

April 12, 2016

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,

Welcome back from Spring Break! What a fast vacation it was—but we are all glad to be back together once again.

A big thank you to all families who came out to enjoy our Math Night festivities at Food Lion last month. We had a blast helping your students have fun while they learned about math in the everyday world. It was so good to see everyone collaboratively working on the tasks—and smiling too! I am so appreciative of the hard work of our staff and the generosity of Food Lion at the Swift Creek shopping center for allowing us to visit their facility.

We have been informed that Swift Creek will be a Title 1 summer school site for this upcoming summer. The dates for the program are July 11th-27th. Susan Rhodes, our former counselor, will be our Summer School Lead once again. She will be responsible for overseeing the program and for recommending teachers for the program. Our school will be hosting two other schools, Farmington Woods Elementary and Weatherstone Elementary this year and we know our Swifties will give those students a warm welcome. Although decisions on invitations cannot be solidified until we get our final mCLASS and EOG data, we are anticipating having an Early Start class for qualifying rising Kindergarteners, as well as classes for rising first, second, third, and fourth graders. Attending summer school is not mandated for any student, but if your child receives an invitation, we do hope you will strongly consider sending him or her for an exciting experience and a chance to maintain and improve academic skills. Summer school can make a difference in your child's confidence, attitude, and can strengthen skills for success.

We are beginning to finalize dates for the end of year activities. The first administration of End of Grade testing is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 23rd. 5th grade parents, please mark your calendars for June 8th for our 5th Grade Graduation Celebration at 10:30 am. To continue our new tradition, we are working collaboratively with PTA to



**Spring Book Fair is
Tonight!!!**

5:30-6:30:

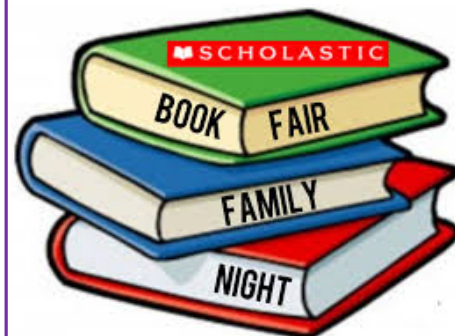
Free dinner in cafeteria

6:30 -7:15:

**Performance by Gray
Seal Puppets in gym**

5:30-8:00:

**Shop for books in media
center**



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plan a picnic event for June 8th after the ceremony. This will give our students the opportunity to enjoy the company of each other, staff members, and parents. This event is for parents and staff to be able to spend time with 5th graders and no siblings will be invited to the picnic. We also have reserved June 9th in the afternoon for the annual 5th Grade Talent Show. This is always one of the year's highlights and we are so appreciative of our PTA volunteers who met this past week to organize the picnic and talent show. We know that without our dedicated PTA volunteer base, we would not be able to have these wonderful events.

Please remember that our Spring Book Fair event will run the week of April 11th. On April 12th at 5:30 pm, join us for Book Fair Family Night. You will be able to browse the selection of books, enjoy a free dinner, and attend a puppet show in the gym. Proceeds from our book fair will be used to purchase new books for our media center.

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm. There will be a Drama and Chorus Club performance of *Treasure Island*. Our students have worked very hard on this program and we know you will enjoy it.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

News from Wake County Public Schools

The last District 5 Council meeting for the year was held Tuesday, April 5. Two important items were discussed.

Next Year's Budget

Wake County Public Schools will be submitting their proposed budget for 2016-17 in mid-May. This budget is dependent on the approval of the state budget by the NC legislature. Here are some key items of interest:

- North Carolina is one of only 5 states that is fiscally dependent on federal funding, state funding, and local county appropriation. The majority of our funding comes from the state. Whether this is the final budget depends on whether the state budget is approved on June 30. Nationally, over 90% of Local Board of Education's are fiscally independent.
- Wake County estimates that they will add approximately 2000 additional students this year.
- There will be no increase to teacher pay.
- There will be 5 new schools next year: Beaverdam Elementary, Oakview Elementary, Pleasant Grove Elementary, White Oak Elementary, and Pine Hollow Middle School. In 2010-2011, Wake County had 163 schools. In 2016-17, Wake County will have 176 schools.
- Most of the \$1.5M budget will go towards daily operating expenses and keeping the status quo. Only about 10% of the budget goes towards new programs, such as expanding support for the arts in middle schools.

Redistricting Wake County

Currently, Swift Creek is in District 5. However, the NC legislature has created new districts for the upcoming November election. As a result, the schools that used to be in District 5 are now spread across three districts. Swift Creek will be in District 6 and still be represented by Dr. Jim Martin (if he is re-elected)

on the school board. However, Dillard Middle School will be in a different district. This means that if you live in District 6, you could be voting for a school board representative who doesn't represent your child's school. For example, when your child moves to Dillard, you won't be able to vote for the school representative in Dillard's district.

If parents are concerned about these changes, Dr. Martin encouraged meeting attendees to contact their Wake County representatives in the NC House and Senate.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Marie Dexter at mariecdexter@gmail.com. She attended this meeting and would be happy to provide more details.

Music Notes

April is designated as Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM). It is an annual public spotlight on jazz music.

The purpose of JAM is to draw greater public attention to the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz and its importance as an American cultural heritage. In addition, JAM is intended to stimulate the current jazz scene and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz—to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and support institutional jazz programs.

In music classes, students are studying the life and music of Benny Carter, our April Composer. He was a jazz saxophonist, composer, and band leader. Our April song is "I Got Rhythm".

Thank you for your support of music in our school!

Mrs. Huddle

Single Subject Acceleration Window Opens April 20

The Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) window is opening for our school on April 20th. Single Subject Acceleration (SSA) is the practice of assigning a student to a higher-grade level than is typical, given the student's age, for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities. SSA is an accelerative practice that allows students to show mastery of the content of a course without having taken the course. For example, a parent could nominate his/her child to skip a grade level of content in either Language Arts OR Mathematics. If you are interested in this option for your child, please

visit <http://wakeacceleration.weebly.com> for more information.

Upcoming Music Performances

We have several grade level performances we hope you can attend.

- Tuesday, April 19 6:30pm: Treasure Island
- Thursday, April 28 2:00pm: 5th grade guitar concert
- Thursday, May 5 2:50pm: 4th grade recorder concert
- Thursday, May 12 11:00am: Kindergarten concert

All concerts are in the gym. These are wonderful performance opportunities for our students and we hope you can come support them!



Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6.

Our theme is "We'll Circle the World to Thank Our Teachers."

The PTA has a week filled with activities for the teachers. We need parent and student involvement. **We have several opportunities for parents to help as described below.**

- On Tuesday, we will be hosting a breakfast for the teachers. If you would like to donate an item, please visit:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D49A4A829A0FA7-teacher1
- On Thursday, we will be hosting a snack station. If you would like to donate an item, please visit:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D49A4A829A0FA7-swiss
- On Friday, we will be hosting a luncheon for the teachers from On the Border. We want all the teachers to enjoy this luncheon together, so we are asking for parents to cover the classrooms for an hour from 12-1. Please remember if you cover the classroom, you need to be a registered volunteer. Please visit
www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49A4A829A0FA7-teacher to sign up for a slot.

A flyer with all this, plus more information, will be sent home in Tuesday folders soon! Please email Elizabeth Worthy at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com if you want to help in any other way.

Thank you to everyone in advance and for all your help throughout this year!

Office Administration Appreciation Week is April 25-29.

Our theme is "Thank you for helping us Bloom!"

Please thank Ms. Bradshaw, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Gunter, Ms. McAlpin, Ms. Silva, Mrs. Kmec, and Ms. Cowan for all they do. The PTA will be hosting a special week of goodies. Please email Elizabeth Worthy at Elizabeth.worthy@me.com if you want to help.



Free Events at Eva Perry Library

Raleigh Little Theatre's Players to Go!
Presents "The Trial of Goldilocks"
Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m.

Is Goldilocks a criminal or a victim? That's for the judge and jury to decide in this wacky courtroom caper! School age children and their families are invited to watch as the Bear Family and Goldilocks reveal their version of what happened that fateful porridge was JUST RIGHT!

FOR ALL YOU STAR WARS FANS:
Coming Saturday May 7
Star Wars Fest 2016
Saturday, May 7 from Noon - 2:45 p.m.

A short time from now in a library not too far away...Watch Star Wars: The Clone Wars animated movie (PG). Followed by crafts, activities, books and trivia. For all ages. Registration required. Go to <http://www.wakegov.com/libraries/events>

Join Us on Treasure Island: April 19 at 6:30pm

On April 19, the Cougar Chorus and Drama Club will be presenting "Treasure Island" at 6:30pm in the gym. We hope you can join us for this event! Break a leg to all of these students and to Mrs. Fallon (the Drama teacher) and Mrs. Huddle (the music teacher).



Cast: Remember the dress rehearsal on Saturday, April 16 from 9-12 in the gym. On April 19, arrive in the media center at 6:00pm.

Drama Club

Emma Alexander	Gianna Goss	Arianna McMillian	Allie Prasad
Alejandro Brown	Anas Goubar	Jack Morgan	Lauren Prillaman
Carter Burns	Joshua Hall	Sam Norman	Grace Richardson
Tori Butler	Sam Huddle	Alexis Nunez-Herrera	Elli Sheppard
Mira Coles	Charlotte Jacobson	Essence Peebles	Jessica Stanton
Thomas Goembel	Ronit Jain	Christian Powell	Rachel Thompson
	Zander Mayhew		Chase Williams

Cougar Chorus

Brayden Adams	Jeanette Evans	Susan McGraw	Abby Sanford
Emma Alexander	Iker Flamenco Lopez	Geovanny Morales	Ava Sheppard
Elijah Alston	Shreya Ganapathy	Sanchez	Elli Sheppard
Kieren Battle	Joshua Hall	Meredith Myers	Jessica Stanton
Malik Berry	Alexis Herrera	Yadira Orellana	Georgia Strickland
Sasha Brazillier	Charlotte Holcombe	Gallardo	Rachel Thompson
Rahma Chajai	Sam Huddle	Zoe Pacio	Charissa Treece
Fayda-Hana Chajai	Abdullah Janabi	Javier Paz-Uscanga	Jayden Vaval
Mira Coles	Ella Kaczmarek	Lauren Prillaman	Reid Veum
Harmoni Crowmwell-Ward	Hazel Kovalik	Ania Pruchnik	LaNeyah Watson
Addie Dewey	Marcus Lee	Katie Ragsdale	Chase Williams
Mackenzie Dixon	Ayden Leonard	Cameron Reid	
Silas Encarnacion	Alexis Mayhew	Grace Richardson	
		Tatyanna Roland	
		Jordan Roland	
		Rosie Ryan	

5th Grade Graduation Is Almost Here!

All 5th Grade Parents and Students: Please lookout for information regarding the 5th Grade Graduation, 5th Grade Picnic and 5th Grade Talent Show in the next few weeks. 5th Grade Graduation will be held on June 8, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the gymnasium with a picnic to follow. The picnic takes the place of the 5th grade field trip, so no siblings are allowed at the picnic. This will be a special time for the 5th graders to enjoy each other's company and for the parents of 5th graders to congratulate that child on his/her accomplishments. We hope everyone will plan to attend. Lunch will be provided by Swift Creek PTA.

Character Education Awards: Good Judgment

In April, we celebrate these students for the character trait of Good Judgment. Awards ceremonies will be April 20-22 at 9:10am in the media center.

Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
<u>Mrs. Harris</u> Sullivan W. Janiya W. Owen E.	<u>Mrs. Phillips</u> Owen P. Jack L.	<u>Mrs. Steinberg</u> Nayquan C. Tatiana T. Thomas B. Peyton W.	<u>Ms. Herrin</u> Palmer S. Ava S. Matthew F.	<u>Ms. Beauchamp</u> Brendan R. Brandon R. Colby R.	<u>Mr. Krauter</u> Elli S. Rachel T. Spencer M.
<u>Ms. Lipe</u> Emma G. Mia O.D. Michael A.	<u>Ms. Zardas</u> Daniel B. Jack D. Suhey E.B. Lucy P. Kimberlin S.F.	<u>Miss Millichap</u> Tanyia B.	<u>Ms. Smith</u> Abby S. Napolean T. Georgia S.	<u>Mrs. D'Amelio</u> Nora H. Ella K. Brandon H. Gakiya H. Jada R.	<u>Mrs. Coles</u> Sunday T. Emma A. Audrey N. Cameron R.
<u>Mrs. Sharif-Clark</u> Macy P. Cyvion S.	<u>Ms. Cillian</u> Jeremy J. Emma D.		<u>Mrs. Burchardi</u> Harmoni C.W. Reid V. Bianca O.	<u>Ms. Windsor</u> Carter B. Christopher H. Lysette R. Christian S.M.	<u>Ms. Mazuchowski</u> Lucas B. Jordan R.
<u>Mrs. Robinson</u> Giuliana S. Bara K. Marcus H. Evelyn C.V.	<u>Mrs. Butler</u> Verity T. Matthew R.		<u>Ms. Wyrsh</u> Finn P.	<u>Mrs. Fallon</u> Joshua R.C. Jacob P. Anas G. Charlotte H.	<u>Mrs. Sandersen</u> Gema S.
<u>Mrs. Tanner</u> Jamal J. Karam M. Dashawn W. Keegan R. Madisyn S. Daniel S. Brooklyn T. Tamaya W.					

Your April Checklist

- April 11-15:** Spring Book Fair. Family Night is on Tuesday, April 12.
- TONIGHT:** Family Night at the Book Fair. Come out and shop for books. Proceeds from the sale goes directly back to Swift Creek. Plus, there will be a special performance by Grey Seal Puppets that you won't want to miss.
- April 16 9am-12pm:** Dress rehearsal for Treasure Island. Meet in the gym.
- April 19 6:30pm:** April PTA meeting followed by the spring drama and chorus performance of Treasure Island is in the gym. Cast members should meet in the media center at 6:00pm.
- April 20:** Window for Single Acceleration Subject opens. If you are interested in this option for your child, please visit <http://wakeacceleration.weebly.com> for more information.
- April 25:** Regular School Day. This is the last make-up day for the winter snow.
- April 28**
 - 2:00pm:** 5th grade guitar concert in the gym
 - 5-8pm:** Swift Creek Night at Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads
- April 29:**
 - Spring Fling. All classes will have an opportunity to play games on the field behind the school during this annual tradition. More information and volunteer sign ups coming soon.
 - The Box Top Fairy will be visiting the classrooms. Be sure to turn in your Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Coke bottle tops by this date.

Nominees for PTA Officers for 2016-2017 School Year

- President – Marie Dexter
- Vice President – Kim Partin
- Secretary – April Bartley
- Treasurer – Delores Ragsdale

Voting will occur at April 19 PTA meeting. Nominations are still being accepted. If you have someone to nominate, please contact Marie Dexter at mariecddexter@gmail.com ASAP.

Your May Checklist

- May 2-6:** Teacher Appreciation Week!
- May 4:** Rain date for Spring Fling
- May 5 2:50pm:** 4th grade recorder concert in the gym
- May 10 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center.
- May 19 5:30pm:** Kindergarten Open House. This is an opportunity for entering kindergarteners (kids who will start Swift Creek in August) to get a sneak peek at what school is all about!
- May 30:** Memorial Day. No School

Your June Checklist

- June 8 10:30am:** 5th Grade Graduation and picnic
- June 9:** Last Day of School! 5th Grade Talent Show

Volunteer Opportunities!!!!

There are so many wonderful opportunities to get involved at Swift Creek. Volunteers are the key to making all of our PTA programs a success.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we are looking for folks in these areas. If you are interested, place a checkmark in the **I want to help** column, and then return this form to the school. You can also contact Marie Dexter at mariecarter@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I want to help!	Position	Description of Responsibilities	Time Commitment High/Medium/Low Time of Year
	Healthy Lifestyles	You can make this committee your own. Current responsibilities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the Walking Wednesdays program. This includes reordering foot tokens for students, walking lap cards, and meeting with Ms. Graves about school needs. • Arranging for healthy snack for Fun Run 	Low All year but most work can be done from home.
	Spirit Wear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the summer, plan for the start of school by placing any necessary spirit orders. • Sell items at Meet the Teacher, Open House, and Fun Run • Organize spirit wear orders for Winter and Spring 	Medium Active Times of the Year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug – Fun Run (in October) • Winter order: February • Spring order: April Great opportunity to work from home on your schedule!
	Student Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates school directory from the previous school year for the current school year • Sends directory to the printer • Distributes directory to PTA members Great opportunity to work from home on your schedule!!!	Low Sept-Nov
	Yearbook	Do you love to scrapbook? The Yearbook committee is looking for someone to help with layout. You would be co-chairing this committee with Ginger Yu. We are looking for at least one person with Photoshop experience. You can design the yearbook from home on your schedule!	Medium Jan - April

Thanks for volunteering! Return this form to the school and someone will follow up with you shortly.

Teachers, please place this form in the PTA box in the mailroom.