

December 13, 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

We are having a great time at Swift Creek. All of us "newbies" are settling in and quickly learning that we have joined a wonderful SCES community. Speaking of new staff, we are still searching for that perfect candidate to fill the role of media specialist. This person will play a key role in advancing Swift Creek into digital learning and equipping our students with the essential skills our students will need to be college and career ready citizens.

Also, with kindergarten enrollment beginning on January 5, some prospective kindergarten families may be interested in checking out our awesome school. If you have any friends or neighbors who would like to tour Swift Creek, have them call the school or email me directly at dpropst@wcpss.net. I will be glad to show them around and answer any questions.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with peace and joy. Every moment you invest in your family this season will be a cherished memory for years to come for our students. Enjoy the time together and I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 3.

So Many Ways to Give

Cougars for a Cause due Dec 21

Here is a chance to help the students at Princeville Elementary who were hit hard by Hurricane Matthew. By Dec 21, bring in:

- winter hats
- scarves
- gloves
- mittens
- new or very gently used coats

Due TOMORROW: Toiletry Items for Before and After School Program Holiday Service Project

The Before School Care Program and After School Care program are holding their 1st annual Holiday Service Project. This year they are



**TONIGHT: PTA Meeting
and Chorus Concert**

**6:30pm in the media
center**

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**Winter Break is Thursday, Dec
22 – Monday, Jan 2.**

**See you back at the Creek
on Jan 3! Class starts at
9:15am.**



In This Issue

**Congratulations to our
Teacher of the Year: Ms.
Graves**

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Town: January 12!**

**December, January, and
February Calendars**

collecting toiletry items for North Pointe Assisted Living in Garner, NC and Brian Nursing Home Center in Raleigh, NC.

If you have any travel size soap, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, and so on, please turn in your donations to Ms. McCollum or Mrs. Kress by tomorrow!

Congratulations to Our Teacher of the Year, Ms. Graves!

Have you heard? Ms. Sarah Graves (our PE Teacher) is this year's Swift Creek Elementary Teacher of the Year! Ms. Graves joined Swift Creek last December when Mrs. Bratton retired. In that short time, Ms. Graves has completely re-energized the healthy living and physical education programs at the Creek. Here are a few of the amazing things that I know about:

- When I was in elementary school, PE was about playing games, such as kickball. Ms. Graves takes our PE classes to the next level. She teaches our kids about flexibility, balance, stamina, and cardiovascular health. She includes vocabulary in her lessons and reminds students of the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices. And it is working! Several times, I have gone down the hall and seen a student bragging to Ms. Graves about how she chose an apple over French fries. I've also noticed how much the students look up to and admire Ms. Graves. I suspect we have a few students who'd like to be PE teachers someday.
- In addition to the students, Ms. Graves is helping the staff reach their healthy lifestyle goals. She has given them tangible daily targets (such as drinking so much water, eating so many cups of vegetables, and taking 10 minutes for themselves). Healthy choices makes everyone feel better.
- And of course, Ms. Graves was instrumental in creating our Spring Fling last year. She spearheaded this project and made it one of the best Spring Flings ever!

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition, Ms. Graves! You've earned it!

As teacher of the year, Ms. Graves received a lovely gift basket from our newest school sponsor, Storage King, which is just down the street on Tryon Road.

Helping Our Teachers through DonorsChoose.org

Many times, our teachers must dig into their own pockets to buy classroom supplies. When it comes to big ticket items, those purchases aren't possible without your help.

One way that teachers can raise money for these big ticket items is through DonorsChoose.org. Each request is vetted by the DonorsChoose.org team, and when a project is fully funded, DonorsChoose.org sends the classroom supplies directly to the school. For each submission, there is a complete explanation of the purpose of the project and a breakdown of the cost, so you know exactly where your money is going.

We still have projects that need help (for example, Ms. Steinberg is looking for reading materials for her 2nd grade class). To view the latest projects that need help, see the PTA website at

<http://swiftcreekeswcpsnetptahtml.weebly.com/teacher-projects.html>

I am pleased to reports that we successfully funded 3 projects over the past month: one for Ms. Shore (3rd grade), one for Ms. Graves (PE), and one for Mrs. Pearson (1st grade). Way to go, Swifties!!!

Warming Hearts and Filing Tummies!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the December 2 Early Release luncheon: April Bartley, Helen Bass, Beth Callaway, Marie Dexter, Dina Goembel, Michelle Hoyles, Amy Johns, Cristy Johnson, Meredith Jones, Natasha Kirby, Colleen Oliveria, Nehal Outlaw, Kristy Pickurel, and Jaimi Smith. The staff loved the chilis, soups, salads and desserts.

As always a big Thank You to Elizabeth Worthy for organizing this event! The staff was very, very full and happy.

Sweet Treats for the Staff

Would you like to help spoil our staff with some sweet treats this holiday season? Or maybe you'd be interested in providing some healthier holiday options? The Hospitality committee is hosting holiday desserts on Tuesday, December 20. If you would like to contribute, sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/sces-treats>



And the Spirit Award Goes To . . .

Congratulations to Mrs. Robinson's and Mrs. Nissan's kindergarten class, who won the December Spirit award. Their class wore the most purple and school spirit wear on December 2. Great job to some of our youngest Swifties. We will have several more spirit days in 2017: Jan 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2! Look for the reminders.

Stay in the Loop!

Want to know what's happening at the Creek?

School Resources:

- Our school website: <http://swiftcreekes.wcps.net/> Check out the new school website for carpool procedures, the student parent handbook, lunch menus, lunch times and lots of additional information.
- For school updates, follow us on Twitter at @SCESRoars

In addition, the PTA provides these resources:

- The PTA website: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/>
- Swifty Cougar emails. Sign up on the PTA website. We help you plan your week with a Sunday email.
- Twitter account: @SCES_NC_PTA
- The PTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekespta> for breaking news, daily reminders, and reasons to make you smile.



It's Time for the Science Fair!!! January 12, 2017

Attention all Swifties! **This year's Swift Creek Elementary School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 in the cafeteria.** The upcoming Holiday break is a perfect time to work on those experimental projects or demonstrations.

Here is how our Science Fair is run:

Volunteer judges with STEM backgrounds from the community judge all of our projects (we have both demonstration and experimental project categories). Up to three first - third place and unlimited honorable mention medals can be awarded per grade (depending on our partition numbers). All participants also receive prizes. In addition, the judges pick the three best overall projects. These receive "Best in Show" trophies. "Best in Show" experimental projects are eligible for entry into the regional fair. Swift Creek covers the registration fee for the regional fair and I will provide an information sheet to "Best in Show" parents detailing how to register for the regional fair. We also have a recognition ceremony on the evening of the Science Fair where I am available in person to answer any questions parents may have.

Any questions? Please contact me at jcmille4@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our science fair!

Jen Miller, Science Fair Coordinator



Not Sure How to Get Started or What to Do?

Visit <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html> and take a look at the complete "Experimental and Demonstration Project Science Fair Guides" and our suggested websites to visit for ideas.

The one page registration form was sent home in last Tuesday's (December 6th) Tuesday Folder, but is also available on-line at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html>. A limited number of copies are also available in the main office.

Parents, we need your help to make this year's Science Fair a success! Please visit the following URL to sign up for helping with set up, check in, judging and clean up after the event:

<http://tinyurl.com/sces-science>

Your December Calendar

- ❑ **TONIGHT!! 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center; followed by a Chorus concert
- ❑ **TOMORROW Parents of Rising 6th graders 10:15-11:00am:** Coffee and conversation with the principal at Dillard Drive Middle School. You will meet in the media center.
- ❑ **December 16:** Box Top Collection Day. Which class will win the Super Snippers award for December?
- ❑ **December 21:**
 - **4th grade:** Wilbur Wright will be visiting your class today! Learn how North Carolina was the first in many different aviation explorations.
 - **Drama Club** t-shirt orders are due by December 21, 2016. Each shirt costs \$11.00. Options to pay include paying online, writing a check to Swift Creek Elementary School, or sending cash with your son or daughter. For more information, contact Mrs. Fallon at kfallon@wcpss.net.
- ❑ **December 22:** Teacher Work Day
- ❑ **December 23 – Jan 2:** Winter Holiday



Your January Calendar

- ❑ **January 3 9:15am:** Back to School! The bell rings at 9:15am.
- ❑ **January 5 7:30-4:15pm:** Kindergarten Registration starts today! You can register in the front office. Note: You must register at your Base School. To determine your child's base school, see the Wake County Public Schools website.
- ❑ **January 6:** School Spirit Day! Support your school and wear as much purple as you can. The winning class gets to keep Swifty the Cougar for the month!
- ❑ **January 10 6:30pm:** PTA meeting & Chorus Concert in the media center. Everyone is welcome to attend!
- ❑ **January 11 Parents of Rising 6th graders 6:30-8:00pm:** Open House tonight at Dillard Drive Middle School. This is a great time to come learn more about the school.
- ❑ **January 12:**
 - **Science Fair!** Participation is optional for anyone in grades 3-5 and students may enter demonstrations or experimental projects. Questions? Need more information? Contact Jen Miller at jcmille4@gmail.com.
 - **2nd graders:** Billy Jonas will be the artist in residence. He will be presenting a workshop on sound and recycling (which fits right in with the 2nd grade curriculum). 'Music From Anything': Using cardboard, plastic, metal recyclable objects participants will create one-of-a-kind instruments, or 'sonic sculptures'.
- ❑ **January 16:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No school!
- ❑ **January 20 1:15pm:** Early Release
- ❑ **January 27:** Teacher Work Day. No School!

Your February Calendar

- ❑ **February 3:** School Spirit Day! Support your school and wear as much purple as you can. The winning class gets to keep Swifty the Cougar for the month!
- ❑ **February 8:** School performance by the Moscow Nights, a Russian dance troupe!
- ❑ **February 10 1:15pm:** Early Release! School dismisses at 1:15pm

- **February 20:** Teacher Work Day. No School!