

August 25, 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,

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year! How can it be that summer is over and we begin another adventure together? As we embark upon this journey, I want to welcome our Kindergarteners and all new families and students to our school. You are truly lucky to be a part of this wonderful school--I hope that you will quickly see how your child will be welcomed and enveloped in love and care.

I was also thrilled to see our returning students and families—I am so glad we are once again where we all should be, ready to learn and grow. This promises to be a wonderful year where we will all be stretched and challenged.

We are happy to share that the hallways and cafeteria were painted with bright, inviting colors this past week. We were thrilled to find out that the project was approved shortly before school started, and the painters will finish in the coming weeks with the trim. Thank you for bearing with us as the final touches are completed and the strips for student work are reinstalled. The fresh new look adds to the physical appearance of our building and has been appreciated by staff and students alike. In addition, the boiler was replaced over the summer with natural gas lines, which will greatly improve the heating system (and smells) when temperatures dip this winter.

As of the writing of this newsletter, our enrollment is 521 students. We made the decision to add a fifth grade classroom in recent weeks and will be welcoming the new teacher in a few days. We have had other changes as well over the summer.

- We welcome Grace Roh and Whitney Millichap to our second grade team, who both incidentally both come to us



Welcome Back,
Swifties!!!



Know what time your child's bus leaves every day by viewing the feed on the right side of the school home page:

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net/>

or follow the bus dismissal on Twitter:
@SCESbuses



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from Illinois and bring experience and love of literacy to the team.

- Candis Burchardi, who fulfilled a vacancy for us at the end of the year in Kindergarten, has joined the third grade team and brings experience, energy, and dedication.
- Morgan Mazuchowski is our wonderful new fifth grade teacher. She comes to us from a strong teacher preparation program in Michigan, and we love her enthusiasm for our eldest Swifties!
- Tina Chadwick is our phenomenal new counselor, who transferred from Cedar Fork Elementary, and has years of experience, compassion, and leadership to bring to our team.
- Julius Richburg and Meilian Sowell, Head Custodian and full time custodian respectively, have also joined the Swiftly family. We have been so appreciative of the deep cleaning they have completed this summer and know you will also love the cleanliness of the building and their positive attitudes. Jeffrey Day also began as part time custodian this week and we will know he will have much to contribute to our custodial team.
- Ragima Woods also will be working as a second grade teacher this year and we know she will nurture those students with her compassion and hard work.
- Wendy Bernstein, former intervention and second grade teacher, will also be our literacy coach and intervention teacher this year with her wealth of knowledge and literacy background.

Please join me in giving all of our new staff a hearty welcome to the Creek!

We know that you will be receiving many documents from your child's teachers in the coming days. **Please take time to review the forms and return what needs parent signatures quickly.** There are many helpful items in the batch of paperwork as well, including schedules and letters regarding carpool procedures. We thank you for taking a moment to reflect as we give you the information you need for a successful year.

Our PTA Meeting and Open House is scheduled for September 8th. The PTA meeting will be held from 6:15 to 6:45 pm in the gym and the Open House presentations are from 6:55 pm to 7:30 pm and 7:30 to 8:05 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 7th is the Labor Day Holiday, and there is no school for students. September 4th is also 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.

Kindergarteners will have staggered entry the week of August 24th and will only attend school one day that week. On Friday, August 28th, Kindergarten will have a Meet the Teacher event from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. On August 31st, all kindergarteners will attend school. Monday, August 31st is also our Coffee and Kleenex event for Kindergarten parents after drop off in the Media Center.

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, Swift Creek Elementary

Welcome from the PTA President, Dina Goembel

Welcome back Swift Creek Parents and a BIG Welcome to all new Parents & kids to Swift Creek! We are excited for our 2015-2016 School Year and all the wonderful things we have planned... like our Fun Run, Book Fairs, Winter Fling & Spring Fling, Cultural Arts Programs, and much more!

We hope you join our Swift Creek PTA and get involved - it's only \$6 and if you didn't join at Meet the Teacher, you can still join at the Open House in September. If you have any questions about Swift Creek or the PTA, please check out our PTA Website - there is a link via the SCES website or go to swiftcreekeswcpssnetpta.html.weebly.com

Hope to see many of you at the events throughout the year... and make sure to sign up for Swifty Cougar Emails - we send out occasional reminders about events coming up at school or important information.

Thank You to Our Community Sponsors

I [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 once again provided desserts for lunch.
- Our wonderful PTA donated a yummy lunch for our faculty retreat.
- Campbell Road Nursery graciously provided flowers for our front entrance and for our trailer boxes, and they are beautiful!

Update on Summer School

Swift Creek hosted an awesome summer school. Highly effective teachers from Swift Creek, Yates Mill, Stough, Cedar Fork, and Olds Elementary taught 185 students in 15 classrooms.

Don't Forget!!!

- **Students must be in their classrooms by 9:15 or they are marked tardy.** In order to protect instructional time, morning announcements will begin at 9:10.
- We also appreciate your adherence to our check out policy. **If you need to check out your student, please do so prior to 3:15 pm.** After that time, parents will need to wait in cars to pick up in the carpool line.
- **Please remember to sign in each time you visit our campus in the front office.** It is for the safety of all of our students and staff.
- **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 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.

We'd like to thank the following businesses for providing lunch for our summer school staff:

- Food Lion-Swift Creek Shopping Center
- Ruckus Pizza
- Roly Poly

Social Networking Guidelines for WCPSS Staff

The WCPSS has put guidelines in place for all staff to use regarding social networking sites. One of the guidelines says for staff members not to “friend” students or parents. I have asked the staff to follow these guidelines. You can still contact teachers by email, phone, or note.

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunches

Students who received free or reduced lunch at the end of the 2014-2015 school year in a Wake County Public school will continue to receive that benefit until October 6, 2015. On October 8th, 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, but contact the school if you need an application.

Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program: Fall Nomination Window Aug 24-Sept 18

If you would like to nominate a child for AIG services, please submit your request in writing. You may send the note in your child's Tuesday folder or email Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net.

Students who are already identified for AIG services (moderate and strong) do not need to be nominated unless it is to add an additional area of service. Please remember that one calendar year must exist between testing (if your child was tested for AIG last year).

Reflections Art Competition: Let Your Imagination Fly

3rd – 5th graders: Begin thinking about how you can incorporate the theme into a drawing, painting, photograph, story or poem.

Handouts with full instructions will be sent home soon. All artwork is due by October 26, 2015. If you have any questions, contact Ann-Margaret Alexander at amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com.

Healthy Lifestyles

The PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Committee is happy to bring back TGA's after school golf and tennis program. This program is appropriate for all elementary grades and all levels of play. All equipment is provided. Lessons occur rain or shine.

Fall registration is now open. Register today on the TGA website: www.playtga.com/wakecounty. Remember to select Swift Creek as your school when you register.

Golf

Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm

Cost: \$115 (per session)

Fall Session 1: September 15-October 6

Fall Session 2: October 20-November 10

Tennis

Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm

Cost: \$115 (per session)

Fall Session 1: September 16-October 14

Fall Session 2: October 21-November 18

Thank You for the Teacher Luncheon

Thanks to all those who donated food and their time for the Back to School Teacher Luncheon. The teachers loved the lunch and it was a nice way to start the year.

Please look for a sign-up for the first Early Release Luncheon, which will be on September 4. If you are interested in being involved in the Hospitality Committee, please email me at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com. We are looking for volunteers who can send in homemade or store bought goodies for teacher luncheons and/or various other events during the year. Any and all help is appreciated.

Your August Checklist

- **Today:**
 - Register for the golf or tennis after school programs at Swift Creek. Visit the TGA website at www.playtga.com/wakecouty.
 - Fall nomination window opens for the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program. Submit your request in writing to Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net.
 - Contact Elizabeth Worthy (Hospitality Committee chair) at Elizabeth.worthy@me.com if you can help send in homemade or store bought goodies for teach luncheons and other events throughout the year.
 - Turn in applications for free and reduced lunches.
- **August 28 1-3pm:** Kindergartners' Meet the Teacher
- **August 31:** Kindergartners start school. Coffee and Kleenex for kindergarten parents in the Media Center at 9:00.

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 look for flier in an upcoming Tuesday Folder.

For each PTA membership, the school receives a portion of the proceeds. Also, you will receive coupons for a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich as well as other local restaurants, so the membership pays for itself!

If you have questions, please contact Melinda Gelsinger at gelsingers@bellsouth.net.

Your September Checklist

- **Sept 4:** Early Release. School ends at 1:15. Also, Early Release Luncheon for the teachers. Want to help with this luncheon? Contact Elizabeth Worthy (Hospitality Committee chair) at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com.
- **Sept 7:** Labor Day. No School.
- **Sept 8 6:15-8:05pm:** Open House - starting in the gym and followed by sessions in your child's classroom
- **Sept 18:** Fall nomination window for Academically and Intellectually Gifted program closes today! Submit your request in writing to Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net.
- **Sept 23:** Teacher Work Day. No school
- **Sept 24 5-8pm:** McTeacher's Night at the McDonald's on Walnut Street (near Crossroads Plaza). Take a night off from cooking and join us! A portion of all sales (dine in and drive thru) goes directly to Swift Creek!