

December 4, 2018

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

Now that this school year is well under way, I want to share with you some great data about the progress our wonderful Cougars made last year. The chart below shows how our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders performed on the state End of Grade Assessments over the past three years. The Overall Proficiency column shows the percentage of students who demonstrated a proficient level of mastery of their grade level standards. The Overall College Career Readiness column shows the percentage of students who, based upon these tests, are predicted to graduate high school ready to succeed in college or a career.

	Overall Proficiency (Levels 3, 4, 5)	Overall CCR (Levels 4, 5)
2015-2016	63.8%	56.1%
2016-2017	58.7%	50.8%
2017-2018	65.4%	57.7%
Difference	+6.7	+6.9
WCPSS 2017-2018	66.4%	57.9%



**Next Tuesday at
6:30pm**

Join us in the gym for a brief PTA meeting followed by a concert from our own Cougar Chorus!

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As you can see, our students made tremendous gains this year so that our results are now on par with the Wake County average. We're doing it! Our students are learning and showing what they know.

Our teachers are focused on providing differentiated and engaging instruction. And you, our families and community, are rallying around the school with awesome support. If you have any questions about this data, please let me know. I love to talk about the great things happening around here.

If you know of someone who will have a rising kindergartner in this area, please encourage them to check out Swift Creek. If they call the school, I will be glad to give them a personal tour and answer any questions they may have.

We have so much to be thankful for during this holiday season. It's a great time to be at Swift Creek Elementary. Whatever you are celebrating this season, I wish you the very best time with your family.

Darrell Propst, Principal

P2 Corner:

Dec 3-7
Kindness



What Does Kindness Mean?

You are generous to others and you are never too busy to help out. You enjoy doing good deeds for other people.

Why Does It Matter?

For individuals, kindness is correlated with desirable developmental outcomes. It is related to other-oriented emotions, like empathy (the ability to experience the emotional state of another person) and sympathy (the tender emotion of concern for another's difficulty). On a group level, kindness is very important. In addition to empathy and sympathy, the character strength of kindness is indicative of an individual's moral reasoning capacity and level of social responsibility. That means people who develop kindness possess a strong personal ethical responsibility to care for other people.

Dec 10-14
Humility/Modesty



What Does Humility Mean?

You do not seek the spotlight. You let your actions speak for themselves.

Why Does It Matter?

Developing humility is associated with positive developmental outcomes in individuals. It allows a person to honestly reflect on their abilities and acknowledge how and where they can improve. Humility opens them up to new ideas, advice, and (consequently) abilities that pride, arrogance, or pretentiousness often block. Therefore, humility makes them desired members of a team.

Dec 17-21
Self-Control



What Does Self-Control Mean?

You have the ability to control your emotions and behaviors. You think before you act.

Why Does It Matter?

For individuals, self-control helps them delay the short-term gain in pursuit of a greater, long-term success. This strength is associated with having an "internal locus of control;" of being

in control of (and responsible for) your own personal choices – and the outcomes of those choices.

A group's ability to demonstrate self-control often appears in the form of "self-monitoring." This means that individuals demonstrate honesty with one another about successful group practices. A group's ability to demonstrate self-control often appears in the form of "self-monitoring." This means that individuals demonstrate honesty with one another about successful group practices.

**Jan 7-11
Perseverance**



What Does Perseverance Mean?

You complete what you start despite obstacles. You never give up.

Why Does It Matter?

For individuals, persistence can be directly connected to an individual's ability to be successful throughout their life. Those who persevere through setbacks often reap the benefits of the success gained by refusing to give up.

On a group level, perseverance can be contagious. A single group member's ability or willingness to persevere can have a substantial impact on those working with him/her and the team. Groups that show high levels of perseverance are able to achieve goals they may not have believed possible. The results benefit both individuals and the group.

Winter Glow Party: Thursday, Dec 20

Have you been hearing a lot about the Winter Glow party and you are wondering what your kids are talking about?

As we push through to Winter Break, the school PBIS (Positive Behavior and Interventions Support) team is offering students an extra incentive to maintain ROAR expectations and focus on learning!

Starting Monday, Nov 26, students can earn blue Winter Glow Dance coupons for demonstrating ROAR behavior. When students have earned 18 blue coupons, they earn their way to the Winter Glow Dance.

There are three ways that students will not earn their way to the dance:

- A student does not earn 18 blue coupons.
- A student receives an out-of-school suspension any time from Nov 26 and Dec 20.
- A student receives more than one in-school suspension from Nov 26 and Dec 20.

The Winter Glow Dance will be in the media center and each grade level gets to party for 30 minutes. Students will receive a glow bracelet, can draw on the glowing graffiti wall, and dance!



Physical Education Update:

Let's take a December Challenge - PLAY60 everyday!

Play is a cherished part of childhood. By finding the right balance between work and play, children will grow up happier, better adjusted, and more prepared to conquer the world.



All students will be going home with a December calendar! Take part in our "play" challenge. Record how you play for the month of December, whether it's indoors or outdoors, and turn in your form to Ms. Graves December 21st! Be engaged and active with your children because even as adults, the play and work balance is a vital component of health and wellness.

Science Fair is January 18

Attention all Swifties! This year's Swift Creek Elementary School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 in the cafeteria. The upcoming Holiday break is a perfect time to work on those experimental projects or demonstrations. Not sure how to get started or what to do?

Visit <http://swiftcreekeswcpsnetptahtml.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 ITuesday Folders, but is also available on-line at <http://swiftcreekeswcpsnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html>. A limited number of copies are also available in the main office.

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.

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/scesScience19>

Any questions? Please contact me (Jen Miller) at jcmille4@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our science fair!

Girls on the Run is Returning to Swift Creek!

This year we are happy to host another wonderful season of Girls on the Run! This program empowers girls through exercise and is for girls in grades 3-5.

This year's season will run from February 4 - April 22 and we will practice every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4-5:15 on the track behind the school. There are lessons that will be taught at the beginning of each practice and the rest of the time the girls will practice running laps to prepare them for the 5K they will participate in at the end of the season to celebrate. This program does cost money but as of now, we do not know an exact amount. Be on the lookout for a flier coming home with your daughter in January!



The mission and vision of Girls on the Run is as follows:

"We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. We envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams."

Some of the topics covered in the program are responsibility, empowerment, intentionality, diversity, connectedness, joy, compassion, and more.

Book Fair Totals and STEM Night

Thanks to everyone who attended Family Night and STEM night on November 15! We had over 91 kids turn in passports for completing STEM activities, and we generated A LOT of excitement for the Science Fair, which is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who helped make this event a success. A special Thank You to Chris and Jen Miller for organizing this event! They've been working since June to make this a special night for our students and staff.

About half of that money goes back to the school to purchase books for the library! Thank you so much to Aimee Langerhans, the Book Fair committee chair, and all the Book Fair volunteers who came to help!

The spring book fair will be Mar 18 – 22. The vendor for this fair will be Bedford Falls, so we will have lots of new book offerings!

Thank you to the Swift Creek Exchange Club!

For the fall book fair, the Swift Creek Exchange Club donated \$200 to purchase books for kids who otherwise couldn't afford a book. With this money, we were able to purchase books for 22 students. The joy and gratitude that these students showed when getting to select their own book was so heartwarming.

We are so lucky to have such a supportive community! Thank you to the Exchange Club.

Your December Calendar

- ❑ **Dec 3-7:** P2 Kindness
- ❑ **Dec 10-14:** P2 Humility
- ❑ **Dec 11 6:30pm:** Short PTA Meeting and Chorus Concert
- ❑ **Dec 17-21:** P2 Self-Control
- ❑ **Dec 21:**
 - Monthly Deadline for Box Tops and Coke bottle tops!
 - Early Release. School dismisses at 1:15pm
- ❑ **Dec 24 – Jan 2:** Winter Break

Your January Calendar

- ❑ **Thurs, Jan 3 9:15am:** School is back in session! Don't be late!
- ❑ **Jan 7-11:** P2 Perseverance
- ❑ **Jan 8 6:30pm:** PTA Meeting!
- ❑ **Jan 18:** Teacher Work Day! No school.
- ❑ **Jan 21:** Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. No school.
- ❑ **Jan 22:** Teacher Work Day. No School for Students.
- ❑ **Jan 23:** Swift Creek Night at the City Barbeque on Kildaire Farm Road in Cary. Flyers will be sent home in January. When you show your flyer, 25% of your sales goes to Swift Creek.
- ❑ **Jan 31:**
 - Box Top Collection day! Turn in your Box Tops and Coke bottle tops to your child's teacher.
 - 6:00pm in the media center: Resilience: The Biology of Stress and Science of Hope.

Your February Calendar

- ❑ **Feb 4-8:** P2 Social Intelligence
- ❑ **Feb 11-15:** P2 Love
- ❑ **Feb 12 6:30pm:** PTA meeting
- ❑ **Feb 15 1:15pm:** Early Release. School dismisses at 1:15pm.
- ❑ **Feb 18 & 19:** Teacher Work Days
- ❑ **Feb 22:**
 - Box Top Collection Day! This is the last big collection before our school's submission for a Spring check! Please turn in all your Box Tops and Coke bottle tops so we can get a great big check!
 - Father / Daughter Dance 6:00-7:30pm.
- ❑ **Feb 25-Mar1:** P2 Enthusiasm

AIG Nomination Window

AIG nominations are accepted at any time. Simply send a note to Mrs. Krutsch (skrutsch@wcpss.net). However, to be considered for testing this school year, nominations must be received by January 5, 2018.

Save the Date for These Upcoming Events:

- Feb 22 6-7:30pm: Father / Daughter Dance: "I Love You to the Moon and Back"
- Mar 21 International Night and Family Night at the Book Fair
- Apr 5 8:15-8:45am: Donuts with Dad
- Apr 26 6-7:30pm: Mother / Son Game Night
- May 10 8:15-8:45am: Muffins with Mom
- Jun 6: End of Year Picnic