

December 8, 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,

Wow—the last newsletter of 2015 already? This is always such a nostalgic time of year, where you can look back and reflect on the events that shape our experiences and begin hopes for a new calendar year. As we prepare to close our doors for the winter break, I wish you all a safe, happy, healthy vacation with quality time spent with family and friends. We will all miss our Swifties, but look forward to time to recharge with our families as well.

Please note that our mCLASS literacy assessments will begin for our mid-year benchmark on January 6th. These short, but individual tests measure your child's progress towards basic reading and comprehension skills. You will receive a letter with the results after the benchmark period closes. The letter will be enclosed with the second quarter report card. **You can prepare your students simply by encouraging them to read over the holiday break. Ask them questions about what they read as well.** We appreciate all you do to support us!

As reported in the last newsletter, **Mrs. Maryanne Bratton will be retiring as of winter break.** We wish her the very best as she transitions into the wonderful world of lazy days and time spent on items she probably has not spent much time on the last 28 years. Mrs. Bratton, we hope you will carry fond memories of your time at Swift Creek with you and that you will visit us in 2016! We are in the process of interviewing and recommending her replacement, and I will share that information as soon as I am able.

I would also like to share that **Tracy Campoli is our 2015-2016 Swift Creek Teacher Assistant of the Year.** Mrs. Campoli worked at Swift Creek in years past and came back to us after a year at another school. She works as a special education teacher assistant, assisting many students on various grade levels. She also has a morning duty at our front desk, where she has likely answered your



Winter Break begins with an Early Release on Friday, December 18. School will dismiss at 1:15.

Students will return to school on Monday, January 4.

Winter Break



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phone calls and assisted you as well. Mrs. Campoli is dedicated, hard-working, flexible, and is always willing to lend a hand to a colleague or student in need. We feel very fortunate that she was able to transfer back to our school this year. She will represent our school at the county level event in May. Join me in congratulating her and thanking her for her service!

Last week, the North Carolina State Board of Education issued School Report Cards that you can access from the DPI website. The report cards share a wealth of data on each school, including student achievement data, growth data, school size, staff demographics and experience, and a host of other items. The site has links to the district snapshots for each school and will also share the "School Performance Grades" for each school in our state. These "grades" were calculated from a formula combining EOG proficiency scores and growth scores for elementary schools. As these "single" grades are released to the public for last school year, please know that it is difficult to measure a school with a single grade. A single grade for the entire school does not account for the complexity of all of our children at Swift Creek. Furthermore, one letter grade cannot accurately reflect the heart and soul of a school, its progress towards goals and objectives, or take into consideration the plethora of variables that affect student outcomes. At Swift Creek, we have shared pertinent data with you and will continue to use our data to make instructional decisions, identify areas for improvement, as well as to our celebrate successes. We will also continue to love and support your children as always and will commit ourselves to "Setting the Standard of Excellence For All." You can access the school report cards and other information at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/src/>. We will also put a link to this site on our school website. Please note that the site can be difficult to navigate, so please let me know if I can help in any way. If you have any questions about our report card or school performance grade, I will also be happy to discuss it with you.

As always, thank you for all you do for your children and our school. Please continue to encourage appropriate behavior for your students so that they will continue to earn Winter Fling coupons and attend that event on December 17th. Students will need 20 coupons to attend the incentive event. We look forward to watching them celebrate positive behavior for the last few weeks!

Have a great vacation and we will see you in 2016!

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

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From the School House

Music Notes

Our song for December is "Winter Fantasy," a partner song with the familiar tune "Jingle Bells." Our composer is Giacomo Puccini, an opera composer from Italy. We are enjoying learning about and watching famous opera scenes.

Cougar Chorus and Drama Club are excited to present "Pirates!" the Musical on Tuesday, December 15th following the PTA meeting. We hope you can attend this exciting production our 4th and 5th grade students have worked so hard to be a part of.

Thank you for your support of music in our school! Please follow the music room on Twitter-@SwiftCreekMusic to know what your student is learning and doing in music!

Happy holidays, Mrs. Huddle

AIG Nomination Window Open Until January 15, 2016

The AIG Nomination window is open until January 15, 2016. Anyone who wishes to nominate a 4th or 5th grade student for AIG services should do so by sending an email to Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net or by sending a note through the Tuesday folder. Please be sure to include your child's first and last name, grade, and homeroom teacher. Student who are currently enrolled in the AIG program do not need to reapply, unless it is to add an additional area of service. **Please remember that this is the nomination window for 4th and 5th grade students only.**

Staff News

- Mrs. Maryanne Bratton (the PE teacher) will be retiring as of winter break. Thank you for everything, Mrs. Bratton. We will miss you! Please come back and visit.



- Tracy Campoli is our 2015-2016 Swift Creek Teacher Assistant of the Year!!! She works as a special education teacher assistant, assisting many students on various grade levels. She also has a morning duty at our front desk, where she has likely answered your phone calls and assisted you as well. Congratulations!!!



Pirates the Musical – December 15, 2015 at 6:30pm

The Cougar Chorus and Drama Club are excited to present Pirates! The Musical on December 15, 2015 at 6:30 in the gym. We would like to invite all families and the Swift Creek Community to support the students as they perform a musical about pirates!

	5 TH GRADE	4 TH GRADE
DRAMA CLUB	Jack Mira Sam Grant Emma Gianna Elli Zander Chase Knoswayla Ahmed	Grace Evelyn Fayda Hana Brendan Thomas Tori Austin Israe Teairra
COUGAR CHORUS	Emma Alexander Mira Coles Alexis Herrera Kayla Hoang Abdullah Janabi Arianna McMillian Lauren Prillaman Cameron Reid Jordan Roland Rosie Ryan Elli Sheppard Brandon Spaulding JT Tate Rachel Thompson Jayden Vaval	Sasha Brazilier Fayda-Hana Chajai Mackenzie Dixon Joshua Hall Gakiya Haywood Charlotte Holcombe Sam Huddle Ella Kaczmarek Geovanny Morales Sanchez Javier Paz-Uscanga Essence Peebles Ania Pruchnik Grace Richardson Jessica Stanton Omar Yassoub

Auditions for the spring musical, *Treasure Island the Musical*, will be Thursday, December 17, 2015 in the gym from 4:00-5:00. All 4th and 5th grade students are welcome to audition.



Cultural Arts

Thank you to Susana and Timmy Abell of Silver Trout Arts for providing an exciting, engaging performance on Wednesday, November 18 including instruments, puppets, songs, and stories. Students thoroughly enjoyed this interactive afternoon!

This performance was sponsored by the 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.



Science Fair is January 14, 2016

Attention all 3rd-5th grade parents! Remember to mark your calendars as the Swift Creek Science Fair will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016. The new, improved 1 page registration form was sent home in last week's Tuesday folder. The upcoming winter break is the perfect time to work on a science fair project! The registration form is not due until Thursday, January 7, 2016. Accidentally throw away your form? Need more information on how to find ideas? The registration form and other helpful documents can be found on the Swift Creek Science Fair website at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html>. Any questions? Please contact Jen Miller at jcmille4@gmail.com.



The Classifieds

Visit the Cougar Counter to get your Science Fair Display board for only \$3.00!

The Cougar Counter is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 – 9:15am. It is located in the front hall across from the media center.



Reflections Art Program: We Need a Chair for Next Year!

Thank you to all the students and their parents/guardians who participated in Reflections. Swift Creek students are very creative. Reflections is looking for a new chair for next year as the current chair will no longer have a child at Swift Creek. The current chair would love to speak with anyone who is interested to let them know about this position. The time commitment is nominal and after two years the current chair has an entire notebook of information to share. If you are interested, please call Ann-Margaret alexander at 919-380-1001 or email her at amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com. Calling will not obligate you into taking this position.



Show the Teachers and Staff Your Appreciation!

The Hospitality Committee is hosting an early release luncheon for the teachers on Friday, December 18. Bocci Trattoria & Pizzeria is catering the main dishes, but we are in need of drinks, salads, and desserts. If you'd like to donate food, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a4a829a0fa7-early2>.

We will also have sweet treats for the teachers on Monday, December 14. Please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a4a829a0fa7-desserts> if you are interested in donating dessert items.

After Winter Break, we will begin working on Teacher Appreciation Week activities. Please contact Elizabeth Worthy if you have any ideas or suggestions to plan for that week. (Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com).

Cooking with Kids

Get cooking with your kids during the holidays! **The next deadline for Cooking With Kids submissions is December 31st.** Simply take a few photos and send a brief description of what you prepared together to realfooddoc@gmail.com. Your child will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card to a local grocery store, which can be used to purchase new ingredients to whip up another family meal!

Your December Checklist

- ❑ **Today:** Sign up to provide sweet treats for the staff on Dec 14 or help with the early release luncheon on Dec 18. To sign up, see <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/hospitality.html>
- ❑ **Dec 14:** Holiday treats for the staff. You can sign up at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/hospitality.html>
- ❑ **Dec 15-17 9:10am:** Character Education awards in the media center. Please sign in at the office!
- ❑ **Dec 15 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the gym. Followed by a drama/chorus performance of "Pirates" the musical. You won't want to miss it.
- ❑ **Dec 17:**
 - **Winter Fling.** Students must earn 20 ROAR coupons to attend.
 - **4:00pm For 4th and 5th graders:** Auditions for the spring musical, Treasure Island, in the gym.
- ❑ **Dec 18 1:15pm: Early Release.** School dismisses at 1:15pm. Early Release Luncheon for the staff. You can sign up at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/hospitality.html>.
- ❑ **Dec 21- Jan 1: Winter Break.**
 - Great time for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to work on their Science Fair entries! The science fair is January 14.
 - Remember to read with your child to help them prepare for the mCLASS literacy assessments in January.

After-School Spanish Classes Resume January 27

Explore Learning Programs after school Spanish will be offering an 8 week session starting January 27 on Wednesdays. The cost of the session is \$120. For registration information please email info@explorellearningprograms.com or call [919-805-0918](tel:919-805-0918). More info on their language, art, and music programs can be found online at www.explorellearningprograms.com

Your January Checklist

- ❑ **Jan 4:** Return to school. Class starts promptly at 9:15am.
- ❑ **Jan 6:** mCLASS Literacy Assessments begin.
- ❑ **Jan 12 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center.
- ❑ **Jan 14:** Swift Creek Science Fair!
- ❑ **Jan 15:**
 - **1:15pm:** Early Release: School dismisses at 1:15pm.
 - **For 4th and 5th graders:** AIG spring nomination window ends. Send your request to Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net.
- ❑ **Jan 18 – Jan 19:** School closed for Martin Luther King, Jr holiday and Teacher Workday.