

December 9, 2014

# 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,

The end of December is around the corner and excitement is in the air for the upcoming winter break. Students will be out of school from December 20<sup>th</sup> until January 4<sup>th</sup>. During this season, I wish you all a little more time to spend with your loved ones and hope you enjoy the extended vacation. Please travel safely to any destinations and return our Swift Creek Cougars back to us ready for the second semester.

When students return to school the week of January 5<sup>th</sup>, it will be time for our K-5 teachers to conduct their middle of the year mCLASS reading assessments. CASE 21 assessments will also be administered in grades 2-5 in reading, math and science for 5th grade. Your children have worked hard this quarter to prepare themselves for these assessments. It would be beneficial for them to read during their winter break, as it will help to keep their skills sharp over vacation. Please encourage them to check out some great reads for their time off from our library and help them access some of the online resources as well. We appreciate your commitment to their literacy development!

Because our enrollment was higher than anticipated after our tenth day numbers, we earned several teaching assistant positions. As a result, we recently welcomed three new teacher assistants on board to work in various capacities. If you have the opportunity, please welcome Kimberlee Rutila, Angelia Cherry, and Lisa Allen to Swift Creek. Both Kimberlee and Lisa will be supporting students academically in various grade levels and will be assisting our teachers with clerical tasks. Angelia is currently working in Kindergarten, but will be transitioning into working with our CCR teachers in the coming days. We are so thankful that we have found such qualified individuals to enhance our staff.



## Upcoming Events

### December 9 – TONIGHT!

PTA Meeting and Cougar Chorus Holiday Concert  
6:30pm in the Gym

### December 8-15

Character Education Awards  
for December -- Kindness

### December 17

End of Student Council Food  
Drive. Send in your cans!

### December 19

Winter Break begins at  
4:15pm

### December 22-January 2

Winter Break – No School

### January 5

Back to School!!!!

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We also want to share that Jeannie Ammons-Owen, our speech language pathologist, will be transferring to Broughton, Holly Springs, and Middle Creek High Schools at the end of the second quarter. While we wish Ms. Jeannie, as she is fondly known, the best in her new role, we will miss her contributions to the Swift Creek community. She has a heart of gold, a passion for helping students be successful, and the ability to tap every child's gifts and talents. The WCPSS central office will be hiring for this vacant position and we anticipate a smooth transition.

**It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Mrs. Ashley Huddle is the Swift Creek Teacher of the Year!** She is a phenomenal music teacher who has taught elementary music for 15 years. She previously worked in Guilford county before moving to WCPSS to teach at Holly Springs Elementary, Davis Drive Elementary, and Lacy Elementary. She inspires all of our students with engaging lessons, use of researched based teaching techniques, various types of technology, and most importantly a passion for music. She leads our chorus weekly, works collaboratively with our staff, and maintains a positive attitude always. We know that she will represent our school with the utmost professionalism at the county competition.

**We are also pleased to announce that Mrs. Cathy Nissan is our Teacher Assistant of the Year.** Mrs. Nissan currently works in Kindergarten with Mrs. Robinson's class. She has been an assistant for 25 years, with all of her years of service being at Swift Creek and all of her experience being in Kindergarten. If you have not had the honor of working with Mrs. Nissan, you have missed a treat. Mrs. Nissan is kind-hearted, positive, and extremely patient with our Kindergarten cougars. She works hard daily with instruction, and is always willing to complete any extra duties or job responsibilities. Congratulations to Mrs. Nissan—we also know that she will be another stellar candidate for the county-wide competition.

As always, let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

## Update from Wake County Public Schools

The last District 5 BAC meeting of 2014 was held Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Vernon Malone College and Career Academy. Dr. Ashlie Thompson, Principal of the Vernon Malone College and Career Academy gave an overview of the school and discussed how it is a shared use facility with Wake Technical Community College. It is an all application school which serves as a high school by day and meets adult education needs at night. The school is housed in the former Coca Cola Bottling facility located off of Wilmington Street in Raleigh.

Dr. Jim Martin, WCPSS District 5 Board Member welcomed and shared that the meeting would consist of a panel discussion. The principal panel included: Dr. James Hedrick (Athens Drive HS), Ms. Shejuanna Rodgers (Dillard Drive MS) and Ms. Melanie Parrish (Middle Creek ES). Betsy McFarland, BAC 5 chair, facilitated the discussion. These Principals shared their vision and challenges for their respective schools. In addition, the Principals shared unique programming features to their schools. For example, Middle Creek Elementary has a "Giving Garden" which integrates curriculum, science and service. Dillard Drive Middle has numerous clubs and highlighted their Asteroid club.

All Principals shared about how their schools are working towards student academic achievement.

Dr. Martin concluded the meeting by sharing that WCPSS is working on a 1<sup>st</sup> draft technology plan which includes a goal of having 3 students to 1 computer ratio. Dr. Martin also shared that the school board is concerned about staffing issues. He gave perspective that WCPSS is one of the largest employers in Wake County.

## School Corner

### Music Notes

Our December song is "Winter Fantasy". It is a partner song with the familiar tune "Jingle Bells". We have been surprised to learn that "Jingle Bells" was written in 1840 by James Pierpont as a Thanksgiving song! It was so popular at the time that people continued to sing it through December and now it is well-known as a Holiday song. Our December composer is Peter Tchaikovsky, the Russian composer who is most famous for his "Nutcracker" ballet music. We are enjoying seeing scenes from this famous Holiday ballet and learning how there are many ways to tell a story.

**Cougar Chorus presents their Holiday Concert tonight following the 6:30 pm PTA meeting. We hope you can attend our first performance of the year and get in the Holiday spirit with us!**

**The final chorus rehearsal for the semester is December 10th at 8:00 am.** Thank you to all our chorus parents for supporting your child's musical experience and having your child here every Wednesday at 8:00!

Please check out the music website to stay up to date on musical happenings at Swift Creek and you can follow the music room on Twitter: @SwiftCreekMusic

Mrs. Huddle, Music Teacher

## Congratulations to This Year's Student Council Representatives!

Here is your Swift Creek Student Council for 2014-2015.

<u>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
Georgia King	Mikayla Smith
Caleb Hall	Eric Morgan
Lauren Prillaman	Camryn Huddle
Rohan Vanga	Nate Hagan
Elli Sheppard	Courtney Van Tassel
Sam Norman	Andrew Clark
Billiah Onyangore	Veronika Elchaninova
Chase Williams	Jonathan Brittain

### Student Council Food Drive Ends Wednesday, Dec. 17

The Student Council is sponsoring a Food Drive through Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please send in your canned and non-perishable food with your student. The Student Council will come by the classrooms twice a week to collect these items. **The class with the most items wins a pizza party!**



## Thank You to Our Classroom Sponsors

Thank You to April Roberts, Premier Commercial Banking, for sponsoring Ms. Smith's 3rd grade class.

The funds from our classroom sponsors are used to purchase teaching materials for the classroom. If you are interested in being a sponsor, email or call Susan Rhodes (srhodes@wcpss.net) for more information.

## Get School Updates on Twitter

The Swift Creek Twitter account has been reactivated. Please follow us at @SwiftCreekES for school updates.

## Reflections Winners

Here is the list of participants and winners for the school competition:

### Visual Arts

1-Ellison Shephard  
2-Imani Miller  
3-Rohan Vanga

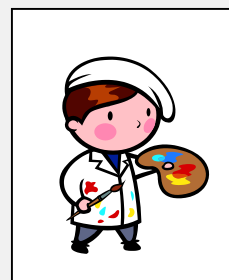
Mason Holzer  
Samuel Huddle  
Camryn Huddle  
Geovanny Morales  
Abigail Stuart  
Rachel Thompson

### Photography

1-Emma Alexander  
2-Christopher Certaino  
3-Christopher Certaino

### Music Composition

1-Austin Deaton



The students were judged on how closely the piece of art relates to the theme ("The World Would Be A Better Place If . . .") based upon the artwork itself and the artist statement; how original and creative the art was in its conception of the theme and its presentation; and the level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles and techniques of the art medium.

The artwork was anonymous for judging purposes. Our judges were Beverly from Lundie's photography and Chelsea Krieg who is working on completing her Masters of Fine Arts degree from NCSU. Chelsea participated in the Reflections Competition when she was in elementary school. We appreciate their willingness to assist in this project. Swift Creek is honored to have support from NCSU and local business community.

## Update on Student Directories

Student directories should be going home before the Winter Break. All families with at least 1 PTA member will get a copy. Thank you to Kim Partin for putting these directories together. It is a lot of

data entry and fact checking, but the directories are so useful and appreciated by our school community.

## Wow Your Friends and Family with Science



The Winter Break is a great time to work on your science projects for the Swift Creek Elementary School Science Fair. **This year's science fair will be held in the cafeteria on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Participation in the science fair is optional and open to students in grades 3-5.**

Interested? For more information, including where to look for project ideas, please visit <http://swiftcreekeswcpsnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html>.

Questions? Have a science or engineering background and are interested in serving as a judge for this year's science fair? Please contact Jennifer Miller ([jcmille4@att.net](mailto:jcmille4@att.net)).

## Who Are Our Super Snippers for November?

Congratulations (again!) to Mrs. Pearman's class. This is their second win of the year! In November, Mrs. Pearman's class turned in the most Box Tops (129) and Labels for Education points (1355), which has to be a new record!!!

How can you help your class win? Remember to collect Box Tops, Labels for Education (also known as Campbell's Soup labels), and the bottle tops from Coke products. You can also collect the 16-digit codes on Kellogg's products. Then send these items to school with your child. Each teacher has a Painless Fundraising container in the classroom for these items. Each month, the class with the greatest number of items receives a small prize and gets a certificate for being the Super Snippers of the month.

## Character Education Awards: Courage

In November, the PE, Art, and Music teachers recognized these classes for the character trait of Courage:

**PE** – Ms. Beauchamp's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Music** - Mrs. Phillips's First Grade

**Art**- Mrs. Ellis's Second Grade

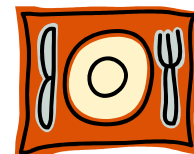
## Congratulations to the Kids Cook Mondays\* Winner for November

Congratulations to our Kids Cook Mondays\* winner for November—Reid Veum! Reid helped his family prepare Black Bean & Cashew Pilaf. He participated in preparing ingredients by washing and cutting vegetables, and he took charge of serving everyone. Way to go, Reid!

Preparing meals with your kids is a fun way to spend time together, and encourages healthy eating behaviors for the entire family. Don't forget to submit your series of photos (up to 5) documenting your dinner preparation and eating together, and you will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$20 gift certificate to a local grocery store (where you can purchase more ingredients to make another family meal!). **Submit photos by 12/31/14 for the month of December to [realfooddoc@gmail.com](mailto:realfooddoc@gmail.com).**

*\* If Mondays don't work for your family, you can certainly do this any day of the week!*

**Remember: Small changes can add up to HUGE results! Happy, healthy living everyone!**



Congratulations to these students for being recognized for the Courage Character Education award.

### Kindergarten

#### Mrs. Harris

Brennan Falcone  
Ava Goembel  
Brandon Mata-Damian

#### Ms. Lipe

Fabiana Prieto  
Jessica Chen  
Bryan Mata-Damian

#### Mrs. Haren

Matthew Ragsdale  
Pete Dorsey  
Estefania Villegas-Ornelas

#### Mrs. Robinson

Greydis Argueta Marquez  
Alysson Espinoza Guerrero

#### Mrs. Tanner

Hope Moyer

### First Grade

#### Mrs. Phillips

Sam D'Amelio  
Milan Outlaw  
Peyton Williams

#### Ms. Zardas

Faraz Chohan  
Liliana Gonzalez-Rodriguez  
Dominick Lopez

#### Ms. Cillian

Citlali Torres Lopez  
Jennifer Clark  
Lily Natarcola

#### Mrs. Butler

Taylor Alley  
Robert "Mason" Hassel  
Cooper Bass

### Second Grade

#### Mrs. Ellis

Brayden Adams  
Charissa Treece  
Reid Veum

#### Mrs. Sedaghat

Amber Holleman  
Silas Encarnacion  
Cyril Savage

#### Mrs. Koster

Zoe Pacio  
Emory Armstrong  
David Loutfala

#### Mrs. Bernstein

Kevin Trottier  
Michael Harper  
Allen Taylor  
Meredith Myers  
Chay Smith  
Cameron Cartaino

### Third Grade

#### Ms. Herrin

Essence Peebles  
Badr Yassin  
Taishan McDonald  
Devin Mitchell

#### Ms. Smith

Alexandra Brazillier  
Victoria Butler,  
Austin Deaton,  
Clark Wolfe

#### Mrs. Barker

Kaliyha Manning  
Jack Weber  
Shamire Wilkerson

#### Ms. Wyrsh

Israe Bacquem  
Aubrey Delgado

### Fourth Grade

#### Ms. Beauchamp

Jayden Vaval  
Rohan Vanga  
Yaire Olayo-Zuniga

#### Mrs. D'Amelio

Julian Castro  
Mira Coles  
Chase Williams

#### Ms. Windsor

Jaylen Hamilton  
Caleb Hall  
Alayna Theys

#### Mrs. Fallon

Grant Etheridge  
Avery Lotz  
Alexis Nunez-Herrera  
Elli Sheppard

### Fifth Grade

#### Mr. Krauter

Christopher Wiggins  
Rubyann LaMontage  
Sumayyah Abul-Hakim

#### Mrs. Coles

Hiba Mokhtari  
Yazmin Ortiz  
Mia Brown

#### Mrs. Jackson

Noah Rhodes  
Kimber-Len Price  
Trey Brownlee  
Adrianna DeBella

#### Mrs. Pearman

Mya Bernarduci  
Sam Hinton  
Jaden Lawrence  
Mikayla Smith

For December, Character Education awards begin on December 8. This month's trait is kindness. Look for those award winners in the January newsletter.