEBRUARY 11TH STUDENTS WILL FIND OUT WHAT SCHOLARSHIP THEY WILL BE AWARDED, SO STAY TUNED FOR MORE EXCITING NEWS! LAST YEAR STUDENTS EARNED A COLLECTIVE \$86,000, AND WE AIM TO BEAT THAT AMOUNT THIS YEAR.

HORN UP TO OUR FABULOUS VISUAL ARTS TEAM FOR SUCH HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND FOR PUSHING OUR STUDENTS TO NEW HEIGHTS, AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR TC ARTS BOOSTERS FOR SPONSORING SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMPETITIONS!!!!



IMPORTANT DATES

TORO WEEK

at a Glance

- Mon., Jan. 23rd- Literacy Week: Dr. Seuss Day
- Tues., Jan. 24th- Literacy Week: Harry Potter Day
Sparklers Cheer at Basketball Game
- Wed., Jan. 25th- Literacy Week: Marvel vs. DC Day
- Thurs., Jan 26th- Literacy Week: Fave Book Character Day
- Fri., Jan. 27th- Literacy Week: Rock out and Read Day

SAVE THE DATE

- **FEBRUARY 6TH:** HURRICANE NICOLE MAKE-UP DAY (NO LONGER TEACHER INSERVICE)
- **FEBRUARY 10TH:** SPRING QUEEN OF HEARTS DANCE - TICKET INFO COMING 1/20/23
- **FEBRUARY 17TH:** POWDER PUFF FOOTBALL GAME
- **MARCH 3-4TH:** SENIOR CAMPOUT
- **MARCH 29TH:** TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR
- **APRIL 21ST:** SENIOR/JUNIOR PROM @ THE RIVERHOUSE IN ST. AUGUSTINE
- **APRIL 22ND:** SENIOR GRAD BASH @ UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
- **MAY 23RD:** GRADUATION @ THE AMP (ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATER) 7:00PM

TORO ATHLETICS

at a Glance

- Monday, 1/23/23 @ 6/7:30PM Basketball- Boys vs Matanzas @ TCHS
- Tuesday, 1/24/23 @ 6/7:30PM Basketball- Boys vs St. Augustine @ TCHS
- Tuesday, 1/24/23 @ 6/7:30PM Basketball- Girls vs Palatka @ Palatka HS
- Wednesday, 1/25/23 @ TBA Wrestling Girls' Tri- Meet vs Creekside & Ponte Vedra @ CHS
- Wednesday, 1/25/23 @ 6PM Basketball- Girls vs St. Joseph @ St. Joseph HS
- Friday, 1/20/23 @ 5:30/7:20PM Soccer- Girls vs Seabreeze @ Seabreeze HS
- Friday, 1/27/23 @ 6PM Basketball- Girls vs Nease @ NHS
- Friday, 1/27/23 @ 7:30PM Basketball- Boys vs Nease @ NHS
- Saturday, 1/28/23 @ 9:30AM Wrestling Boys Paxon Invitational @ Paxon HS
- Saturday, 1/28/23 @ 9:30AM Wrestling Girls Lady Rams IBT @ Lake Mary HS
- Saturday, 1/28/23 @ 11:30AM Basketball- Girls vs Nease @ NHS
- Saturday, 1/28/23 @ 1:00PM Basketball- Boys vs Nease @ NHS

COLLEGE PLANNING INFO

SENIOR CHECKLIST:



It's an exciting time for seniors! Applications should be submitted and decisions rolling in. Now is the time to enjoy the fruits of your labor and make sure all of the boxes are checked before graduation.

- College Admissions
 - Set up school based portal and confirm that all documents were received.
 - Receive admissions decision.
 - Follow enrollment steps (pay admissions deposit, submit residency documentation, signup for housing, meal plans, orientation, etc.)
- Apply for Financial Aid
 - Complete the FAFSA
- Apply for Bright Futures
 - Confirm that community service hours have been turned in to school counselor.
 - Send SAT/ACT scores to a Florida State University

Links
HELPFUL

Seniors:

- [Bright Futures](#)
- [FAFSA](#) (Financial Aid)
- [Naviance Help](#)

Juniors:

- [ACT Test Prep](#)
- [ACT Practice Test](#)
- [ACT Phone App](#)
- [SAT Practice](#)
- [ACT/SAT Practice](#)

JUNIORS:

The spring of junior year is one of the most critical in the college application process. Here are some things that you should be checking off your list:

- Take the ACT and/or SAT (All juniors will automatically be registered to take the ACT on March 28th at TCHS)
- Complete the "Find your Fit" activity in Naviance to narrow down your college list.
- Schedule college visits at schools that you are interested in.
- Finish junior year strong and select rigorous courses for senior year.

ALL GRADES:

Make your plans with our helpful step by step [Academic Handbook](#)

How to choose ACT or SAT?
How to Register?
Information on pages 11 & 12 of the [Academic Handbook](#)

Appointment with Guidance Links:

[Rachel Blount](#)

[D'Erica Gibbs](#)

[Linda Smith](#)

[Elizabeth Wright](#)

COLLEGE PLANNING INFO



Don't let finances be a barrier!

Each year, millions of financial aid dollars go unclaimed. This event provides qualified students with assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is the first and most important step in applying for financial aid.

Potential students who intend to enroll in college during the 2023-24 academic year can increase their chances of receiving financial aid by applying early and meeting deadlines.

Join us to receive personalized assistance!

Monday, February 6

**Palatka Campus
Viking Center
6 - 8 P.M.**

Tuesday, February 7

**Orange Park Campus
T Building
6 - 8 P.M.**

Thursday, February 9

**St. Augustine Campus
H Building
6 - 8 P.M.**

Last session begins at 7:30 P.M.

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will need:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your Driver's License Number
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- 2021 federal income tax returns, applicable schedules, W-2s, and other records of money earned.
*(Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information to your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.)
Students can base their financial information on the previous year's tax return.*
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically (Can be completed online during the event)

If you are a dependent student, then you will also need the above information from your parent(s).



SJRstate.edu

SJR STATE COLLEGE NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: St. Johns River State College, an equal access institution, prohibits discrimination in its employment, programs, activities, policies and procedures based on race, sex, gender, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information or veteran status. Questions pertaining to education equity, equal access or equal opportunity should be addressed to the College Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer: Charles Romen, Room A0173, 5001 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, FL 32177; (386) 312-4074; Charles.Romen@sjrstate.edu. Anonymous reporting is available at SJRstate.edu/report. Inquiries/complaints can be filed with the Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer online, in person, via mail, via email or with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Atlanta Office, 61 Forsyth St. SW Suite 19T10, Atlanta, GA 30303-8927.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE
GUIDANCE
HELP

Technical College and Career Fair:

Toco Creek High School is hosting our first **Technical College and Career Fair** on **March 29th from 9:20-2:50**, and we are hoping that you are interested in participating. Our goal is to showcase careers for our traditionally non-college bound students. We would like to highlight Associate Degrees, Technical Certificates, Workforce Certificates, Apprenticeship Programs, careers that do not require a college degree, etc. We will run large groups of targeted students through the fair to meet with you and make it worth your while.

If you are a parent who is part of a program that would be interested in coming, please complete this survey link so that we can plan for you:

[Registration Link](#)

As we get closer to the event, we will send out additional details for those that would like to attend the event as participants and vendors. Please make sure that any vendors who needs this information gets on the mailing list by completing the link above. St. Johns County School District requires that anyone on our campus during school hours complete a background check for the safety and security of our students. Anyone that plans to attend our Technical College and Career Fair should complete an [application](#)

Students who participate in the free and/or reduced lunch program are eligible for a standardized test waiver. Please see your school counselor for additional information.



INFO Session

HOW TO ATTEND COLLEGE
WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL
AND GAIN INDUSTRY
CERTIFICATIONS

for High School
Dual Enrollment, Secondary Electives
and Early Career

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

AT 6 PM

CULINARY THEATRE BUILDING C

LEARN HOW TO APPLY
MEET OUR STAFF
VISIT YOUR CHOSEN PROGRAM

RSVP
not
required

FOR MORE INFO
RECRUITER@FCTC.EDU



VIRTUAL INFO SESSION

2023 Dual & Secondary Enrollment

Log on to learn about hands-on programs & how to apply for credits and certifications...it's simple.

Thursday, February 9th at 6 PM



Please use the following contact points for your scheduling or registration needs:

Registration, Schedule Questions, Schedule a Date/Time with a Counselor:

o [Kim Tabala](#) - (904) 547 - 4278

Home Access Center (HAC), Registration Questions

o [Marvin Jenkins](#) - (904) 547 - 4275

Who is my counselor?

[Elizabeth Wright](#) - 9th and 10th last names A-L

[Rachel Blount](#) - 9th and 10th last names M-Z

[D'Erica Gibbs](#) - 11th and 12th last names A-L

[Linda Smith](#) - 11th and 12th last names M-Z



ATTENTION RISING 11TH STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

Do you want your student to have an extra edge when applying to colleges? Do you want your student to learn critical thinking, presentation and evaluation skills to help them in any academic course? Consider encouraging your student to take AP Seminar!

In AP Seminar, students develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that they will need in any academic discipline. Students investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

Skills You'll Learn

- ✓ Reading and analyzing articles, studies, and other texts
- ✓ Viewing an issue from multiple perspectives
- ✓ Gathering and combining information from sources
- ✓ Crafting arguments based on evidence

Tocoi Creek High School is unique because we offer the AP Capstone program. Through this program, you can earn either the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. When your student applies to college, they can denote these awards through the application process. Earning a Capstone Diploma makes students extremely competitive in the application process.

AP Capstone Awards are listed on AP score reports, and students who earn the diploma or certificate can view and print their award certificate from their online account. Awards are also included on any AP score report sent to colleges. Here are the requirements to earn an AP Capstone award:

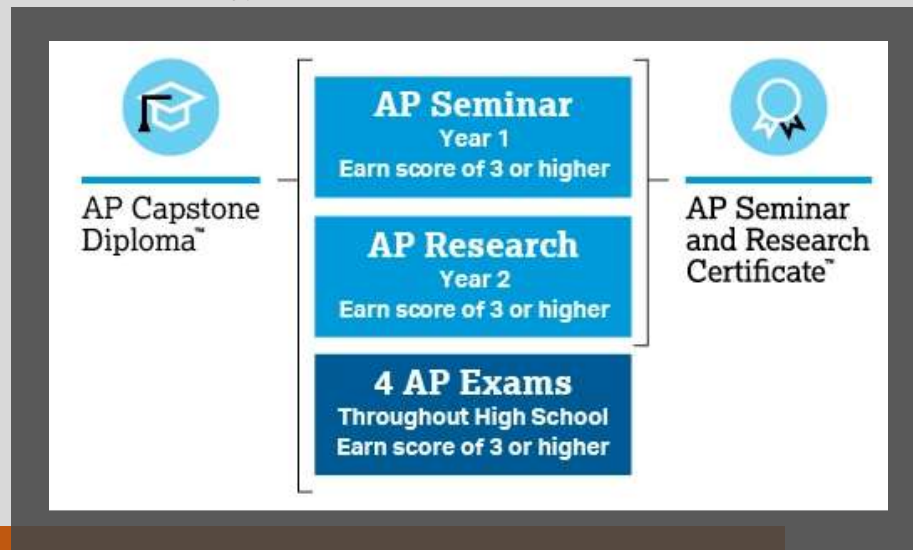
- The AP Capstone Diploma is granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on 4 additional AP Exams of their choosing.
- The AP Seminar and Research Certificate is granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research.

This diagram (to the right) illustrates the requirements of each award:

If you believe your student would be interested in this course, please have them discuss this with their counselor during registration!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me:

Megan Young
megan.young@stjohns.k12.fl.us



STUDENT LIFE

POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL

OPEN TO UPPERCLASSMEN !!!

GAME: FEBRUARY 17,
2023
KICK OFF AT 7 PM
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Fields

\$ 25 PARTICIPATION FEE,
INCLUDES A SHIRT

FOR ANY QUESTIONS MESSAGE @
TOCOI_CREEK_JUNIOR_LADIES



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COORDINATED BY YOUR PTSO AND THE DANCE COMMITTEE



STUDENT LIFE

NEW CLUB!

Holocaust History Club is a new student club at TCHS that promotes Holocaust Awareness and fights against Antisemitism. The primary purpose of this club is to enrich student's knowledge of the event, as well as to raise money for a yearly trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. After Winter Break, this club will meet weekly with Mr. Lankford in Rm 04-215 on Thursdays at 8:45 AM. Any student looking to join can contact Mr. Lankford at jake.lankford@stjohns.k12.fl.us

TC ARTS GEAR

TC ARTS BOOSTERS HAVE OPENED ANOTHER MERCHANDISE SHOP BASED ON THE DIGITAL ART SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST. A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO MRS. POST AND THE TWO FINALISTS, JANESSA MELENDEZ- FRONT OF T-SHIRT TC ARTS LOGO DESIGN AND VEE VORONTOSOVA- BACK OF T-SHIRT DESIGN. THEIR DESIGNS WERE COMBINED TO CREATE WHAT YOU SEE ON THE ONLINE STORE.
[ORDER HERE](#) USING THE SALE CODE: FESP8

ORDER A YEARBOOK!

THERE ARE STILL 200 COPIES OF THE 2022-2023 TCHS YEARBOOK LEFT! [CLICK HERE](#) TO PURCHASE FOR \$95.
PRICE INCREASES TO \$100 ON FEB. 15TH.

TUTORING

WEDNESDAYS
DURING TORO TIME IN
THE CAFETERIA

SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR INDIVIDUAL
TUTORING BEFORE OR
AFTER SCHOOL



TUTORING PROVIDED BY
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



TCHS SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



**LEN MATTIACE
FOUNDATION**

Lend a Hand, Make a Difference

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

Service hours counted!

We need help setting up, taking pictures, welcoming guests, and handling small tasks.

Event: Bentley Players Party

Date: March 10, 2023

Address: Private Residence in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082. Available upon request.

Text @lenmat to 81010 with any questions or to sign up!



1841 Ocean Grove Drive
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

904.610.7604 • www.lenmattiace.com • len@lenmattiace.com

Stop the Bullying CAMPAIGN



Looking for information on how to document community service hours?
How about existing opportunities available for all students? Please [click here](#) for the most up to date information from our Student Services Department.
Horns Up!

GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

UPCOMING TESTING DATES:

- Winter District Exam Make-Ups: Jan. 24th
- FSA/Alg. 1 Retake Window: Feb. 21st-March 9th

For more testing dates [click here!](#)

For more info on FAST Testing [Click Here!](#)



College Reportable ACT School Day 
-11th Grade Students ONLY-

When: *Tuesday, March 28th.
Testing will begin at 9:20a.m.*

Where: *Students will be testing in classrooms at
Tocoi Creek High School.
Specific testing locations TBD*

Who: *Current juniors enrolled at
Tocoi Creek High School*

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

Helpful Links:

[TCHS Yearbook](#)

[Lunch Applications](#)

[SJCSD Dress Code](#)

[TCHS Clubs](#)

[Absences and Early
Dismissal](#)

[Athletic Games Pass](#)

[Cafeteria](#)

[Schoology](#)



TCHS CAREER ACADEMIES

Students in the Academy of Innovation in the Built Environment started work on the senior courtyard. Next week they will start building the 10x12 shed.



Students in the Academy of Leadership in Emerging Technologies were able to get their hands on an industrial robot, courtesy of Roots Education.



Allied Health students in the Flagler Health + Academy of Future Healthcare Professionals went through their orientation and are ready to start clinical rotations next week!



Upcoming Events:

- January 21st- HOSA Regional Competition
- Jan. 31- *Academy Application window closes in HAC at 5pm*
- *January 31st- Summer internship application deadline (academy juniors)*

Be sure to check out the new January edition of the Academy Newsletter to see everything your students are working on in the career academies. Important dates for joining a career academy (current and rising 9th graders) are included.



AstroBot STEM is proud to present

INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY!

Space Explorer

January 21, 2023 EST

In Person Event for Girls in Grades 7-12.
11 am- 3pm at Creekside High School with Creekside SWE Next, and Creekside Robotics

www.astrobotstem.org/events

SENIOR INFORMATION

Attention SENIORS: spots are filling up for senior campout! This event is only open to the 1st 100 seniors, so move fast and get registered before spots run out. See Mr. Cabrera (2-017) for forms and event information.



GradBash

GradBash is a special ticketed event for seniors at Universal Studios. Seniors cannot use an annual pass for access to this event or drive themselves. All GradBash spots have been reserved, but we do offer a waiting list if spaces open up or a student who planned to go would like to sell their ticket. If we reach you on the waiting list, a senior sponsor will contact you with information on making a deposit, paying in full, or completing a transfer with another senior. You will have a limited amount of time to respond before we remove you from the waiting list and go to the next person on the list. You MUST have paid your senior dues to keep your spot in line on the waiting list.

[Click Here](#) to join the Waiting List.

Helpful Links for Seniors:

[FAFSA \(Financial Aid\)](#)

[Naviance Help](#)

[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[Senior Info on TCHS Webpage](#)

[Senior Dates/Deadlines](#)

Senior To Do List

● [Order cap and gown](#)

[Click Here](#)

● [Pay senior dues](#)

[Click Here](#)



SAC MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH @ 8:10AM
IN MR. CABRERA'S ROOM, BUILDING 2

Want to get involved?

Contact Mr. Joany Cabrera, SAC President,
at Joany.cabrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us or
904-547-4260 ext. 8244

PARENT INVOLVEMENT



TOCOI CREEK
HIGH SCHOOL
PTSO

Interested in joining
or donating to PTSO?

- [Our Website](#)
- [Our FB Group](#)
- [Our FB Page](#)
- [Our Email](#)

Join the Athletics Booster to
help with:

- Facility improvement
Projects
- Fundraising
- Concession Stand
- Promoting the School

If interested, contact:

jeff.holland@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Please join us in supporting the fine arts at Toci Creek High School. The vision of the One Toro Arts Booster Organization is to ensure that ALL students at Toci Creek High School benefit from the collaborative support of our parent, community, and booster organization.

Membership benefits includes two tickets to the All-Arts Showcase, two tickets to one theatre production of your choice and a TC arts car decal. It's worth it to join just for those benefits! You can join the [One Toro Arts Booster Organization](#) and follow us on Facebook @OneToroArtsBoosters

Join the CHARACTER COUNTS! Steering Committee for its 10th Annual CHARACTER COUNTS! 6K/3K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9 a.m. and help us celebrate "10 Years Running!" 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:

6K: \$30 before January 1	\$35 January 1-February 2	\$40 on race day
3K: \$25 before January 1	\$30 January 1-February 2	\$35 on race day

Registration forms and more information are available online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/StAugustine/CHARACTERCOUNTSInStJohnsCountySixPillars6K3KRunWalk>

Race proceeds support CHARACTER COUNTS! initiatives throughout the St. Johns County School District (SJCS). 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. In 2021, these schools were Otis A. Mason Elementary School, Pine Island Academy, Valley Ridge Academy, Ocean Palms Elementary School and Durbin Creek Elementary School. All racers registered by January 6 will receive a t-shirt and other giveaways from area businesses and organizations. At the finish line, each race participant will receive a finisher's medal.

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.



FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL

GETFORTIFYFL.COM



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

