

August 30, 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

Greetings and welcome to the first days of the 2016-2017 school year. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve the Swift Creek school community as your interim principal.

We have been preparing for this week since the last school year ended. There are many new faces at Swift Creek, students and staff alike. As we prepare for a year full of collaboration and learning, I would like to shout out some thank yous and highlight some of the changes that you will see at Swift Creek this year.

First, a great big shout out to our custodial staff for the wonderful job they did this summer cleaning carpets, waxing floors and making our building shine. On their July inspection, they scored a perfect 100! Thank you Mr. Richburg, Mrs. Sowell and Ms. Weathersbee for your hard work.

Next, let's give a shout out to Mrs. Miller, our Assistant Principal, along with our fabulous PTA president and board, for helping to organize and make cosmetic changes around the school. Thanks to the efforts of PTA volunteers, with some help from student and community partners, the teachers' lounge received a makeover. Freshly painted walls, new artwork, along with tablecloths, flower vases and mints, make a pleasant place for teachers to meet and eat each day. Volunteers from Macedonia United Methodist Church along with parents, students and staff, spread 2 truckloads of mulch around the front of the school on July 16 to spruce up the grounds. (More opportunities for mulch work on September 24!) In addition, parent volunteers created the "Faces of Swift Creek" photograph display outside the main office and the "class of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019" frames on the wall near the front door. Please visit and check out these changes, along with our Media Center makeover.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to our hardworking and committed faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to be prepared for a successful Meet the Teacher last week and a smooth start to the school year. Our theme this year is around the "reboot/refresh" symbol on the



Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!!!

**At Swift Creek, we are
a TEAM!**

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More

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computer. We want to rewind and refocus our energy so that all children can learn and achieve at high levels. We want to reframe our practices to align with the 21st century skills of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Creativity. We also want to focus on building relationships with students and stakeholders to make Swift Creek the number one choice for base families this year and beyond. Please join us on this journey! – Mrs. Hargrove, Interim Principal

Important Reminders

Bus Procedures

First, please remember to be at your child's bus stop 15 minutes before the bus is slated to come to your stop. Remain for 15 minutes after as well. We are a tier three school, meaning that the high school and middle school routes are run before the elementary routes. Please have some patience during the first two weeks of school.

Students will have a laminated bus tag with their stop information on it. For K-2 students these will be zip-tied to their backpacks and are color coded for the bus they are to ride each day. This is a safety measure, so please do not remove these. Students in grades 3-5 will also receive laminated tags, which can be zip tied to their backpacks or kept in their book bags.



Carpool Procedures

We have new carpool cones and new carpool procedures. Parents/designated pick up person, must have a carpool tag to pick up a child in line. If you do not have a tag, you will be asked to park and go inside to show ID to pick up your child.

Welcome Swifties! – A Message from PTA President

Hello Swift Creek families! My name is Marie Dexter, and I am this year's PTA president. I'd like to welcome everyone to the 2016-2017 school year. This year promises to be an **EXCELLENT** year for us all.

Whether you are returning to Swift Creek or new this year, I'd like to encourage you to join the PTA and to get involved in our Swift Creek community. I believe that every one of us has something unique to contribute to our school. Plus, you can learn so much about our school just by volunteering for a few hours. You also meet so many amazing parents. Goodness knows that I have made so many new friends in the 3 years that we've been at Swift Creek.

As we search for our new principal, I know many of you have questions. I am a strong believer in communication and transparency. I will do my best to share with you any information that I have. If you have questions or concerns about ANYTHING, please reach out to me. You can contact me at mariecddexter@gmail.com or 919-602-9993.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. Remember: We are Swift Creek and together we ROAR!

Join the PTA!

Joining the Swift Creek PTA is quick and easy. You can sign up in person at the Open House or look for the flier in an upcoming Tuesday Folder.

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

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

Note: Memberships are good for 1 year. You must rejoin the PTA every school year.

The PTA enables YOU to:

- Connect with other parents at Swift Creek
- Learn more about what is happening in YOUR child's school
- Provide your thoughts on the school's direction
- Determine how the PTA spends its funds

Get Involved! Be a Room Parent

Welcome to a new school year! A great way to help in your child's classroom and to get more involved at Swift Creek is by being a room parent. If you didn't get a chance to sign up at Meet the Teacher please contact your teacher if you are interested in being a room parent. Helen Bass, the Grade Parent Committee Chair, will provide all the necessary info to do a great job and feel more connected with your children's school. You can contact Helen at helen729@hotmail.com.

Need Volunteers for 3rd Grade BOG Testing

Mrs. Hizer (our new testing coordinator) needs approximately 4 volunteers on Wednesday, September 14 at 9am through 12pm. She also needs approximately 2-3 volunteers on Thursday, September 15 for make-up testing sessions. All volunteers will need to attend a one hour Proctor Training on Friday, September 9. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Hizer at shizer@wcpss.net.

Helping Students in Need

If you would like to be contacted in the event of a student need (food, snacks, clothes, etc...), please e-mail Mrs. Chadwick (cchadwick@wcpss.net) your name, cell phone number and e-mail address. She would love to add you to the list of people who have reached out to support students when needs arise!



Getting the Keys to Kindergarten

September 6 -- It is your kindergartner's big day! The first official day of school. After dropping your kindergartner off, come join Mrs. Chadwick, the school counselor, in the media center from 9:15-10:00. She will present 'Keys to Kindergarten' and discuss how you can help your child succeed this year.

News from Our Specials Teachers – P.E., Music, and Media

It's Go Time

Get those sneakers on and double knot those laces because it's GO Time! My name is Sarah Graves, your Physical Education teacher, and I look forward to advocating and teaching healthy habits your child can practice and share with your family. Some things to look forward to: Locomotor skills, sport skill development, PLAY 60, team games, Fitnessgram, Jump Rope for Heart, Field Day, MyPlate and many, many more!

Physical Education is the heart beat of education, a class that will help your child LIVE longer!



2016-2017 Goal: For all students to be...Healthy Active Lifetime Movers!

Follow Physical Education on Twitter:
@fitforlifescs



Music Notes

Greetings everyone,

Here is what to expect from the Swift Creek Music room in the coming weeks:

- K-1: Movement and playing to steady beat, singing
- 2-3: Partner songs, matching pitches, movement
- 4-5: Identifying, playing and creating rhythms.
- Chorus will begin on September 14th. Please be on the lookout for more information coming home with your student.

I am very excited to be working at Swift Creek. Thank you for welcoming me into the Swift Creek family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Jsutton3@wcpss.net.

Best wishes on a great school year,

Ms. Sutton, Swift Creek Music Educator



Media Center News

The media center has a fresh new look! It was fully painted over the summer and is looking very bright and welcoming. Ms. Hartley is the new Media Specialist. She is looking forward to working with Swift Creek students, teachers, and parents! There are many exciting plans for the library this year, including new technology projects, new books, and events.

Hospitality News

Thanks to all those who donated food and their time for the Back to School Teacher Breakfast. The teachers loved the breakfast 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 9. Sela Vaughn and Elizabeth Worthy are the co-chairs of the Hospitality Committee, and are excited for a new year! If you are interested in being involved in the Hospitality Committee, please email Elizabeth 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.

Upcoming Student Opportunities

"What Is Your Story?"

Reflections 2016 Theme

This year's theme for Reflections is 'What Is Your Story?'. The Reflections program is sponsored by the National PTA and is open to students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Watch for more information to be sent home soon!



Auditions for the Spring Musical – Sept 8

Drama Club and Cougar Chorus are pleased to announce that we will be producing a Spring Musical in April. More details will be coming soon. Students in fourth and fifth grade may audition for speaking and/or solo parts on September 8 immediately after school. No preparation is necessary. The practice schedule has not yet been determined. Students and parents involved will vote between Thursday mornings or Thursday after school.



Your September Calendar

- Sept 2:** Meet the Teacher for incoming kindergartners
- Sept 5:** Labor Day! No School.
- Sept 6:** All students return to school.
 - o **9:15-10:00am** Keys to Kindergarten with Mrs. Chadwick, guidance counselor in the media center
- Sept 8 4th and 5th grade only:** Auditions for Spring Musical after school
- Sept 9 1:15pm:** Early Release. School dismisses at 1:15pm.
- Sept 13 6:15pm:** Open House
- Sept 14 9-12:** BOG Tests for 3rd Grade
- Sept 15 9-12:** Make ups for BOG Tests for 3rd grade
- Sept 24 10-2:** Fall workday at the Creek. Come help spread mulch around the front and back courtyards. Now that Wake County has cleaned out the overgrown and dead plants, we need to make the areas look nice again. And you can help. Kids are welcome as well. Lunch will be provided.

Your October Calendar

- ☐ **October 13:** The Cougar Fun Run. This year's theme is the Olympics!
- ☐ **October 17 & 20:** Rain dates for Fun Run
- ☐ **October 24 - 28:** Fall Book Fair in the media center



Stay in the Loop!

School Resources:

- <http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net/> Check out the new school website for carpool procedures, the student parent handbook, lunch menus, lunch times and lots of additional information. We will be adding bios, teacher websites and additional information soon. A great big thank you to Caroline Hartley, our new media specialist, for her hard work to get the site up and running.
- For bus information, follow us on Twitter at @SCESBuses
- For school updates, follow us on Twitter at @SCESRoars

In addition, the PTA provides these resources:

- The school newsletter, which comes out about twice a month
- The PTA website: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/>
- Twitter account: @SCES_NC_PTA
- The PTA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekespta>

