

April 9, 2019

# Swift Creek Current

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

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>

919-233-4320

## Thank Mr. Propst and Mrs. Smith for ALL They Do!

This week is Principal and Assistant Principal Appreciation Week! I bet they would love a special note or drawing from your child. One idea is to have your child respond to the prompt "What Does the Principal Do All Day?"

If you see Mr. Propst and Mrs. Smith in halls, please thank them for encouraging BRILLIANCE at the Creek!

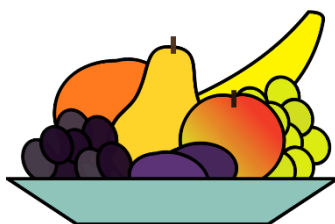
## Register Your Incoming Kindergartner Today!

Do you (or a neighbor or friend) have an incoming kindergartner? Don't wait to get them registered! Do it today! Knowing these numbers now helps us know how many kindergarten teachers and classrooms we will need next year.

Register today online at <https://www.wcpss.net/>.

## National Nutrition Month Snack Challenge: Congratulations to Ms. Miller and Ms. Kuhn's Classes

Ms Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Ms. Kuhn (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) classes averaged the most fruit/vegetable fruit snacks the week of March 18-22. Congratulations to these Cougars! On Friday, April 5, they celebrated with a special activity and snack organized by Ms. Graves and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Wellness Team.



## We Raised \$3000 for Books for the Library!!!

We hoped everyone enjoyed the Spring Book Fair from Bedford Falls. We raised over \$3000 that Mrs. Wils can use to purchase new books for the library!!!



**TONIGHT 6:30**

**Short PTA meeting**

**Performance by the  
Drama Club and  
Cougar Chorus**

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## P2 Corner:

April 7-13

### Being Present and Giving Others My Attention



This element of the Other People Matter Mindset (OPM2) means that when I'm with other people, I'm present and give them my full attention.

A deliberate focus on being present is so important today due to the increasing number of distractions vying for our time and attention.

April

### Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence



#### What Does Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence Mean?

You notice and value the world's beauty and people's skills. You don't take things for granted.

#### Why Does It Matter?

Appreciating excellence and beauty helps an individual experience positive emotions and connect to the world around him/her. It's an outward facing strength, meaning the individual is focused on the world outside his/her head. And, not only is the individual outwardly focused, but often deeply absorbed in a sense of awe or admiration, freeing him/her to forget anxieties and troubles.

On a group level, those who appreciate excellence and beauty make our lives more enjoyable. First, it means that they're not looking to criticize the world or its people, but instead take pleasure from their excellence. Second, it is the writers, painters, musicians, and filmmakers who help us better appreciate the world around us. It's due to their admiration for the way the sun hits off a wave or the quiet perseverance of a cross-country runner, that we are able to see the world with fresh eyes.

April 28- May 4

### Connection/Purpose



#### What Does Purpose Mean?

You have beliefs about the meaning of life and your life's purpose. You seek to be part of something greater than yourself.

#### Why Does It Matter?

Having a clear sense of purpose in life, and a belief that you're connected to a larger meaning, gives individuals strength. It allows them to persevere and find courage in trying circumstances, or lead with kindness and love even when it's not reciprocated. Those with a sense of purpose have more meaning in their life – and are more fulfilled. On a group level, purpose can be a powerful aligning element. It gives people a reason to continue on in hope and optimism, despite difficult circumstances. The sense of connection between people further strengthens their individual resolve and focus, which fortifies the group. When a group of individuals believe in something higher than themselves, their work can be exponentially greater.

May 5-11  
Leadership

#### What Does Leadership Mean?



You value each member of your group and inspire people to do their best.

### Why Does It Matter?

For individuals, leadership is a way to achieve what you know is important, as groups of people invariably achieve more than individuals. If you want to achieve your vision for the future, you need to inspire others to join you.

A group's effectiveness and sense of inspiration is tied directly to the leader. Study after study shows that leaders (and managers) have the biggest influence on group success and morale. Leaders can be developed and it starts with character.

May 12-17

### Other People Matter Mindset



This week we are wrapping up another year of the Positivity Project. Students will be reviewing what they've learned.

## Early Start Helps Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Dear Families,

Wake County Public Schools is pleased to provide a special learning experience for selected students, prior to the start of their Kindergarten school year. Early Start is a Title I Program designed to help children prepare for Kindergarten. The goal of this program is to create a smooth transition into Kindergarten.

Eligible students will participate in classrooms of no more than 18 students, who are all entering Kindergarten. Classes are taught by certified Wake County Public School teachers. Each class will also have an Instructional Assistant. Students will enjoy typical Kindergarten activities designed to develop social skills and early literacy skills.

**You are invited to review the following information and apply for this program.**

- Early Start is intended for students with limited or no preschool experience, **are not currently attending a WCPSS school-based preschool program (this is new)**, and who demonstrate the need for supplemental academic support before they enter Kindergarten. School staff will use an approved screening instrument to determine the greatest academic needs. Along with academic need, other weighted factors will also be used to determine program eligibility.
- Parents must bring their child to school for this short screening. Students cannot be determined eligible for the program without this screening.

If you are interested in the Early Start program which will be in session from **July 15<sup>th</sup> - July 30<sup>th</sup>** at **Swift Creek Elementary**, please contact your school's Early Start representative, **Sharon Hizer**, via email at [shizer@wcpss.net](mailto:shizer@wcpss.net) and she will contact you to set up your child's screening appointment. We look forward to working with you and your child!

## Upcoming Appreciation Weeks!

It is almost the end of the year. Time to thank the amazing Swift Creek staff for all they do. Please note these upcoming weeks of appreciation:

- **THIS WEEK:** Principal and Assistant Principal Appreciation Week!
- **April 22-26:** Administrative Assistant Appreciation Week! Please thank the ladies in the front office – Angel Wellborn, our data manager; Tracy Campoli – receptionist; and Allison Kern-Silva, lead secretary – for all they do to help our school run smoothly!!! We really couldn't function without all their help – from making copies, updating the school calendar, entering student data, managing school funds to putting on ice packs and calling parents for sick kids. They do everything!
- **May 6 – 10:** Teacher Appreciation Week! A flyer will come home in Tuesday folders with the calendar of events for the week!

We need help covering the classrooms, so the staff can have lunch together on Friday. You must be a registered Wake County volunteer to cover a classroom. If you can help, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/scesLunch19>.



**Dads of Great Students**

## Time is Running Out to Be a Watch DOG!

Did you miss the Watch DOGS meeting last month? Watch D.O.G.S. stands for Dads of Great Students. This is a program that focuses on education and safety in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures for a two-fold purpose:

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, cousins are asked to spend at least one day at their student's school volunteering. They will support the school through: monitoring the school property, working in small groups, reading, using flashcards, helping with homework, refereeing games, listening ears, or whatever else needs to be done to PLANT SEEDS OF SUCCESS in the lives of the students. They can actively engage with not only their student(s) but the entire student body. All volunteers must be registered with Wake County Public Schools.

For more information about this program, contact David Outlaw at [drdavidoutlaw@gmail.com](mailto:drdavidoutlaw@gmail.com) or sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesDOGS1819>.

## Oh What an International Night!

Thank you to everyone who visited International Night! It was an incredible night! We had over 300 people attend.

We couldn't have had such a great night without the help of so many people!

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### Host Families

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| China – Chunrong Xu                          | Denmark – Malene Haxholdt             |
| Ecuador – Jennifer Hayes                     | El Salvador – Liliana Orellana        |
| Finland – Merja and Nevada Wolfe             | Guatemala – Beatriz Morales           |
| Ireland – The Ford Family                    | Italy – Lisa Kropliak                 |
| Japan – Hiroko Deleruyells                   | Jordan – Amira Hindi                  |
| Slovakia – The Funak Family                  | Spain – The Fernandez Family          |
| South Africa – The Payn Family and Mr. Steve | Trinidad & Tobago – The Holder Family |
| Venezuela – Isabel Giraldo                   |                                       |

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**Thank you to our awesome performers, Laura Monaghan who did an amazing Irish dance and our Indian dancers, Radhika Wakankar and Smirthi Selvaraj.** Your performances were enjoyed VERY much.

We also appreciate our organizers and volunteers. Thank you for giving up so many Friday mornings to plan this event and your help in making this event run smoothly!

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|                                   |                                      |                  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Carey Burkhalter, our ESL teacher | Tara Batemon                         | Darrell Propst   |
| Tracy Campoli                     | Allison Kern-Silva                   | Aimee Langerhans |
| Stephanie Wils                    | Annie Pilz                           | Erin Galloway    |
| Tina Chadwick                     | Swift Creek Service Club             | Marie Dexter     |
| Teen Corp                         | Dillard Drive National Honor Society |                  |

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An extra special Thank You to Whole Foods in Waverly Place for giving us a great discount on all the yummy food!

## And the Spirit Award Goes to . . .

Congratulations to Ms. Lipe's Kindergarten class. They are our Swifty Spirit winners for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this year. On April 5, 72% of the class participated in Spirit Day. Wonderful job! Our next spirit day is May 3.



## Congratulations to Our Super Snippers for March!

Congratulations to Mrs. Perry's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for raising \$13.80 in Box Top money in March! Keep collecting your Box Tops and Coke Bottle tops. The next collection day is April 26.

## Celebrate Autism Acceptance April 22-26

Join Student Services in the celebration of autism acceptance week by participating in these events:

- **Pokemon Monday:** (4/22) Satoshi Tajiri, the creator of Pokemon, is autistic. He used his unique perspective to create the world of Pokemon. To celebrate his work, dress up as your favorite Pokemon character, or create your own!
- **Autism Acceptance Tuesday:** (4/23) Wear blue to show our support, awareness, and appreciation for individuals on the Autism Spectrum!
- **What's YOUR Passion Wednesday:** (4/24) One characteristic of autism is to show incredibly focused passion for topics of interest. What are you passionate about? Dress up to show something you love!
- **Neurodiversity Thursday:** (4/25) To celebrate the beauty in the diverse spectrum of the human mind, wear rainbow and/or tie-dyed clothes to school!
- **Sensory Friendly Friday:** (4/26) Autistic people often have a variety of sensory sensitivities. Dress up today in your most comfy clothes (including school-appropriate pjs), use as much natural light in your classroom instead of fluorescent lights, and/or wear sunglasses.

## Nominations for PTA Officers for 2019-20 School Year

The following individuals have been nominated for the PTA Executive Board for next school year:

- President – Tara Batemon
- Vice President of Communications – Marie Dexter
- Vice President – Deborah Killion
- Treasurer – Delores Ragsdale
- Secretary – Lauren Nicholls

**At our May 14 meeting, we will vote on two important issues:**

- Election of officers for next year
- Our summer budget (so we can purchase items like agendas for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders)



**Please plan to attend this meeting, which will be at 6:30pm in the media center. We need YOUR vote!**

Are you interested in being more involved next year? It is never too early or too late! We are always welcoming new faces and ideas! To get involved, contact Marie Dexter at [mariedexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariedexter@gmail.com).



## Cultural Arts News

We have had another great year of cultural arts experiences at Swift Creek!

Here is a recap:

- October brought Michael Beadle, poet and author, to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to lead students in creating their own rhymes and poetry.
- In November, Transit Vocal Band provided an a cappella performance that had the students singing and dancing.
- Billy Jonas joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in February to guide students in making musical instruments from recycling.
- In March, Timmy and Susana Abell showed the many ways to tell a story through puppetry, musical instruments, and song.

All these events were made possible through funds from your PTA and, in part, by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Additionally, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade received the Wheels on the Bus grant from United Arts to pay for their exciting field trip to the Durham Museum of Life and Science!

## Supplies for the Art Room

Help support the arts at the Creek. Mrs. McIntyre needs these supplies:

|                                    |                                       |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Used Legos                         | Styrofoam egg cartons                 | Clean plastic drink bottle tops |
| Wooden blocks                      | Paper drink trays                     | Laundry detergent tops          |
| Art puzzles                        | Sliding close gallon Ziploc bags      | Plastic and paper grocery bags  |
| Fabric and yarn                    | Baby wipes                            | Old wooden brooms               |
| Paper towel and toilet paper tubes | Sharpie markers all sizes, all colors | Copy paper                      |
| Men's ties                         |                                       |                                 |

## Your April Calendar

- Apr 1-5:** P2 Humor
- Apr 8-12:** P2 Being Present and Giving Others My Attention
- Apr 9 6:30pm:** PTA meeting, Drama performance!
- Apr 15-19:** Spring Break
- Apr 22:** Teacher Work Day
- Apr 22-26:**
  - P2 Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence
  - Administrative Assistant Appreciation Week
- Apr 23 5:30-7:00:** Family Academy Night: Preparing for the EOGs
- Apr 26 6-7:30pm:** Mother and Son Game Night! Please RSVP as soon as possible.
- Apr 29-May 3:** P2 Purpose
- Apr 30:** Box Top Collection Day!

## Your May Calendar

- May 3:** Spirit Day! Celebration of Brilliance. If your child is being recognized, you will receive a letter in your child's Tuesday folder.
- May 14:** Play 60 for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. More details coming soon.
- May 23 6-7:** Kindergarten Open House
- May 27:** Memorial Day. No School!
- May 29 – June 7:** EOG Testing Window
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## Your June Calendar

- June 6 5-7pm:** End of year picnic on the field
- June 7:** Field Day
- June 10:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and Talent Show
- June 11:** Last day of school!

## Join Us for Camp Invention, Supercharged!!!

The new Camp Invention program, Supercharged, allows campers to experience real-world problem solving and creative thinking! From robots and high-tech farms to superhero gadgets, campers will invent the future! Swift Creek ES is hosting Camp Invention from June 24 - 28. Visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp) or call 800-968-4332 to register.

Are you interested in sponsoring a child who can't afford the Camp Invention fee? Our goal is to give 10 local disadvantaged children the Camp Invention experience, inspiring the future innovators and leaders of our community. Simply donate a minimum of \$5 at <https://bit.ly/2RrKtwo> and help us reach our goal! Thank you!

### 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents: EOG Test Window!!!!

Please mark your calendar! EOG testing will take place beginning **May 29-June 7** for all **3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students**. Testing **begins at 9:15 AM** each day and it is very important that all students are on time to school on each of these days. Please do not schedule appointments or other events that will cause students to not be at school to start the day. More information about EOG testing will come out later in the spring. Thank you for helping to ensure a smooth testing process for students and staff!