

August 26, 2014

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 to the 2014-2015 school year! I am so looking forward to my second year at Swift Creek as your principal. It is not every day that you can honestly say that you are working in your dream job, but I know that I am. This is an amazing environment, full of caring and dedicated staff, hardworking students, and committed and energetic families. If you are just joining our community, we welcome you and want you to know that you are now a member of our family. If you are returning with us, we are thrilled to see you again and to continue our partnership.

We are very happy to share that our front office has been painted this summer. We are also in progress of making some updates to the furniture as well as hanging student artwork. The frames for this artwork were donated by 5th grade parents last year as a class gift, and we cannot wait to showcase our student talent! We have also been notified that some exterior painting will be completed on our campus, so please remind your children not to cross any tape barriers that may be lingering the first few weeks of school. We are thrilled for these updates!

As of the writing of this newsletter, our enrollment is 531 students. With a recent surge in enrollment, we added a fifth grade classroom. We continue to be designated as a Title 1 school and have had changes in personnel over the summer. Ashley Butler, coming to us with third grade experience from Duplin County, will be joining the first grade team with a background that boasts high quality staff development. Lyndsay Herrin and Emily Windsor are two phenomenal former NCSU student teachers with a STEM background who will be joining our third grade and fourth grade teams respectively. Barbara Pearman, former WCPSS teacher in both elementary and middle school settings and a National Board Certified Teacher, will be a wonderful addition to the fifth grade team. Michele Fountain is our new CCR teacher, coming to us



Upcoming Events

August 29

Meet the Teacher for Kindergarteners 1-3pm

September 1

Labor Day – No School

September 2

- First Day of School for all Kindergartners
- Coffee and Kleenex for Kindergarten parents in Media Center

September 5

- Early Release – School out at 1:15pm
- Early Release Luncheon for Teachers and Staff

September 9

- PTA Meeting 6pm
- Open House 7pm

In This Issue

School Policy Reminders

We Need You! – From the PTA President

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the PTA!

How to Stay Informed

State Fair Tickets

Spanish Classes

with a positive attitude and experience in other states. Furthermore, Wendy Bernstein will be bringing her wealth of experience and strong literacy background to the second grade team. Whitney Jackson will be moving from fourth grade to fifth grade, bringing her passion and love for literacy. There have been some other switches with our dedicated special programs staff. Emily

**Welcome Our New
Teachers and Staff!!**

Tanner will be moving from CCR teacher to our CCK classroom, while Patrick Willis will be moving from a CCK teacher to the CCR position. Mr. Steve Raubenheimer will also be bringing his talents from a teacher assistant position in special programs to Kindergarten. We are also fortunate to have Shari Burton as our

MTSS coach this year who will be working with teachers this year in PLTs and with our MTSS team. We also get the benefit of Sherry William's experience with SIOP, as she continues to serve as our coach. We are so excited to be welcoming our new staff on board and know you will also welcome them with sincerity!

Our PTA Meeting and Open House is scheduled for September 9th. The PTA meeting will be held from 6:00-6:45 pm in the gym. The Open House presentations are from 7:00-7:30 pm and 7:30-8:00 pm in the classrooms. We look forward to seeing you there to learn more about the academic programs in your child's grade level.

Don't forget that Monday, September 1st is the Labor Day Holiday, and there is no school for students. September 5th is an Early Release Day, and students are dismissed at 1:15 pm. Please make sure that your student knows how they are getting home for Early Release and that any changes are communicated to the teacher in writing.

**Please make sure that
your student knows how to
get home on Early Release
days and that any
changes are
communicated to the
teacher in writing.**

Kindergarteners will have staggered entry the week of August 25th and will attend school only one day that week. On Friday, August 29th, Kindergarten will have a Meet the Teacher event from 1:00-3:00 p.m. On September 2nd, all kindergarteners will attend school. Tuesday, September 2nd is also our Coffee and Kleenex event for Kindergarten parents after drop off.

Thank you for all you do for our school and your children. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call me at 919-233-4320.

Kelly Bradshaw, Principal

We Need You! – A Note from the PTA President

Hello, fellow Swift Creek Moms & Dads... as a Mom of a 5th Grader, 3rd Grader, and Kindergartener, I am so excited to be so involved this year in the PTA! We have an amazing team of Moms this year on PTA. (I can't wait for you to meet them and me!) I am so excited to work with you on the different committees we have for our school and kids. WE NEED YOUR HELP... we need LOTS of you to help us on the committees so it will be a "Team Effort." It's such a rewarding experience to be involved! Your kids will love that you are helping even if it's just an hour or two... Your volunteer work can be done at home or while you're out and about (such as picking up supplies for an event) or at the school... but we need you! We already have several volunteers,

but without more volunteers (Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, etc.) we can't reach our goals. Please go to our school website and under PTA, register to be a volunteer. Our goal is to have 50 volunteers this year - I know we can do it!!! I'm looking forward to a wonderful school year...

Dina Goembel, PTA President

Additional Announcements

Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

Ms. Bradshaw would like to thank some of our business sponsors for their donations to start this exciting school year. It is certainly a wonderful experience to be able to have such amazing partners for our school and students.

- Macedonia Methodist Church allowed us to have our faculty retreat in their fellowship hall, and they provided desserts for lunch and donated school supplies for our students.
- Our wonderful PTA donated a yummy breakfast for our faculty retreat.
- Shafer Insurance Group provided lunch for our staff members at the retreat.
- Campbell Road Nursery graciously provided flowers for our front entrance, and they are beauties this year.

Wake County Social Networking Guidelines

The WCPSS has guidelines for all staff to use regarding social networking sites. One of the guidelines says for staff members not to "friend" students or parents. Ms. Bradshaw has asked the staff to follow these guidelines. You can still contact teachers by e-mail, by phone, or through notes.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers -- Get Registered!

If you would like to volunteer, please make arrangements to sign up on a school computer to volunteer. *All volunteers*, both former and new, will need to register. Volunteers will need to use the school's designated computer (in the Media Center) to complete and submit their registration on the WCPSS Intranet site. Website registration is not possible for security reasons. Volunteers must undergo a criminal background check before being placed in a school.

Hooked on Reading Program

School Reminders!!!

Class Starts at 9:15am

Don't forget that students must be **in their classrooms** by 9:15, or they are marked tardy. To protect instructional time, morning announcements begin at 9:10.

Sign In at the Office

Each time you visit our campus, remember to sign in at the front office. It is for the safety of all of our students.

Free and Reduced Lunches

Students who received free or reduced lunch at the end of the 2013-2014 school year in a Wake County Public school will continue to receive that benefit until October 8th, 2014. **On October 9th, students whose parents have not re-applied and been approved must pay full price for meals.** WCPSS will continue to provide free breakfast for students who qualify for reduced price lunches. The applications were mailed to all parents during the summer. Contact the school if you need an application.

We need parent volunteers to listen to students read and to read to students as a part of our Hooked on Reading program. This program takes place from 8:45-9:15 each morning in room 114. It is a fun way to volunteer, and the children love choosing their own books. If you would like more information or are interested in this opportunity, please see Rhonda Bornman in room 114 or email her at rbornman@wcpss.net. Thanks in advance for considering this!

Proctors Needed for 3rd Grade Testing – Sept 10

On September 10, our 3rd grade students will participate in the State Beginning of Grade English Language Arts Assessment. We need 6 parent volunteers to serve as proctors from about 9:15 - 12:00 on that Wednesday. If you are willing to help, please contact our Testing Coordinator, Mary Alice Ramsey: mwramsey@wcpss.net.

**Without volunteers
(Moms, Dads,
Grandparents, Aunts,
Uncles, etc.), we can't
reach our goals.**

Hospitality Needs Your Help!

The Hospitality Team is looking for volunteers to be a part of our team! We host four luncheons for the wonderful staff at Swift Creek and also handle appreciation weeks. For these events, we need either store bought items or home cooked items. The more parents that help the easier it will be for all of us! Volunteer as little or as much as you want. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Megan Word at megw7788@gmail.com.

Do You Have a Passion for the Arts?

The Reflections Art Program encourages creativity and lifelong learning while offering recognition for artistic endeavors. The theme for the 2014-2015 program is "The world would be a better place if...". Categories of submission are dance choreography, photography, film production, literature, visual arts, music composition, and special artists.

If you are interested in helping with this program, contact Ann-Margaret Alexander at amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com. The time commitment should be small and will end by December 1, 2014.

Ready to Get Your Hands Dirty?

On Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9am-12pm, join us as we beautify our school grounds. More details soon. If you have questions, contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com.

Join the PTA Today!

Joining the Swift Creek PTA is quick and easy. You can sign up in person at the September Open House, or today on the PTA website. Simply click Membership in the menu bar.

For each PTA membership, the school receives a portion of the proceeds. Also, you will receive coupons for a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich and a pass to a local bounce place (and more!), so the membership pays for itself!

If you have questions about membership, please contact Melinda Gelsingers (gelsingers@bellsouth.net) or Allison Smith (bryandmickeysmom@gmail.com).

Don't Stop Now! There's More . . .

Turn in Your Box Tops!

You've been collecting them all summer. Now, it is time to turn in any Box Tops or Campbell's Labels for Education. You can turn them in to your teacher or the front office. If you have questions about these programs, contact Marie Dexter at mdexter@nc.rr.com.

Purchase Your State Fair Tickets Online and Raise Money for Our School

If you normally purchase NC State Fair Tickets, **please** consider using the link on the school's website to make an online purchase. The school receives \$2 for every adult ticket and \$1 for every child ticket! All you have to do is make this advance, online purchase and enter our school code (568).

Spanish Classes with the Explore Language Programs

Explore Learning Programs will be offering after-school Spanish classes again this year. Watch out for a flyer in your child's Tuesday folder. Learn more at www.explorelearningprograms.com. Please send questions to info@explorelearningprograms.com.

How to Stay Informed

Swift Creek Current

Newsletters are included in students' Tuesday folders at least once a month. Archived newsletters are available from the PTA website.

PTA Website

A blog on the PTA website lists announcements that come out between newsletters. From this site, you can learn more about the school activities throughout the year, ask questions to other parents, join the PTA, and volunteer!

Facebook

Are you on Facebook? So are we! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekespta>

School Info App

Receive notifications about bus delays, closings due to inclement weather, and other general announcements on your iPhone, iPad, and Android devices. The Swift Creek Elementary SchoolInfoApp is free and can be found in the Apple App Store and on Google Play by searching for "School Info".