

April 21, 2015

Swift Creek Current

Swift Creek Elementary School, 5601 Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC 27606

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>

919-233-4320

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

Here is to a wonderful start to our spring at Swift Creek! The warm wind and rain is sure to bring beautiful flowers to enjoy soon. We are glad to have made it through the grip of winter.

Before you blink, it will be our last day of school and we will be looking forward to the long, lazy days of summer. Our students are working hard to finish the year strong. Our teachers are busy, using recent CASE 21 data to guide them in providing instruction that will help students meet goals before EOGs and the end of the year. Please ask your child's teacher if you have any questions about the recent report cards or CASE 21 data. Also, all students will be assessed on reading skills for a final benchmarking period beginning May 11th. EOG testing will begin the week of May 18th. We always need proctors for these exams. If any parents are willing to proctor, please contact Mary Alice Ramsey, our testing coordinator, to volunteer. Parents must be a registered volunteer to be able to help and the system is open only on Mondays at this point in the year.

I am so pleased to tell you that a recommendation has been made for our vacant Assistant Principal position. This recommendation will be presented to the Wake County School Board tonight. I will send a voice mail to families with more information as soon as I am able.

We hope you will join us on Thursday night, April 23rd for our Drama Club performance of "Once Upon A Time." Students have worked very hard and are so excited to share it with you. The show begins at 6:30 pm.

Swift Creek is proud to announce that we are recipients of the Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) Wellness Star Award. We were honored last week at a ceremony and reception. This is an honor that we were awarded from our *Walking Wednesdays* initiative. AHA recognizes and rewards schools that excel in



Upcoming Events

With so much going on at the end of the year, it is hard to highlight just a few of the upcoming events.

See the last two pages of this newsletter for your April, May, and June event guide!



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walking or biking to school or at school with the AHA Wellness Star. Since Swift Creek Elementary is located in an area that is not conducive to students walking or biking to and from school, our PTA Healthy Lifestyles Committee brainstormed ways to engage students in walking at school. The *Walking Wednesdays* program is a voluntary program for all students and staff. Every Wednesday, they are encouraged to spend their entire recess walking or running around our track. Laps are tracked and tallied by the Healthy Lifestyles committee. Participants are then rewarded with "walking tokens" for every 10 laps (2 miles) cumulatively walked. The classroom that earns the most walking tokens by the end of the year will receive a coveted gold trophy. Participation levels vary within each class, with some classrooms having 100% participation. On any given week, the average school-wide participation approaches 50%, which amounts to over 250 participants. Our students and staff are very excited about this program and we are looking forward to seeing who earns that gold trophy. We thank Lisa Barrangou and her Healthy Lifestyles Committee for all their work with this program. We would not have received this award without their legwork and brainpower.

Our PTA is always working collaboratively behind the scenes to provide programs for our students. At our last PTA meeting, the Executive Board shared the vacant chair positions for next year. Please consider serving in one of these crucial roles for our school. **Without your help, we will not be able to implement the same programming.** There is a sign up poster on the wall outside of our counselor's office for your consideration. We appreciate your help and service always!

Thanks for all you do for our students and our school. I feel so fortunate to be a part of this community. Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Music Notes

Congratulations to our Cougar Chorus for their great performances last week!

We have several upcoming grade level concerts we hope you can attend to support our students.

- Our 5th graders are performing a guitar concert on May 6th at 3:00pm in the gym.
- The kindergarten classes will present their concert "Our Year in Song" on May 14th at 10:15am in the gym.
- Fourth grade students will perform their recorder concert on May 28th at 1:15pm in the gym.

Thank you for supporting music in our school. Please keep up with music happenings through twitter - @SwiftCreekMusic and our website - <https://sites.google.com/a/wcps.net/swift-creek-music/home>

Musically, Mrs. Huddle, Music Teacher

Order Your School Supply Kits for Next Fall

Take care of next year's school supply shopping list now! Look for order forms in Tuesday folders in the next few weeks! Order now, and pick up your child's kit at Meet the Teacher in August. It's that easy!

Questions? Contact Hani Brooks at RBrooks009@aol.com

Healthy Lifestyles

Walking Wednesdays Program Receives Outstanding Walking Program Award

So excited that Swift Creek's Walking Wednesdays program was recognized as an *outstanding walking program* by Advocates for Health in Action (AHA)! Check out our AHA Wellness Star banner, which will be displayed prominently very soon! Way to go, Walking Wednesdays participants! Don't forget, anyone has the option to participate in Walking Wednesdays during recess. Students are proudly displaying their walking tokens on their backpacks and continue to earn tokens for every 10 laps walked. Help us help your kids get active, and send them in on Wednesdays with comfortable shoes as well as encouragement to participate.

Cooking with Kids Deadline: April 30

Don't forget to enter our monthly **Cooking with Kids** raffle! All you need to do is cook a meal with your child, document the process through a few photos, and email a description of your dinner preparation and accompanying photos to realfooddoc@gmail.com. You will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$20 gift certificate to a local grocery store (where you can purchase more ingredients to make another family meal!). Studies have shown that one of the best ways to get your child to eat healthier foods—and actually enjoy them—is to have them help with meal preparation, so get in the kitchen and start cooking with them! Submit entries throughout the entire month. The next drawing will occur on April 30.

The Next Session of Tennis and Golf Lessons Starts April 21. Sign Up Today!

The next session for Golf and or Tennis at Swift Creek will begin April 21, so sign-up now! Lessons are offered in 6-week sessions, for your choice of either Tennis or Golf, right after school (4-5pm), right on campus. This program is for ALL levels, and ALL equipment is provided. The program is held rain or shine (taken indoors if necessary). Cost for each 6-week session is \$105 per child. SIGN UP TODAY at <http://westwakecounty.playtga.com> (on the left side of the screen, go to "LOCATION" and select "Swift Creek Elementary").

Staff Appreciation Weeks Sponsored by the Hospitality Committee

- **School Counselor Appreciation Week is the week of April 27.** Please let them know how important they are to Swift Creek Elementary.
- **Office Administration Appreciation Week is the week of April 20.** Thank you to those who have signed up to provide treats to the office staff. Please stop by the office this week and thank them for all they do.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week is the week of May 4.** Please be on the lookout for the sign up emails to provide breakfast and dessert goodies during the week and also coverage for the teachers to have their catered lunch on May 8. We are asking that the students bring in flowers and/or fruit for their teachers on May 5. Please put that on the calendar. If you do not already receive Hospitality emails and would like to do so, please email Elizabeth at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com.

Your April Checklist

Use this checklist to remember what's coming up at the Creek during the month of April.

- **Today:**
 - Sign up to help with the PTA programs for next year. There is a sign up poster on the wall outside of our counselor's office. Without volunteers, some events (such as the Fall Festival) won't happen next year!
 - Contact Mary Alice Ramsey (mwramsey@wcpss.net) if you can proctor EOG testing during week of May 18th. Parents must be a registered Wake County School volunteer to help.
 - Order your school supplies for next year! Complete the School Supply Kit order form that will be coming home in Tuesday folders.

- **April 17-April 24 9:10am:** Distribution of Character Education Awards – Good Judgement – in the media center.

- **April 20-24:** Administrative Professionals' Week. Stop by the office and tell our staff how much you appreciate everything they do!

- **April 21:** Spring session for Golf and Tennis lessons from TGA starts. Lessons are after school from 4-5pm and last for 6 weeks. This session costs \$105. Sign your child up for Golf or Tennis lessons from TGA. Go to <http://westwakecounty.playtga.com> (on the left side of the screen, go to "LOCATION" and select "Swift Creek Elementary").

- **April 22:** It's Walking Wednesday. Has your child earned a walking token yet?

- **April 23 6:30pm:** Attend the drama performance "Once Upon a Time" in the gym.

- **April 27-May 1:** School Counselor Appreciation Week. Please let them know how important they are to Swift Creek Elementary.

- **April 29:** It's Walking Wednesday. Let's keep up the great work with our award-winning program.

- **April 30:**
 - Deadline for shoe drive sponsored by Student Council. Send in your new or gently used shoes today. There are boxes in the front hall for your donations.
 - **5-8pm:** Eat dinner out! Attend Chick-Fil-A night at the Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads. Remember to bring your flyer either in paper or on your phone, so Swift Creek will receive a portion of the proceeds from your sale!

Carool parents: The Chick-Fil-A cow will be at carpool in the afternoon. If your child is afraid of mascots, please let someone at carpool know.

 - Submission deadline for this month's Cooking with Kids contest. The winner receives a \$20 gift certificate to a local grocery store for making more delicious family meals. All you need to do is cook a meal with your child, document the process through a few photos, and email a description of your dinner preparation and accompanying photos to realfooddoc@gmail.com.

Your May Checklist

- May 4 – 8:** Teacher Appreciation Week. Keep an eye out for signups from the Hospitality committee for how you can help.
- May 5:** As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, send in a flower or fruit for your child's teacher.
- May 6 3:00pm:** Attend the 5th grade guitar concert in the gym
- May 14 10:15am:** Attend Kindergarten concert "Our Year in Song" in the gym
- May 18:** End of Grade Testing begins! Make sure your kids get enough rest and eat a good breakfast!
- May 21 6-7pm:** Encourage incoming families to attend the Kindergarten Open House. It is a great way for them to learn what Swift Creek is all about.
- May 25:** Memorial Day Holiday! No school.
- May 28 1:15pm:** Attend the 4th grade recorder concert in the gym.

Your June Checklist

- June 2:** During the afternoon, all students will attend a Cultural Arts Program sponsored by the PTA.
- June 5 & 8:** 5th grade graduation events. More details to come!
- June 8:** Last day of school for all students! Have a fun and safe summer! See you in August!