

December 10, 2019

Swift Creek Current

Swift Creek Elementary School, 5601 Tryon Road, Raleigh, NC 27606

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>

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From the Principal's Desk

For many of us, we are in a season when "coming together" is very important. At Swift Creek, we strongly believe in the importance of your family gatherings, making memories, and sharing experiences that will benefit our students beyond academics. I hope that you recognize how much we value families by not assigning unnecessary amounts of homework; and the activities we do assign are often reading together or having the students work with their caregivers.

We also value times that your family comes together at Swift Creek for activities. We just had a wonderful STEM Night and Book Fair. Today, we welcomed Spanish-speaking families to learn about our school. Next Tuesday we will have our holiday concert. Please look for and take advantage the many opportunities for your family to be part of the Swift Creek community.

On another note, we will be practicing our school's lock-down procedures with a drill soon. While we hope to never have an occurrence, it's important to be prepared. We will take every precaution to make this drill as stress-free and calm as possible. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Hope to see you all at Swift Creek very soon! Enjoy this holiday season!

Darrell Propst, Principal, Swift Creek Elementary School

Save the Date - Literacy Curriculum Night Feb 11

Our Literacy Curriculum Night will be held on February 11th from 6:30-7:30, following the PTA meeting. Please come and learn how you can support your child's reading development as well as learn about the new benchmarking assessment, Istation. Istation reports will go home that day with report cards, so be sure to bring them!



Tonight at 6:00pm

- PTA Meeting with Reflections Celebration! All entries will be on display!
- Cougar Chorus Concert

We hope to see you there!

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The Positivity Project(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 9-13
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 16-20
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 6-10
Hope/Optimism**

What Does Optimism Mean?

You expect the best from the future and work to achieve it.

Why Does It Matter?



For individuals, optimism is correlated with success in work and play, mental and physical health, and strong social relationships.

On a group level, optimism is crucial to group success. Optimists are strong leaders. They find meaning in hardship and can create a vision for the future. They look at potential obstacles as opportunities, rather than threats. Without hope and optimism, we would not be able to overcome hardships.

Post from the PTA President

As we are ending this year and this decade, let's take time and reflect on thoughts of gratitude. In spite of having challenges this year, try to spend more focus on times that brought you joy and made you grateful. During the winter break, take time as a family to talk about dreams and goals for the new year. It's a great way to spend time together and deepen connection. Have a Happy New Year!

Be sure to attend our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00pm.

Please feel free to contact me at tmbatemon@yahoo.com with any questions and suggestions. Your input and involvement are always welcome!

Warmly, Tara M. Batemon Swift Creek ES PTA President

Scholastic Book Fair Totals

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of the teachers, parents, and students that helped to make our fall book fair a success. Our school earned a total of \$4,261.43 in profits that can be used to purchase books for our school.

If you are interested in volunteering with our spring book fair please contact Kristen Sherman and Heather Chapman at kmartaz73@gmail.com and wilsonreadingteacher@gmail.com

A Podcast for Parents, by Parents

Listen to Notes from the Backpack: APTA Podcast and get the answers to the burning questions you have about how to best support your child's education and development. We know you have a lot to keep up with at home and throughout the school year and these episodes will support you every step of the way!

Real Experts. Real Parents. Real Conversations. Each 30-minute podcast will give you the inside scoop on how to help your child succeed in and out of school. Hear unique perspectives from experts, parents and educator guests who will give you real-life advice and ideas you can use! <https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack>

Winter Glow Dance: Thursday, Dec 19

Be sure your child is at school on Thursday, Dec 19 for the annual Winter Glow Dance. This fun-activity is sponsored by the school's PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) team.

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! If possible, encourage your child to wear neon colors or white so they can glow with the lights.

Here is the day's schedule:

- K 2:00-2:30
- 1st 12:30-1:00
- 2nd 2:50-3:20
- 3rd 1:15-1:45
- 4th 10:50-11:20
- 5th 11:40-12:10

Starting December 2, students have been earning blue Winter Glow Dance coupons for displaying ROAR behavior. When students have earned 13 blue coupons, they have earned 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 13 blue coupons.
- A student receives an out-of-school suspension any time from Dec 2 and Dec 19.
- A student receives more than one in-school suspension from Dec 2 and Dec 19.

If you are interested in volunteering, sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094eafae2ca64-winter2>



Congratulations!

On Nov 19, Mr. Propst announced Swift Creek's Teacher of the Year and Instructional Assistant of the Year! The Teacher of the Year and the Instructional Assistant of the Year are nominated and selected by their peers.

- **Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Monica Coles, 5th Grade**
- **Instructional Assistant of the Year, Mrs. Ashley Hunt, CCK**

Attendance Matters!

At the November Celebration of Brilliance, our social worker, Ms. Mykei Smith, added a quarterly incentive. For each grade level, she recognized the classes with the highest attendance.

Attendance is important because our Swifties can only learn if they are at school and participating!

Congratulations to these classes!

- K- King with 97.7%
- 1st-Phillips with 97.1%
- 2nd-Miller with 98.3% (The highest in the whole school! WOW!)
- 3rd-Kuhn with 97.4%
- 4th-D'Amelio with 96.9%
- 5th-Coles with 96.9%

The Box Top App!

You might notice that you are seeing less and less Box Tops on products. That is because BoxTops4Education is going digital!

Use the Box Top app to scan your receipt. You'll instantly be able to see how many Box Tops you earned for our school!

Participating products will have this logo:



Thank You to The Point Church!

We would like to give a really BIG shout out to The Point Church. Thank you for coming out Saturday, Nov 23 to help us with our landscaping. It was absolutely amazing to see all the work that was done even in the rain. We are grateful for your service and the beautiful new flowers planted. We couldn't have done it without you. THANK YOU!!

And please give a shout out to our passionate landscaping chair, Tracey McCloud. She has great ideas for getting our school grounds cleaned up and looking better. If you want to help, contact her at mccloud1228@yahoo.com

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if a product qualifies?

The scan logo will replace the Box Top that you used to clip. If you buy a product with the new logo, scan your receipt in the app to earn the Box Top points.

How long will I still cut the physical Box Tops?

As long as you see a Box Top that you can clip on products, you can clip them and turn them in to the school. Current expiration dates go to 2023.

Where can I get the app?

You can download the app today from Google Play or the App Store. Search for Box Tops for Education.

I am having problems with the app.

Many users (nationwide) have reported issues with the app. For example, a receipt won't scan or an item isn't credited. If you run into this problem:

The company is aware of the issues.
Thanks for your patience and persistence!

ReadVolution Totals

Thanks to everyone who participated in the ReadVolution program sponsored by the Carolina Hurricanes! Because we reached their 2000 book goal, we had a visit from the team mascot Stormy and we are entered in the chance to win a field trip to a Hurricane's practice. By the end of the program on Dec 6, Swift Creek students read over 3000 books and 98 students earned complimentary tickets to a Carolina Hurricane's game!

Girls on the Run!

Registration for Girls on the Run starts early January! The team meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 throughout the 10-week fall season, starting February 4th. We'll celebrate with an end-of-season 5k for the girls, coaches, families and community on Sat., April 25. There is a limit to how many girls can be on the team so sign up as soon as possible if you want your daughter to have a spot! Spots go quickly!

Why should I sign her up?

- Over the course of the 10-week program, trained coaches lead girls in grades 3-8 in lessons to **recognize their inner strength** and celebrate what makes them one-of-a-kind.
- Your girl learns to set goals, resolve conflict, help others, manage emotions and make intentional decisions to **boost their well-being and confidence**.
- Girls **don't need to be runners** or even like running. Teams include girls of all physical abilities and fitness levels.
- Girls on the Run has had proven, long-term positive impact on the lives of girls across the Triangle for 18 years, **setting it apart** from other youth development programs.

How much does it cost?

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit, and charges a \$205 program fee to partially cover the cost of our curricula and accompanying coach and parent guides, t-shirts and water bottles for the girls and volunteer coaches, celebratory 5k registration, and materials used during the lessons. **That's only \$10.25 per session** for your girl.

Dads: Be a Watch Dog!

Thank you to the dads who have been Watch Dogs so far this year! We'd love to get YOU in our school.

If you would like the opportunity to make a lasting memory with your child and a positive impact on the Swift Creek community, please follow the link below (or e-mail me directly) and pick a day that fits your schedule.

I realize an entire day sounds like a large commitment, but it moves quickly and the impact you make is invaluable.

Financial Aid Available!

We're committed to offering the program to all girls regardless of their ability to pay. **A limited number of scholarships are available based on financial need.** Please contact your GOTR Site Coordinator, Alyssa Miller at amiller5@wcpss.net with questions regarding financial assistance. Please note that scholarships are on a first come first serve basis and cannot be provided for all.

97 percent of GOTR girls say they've learned critical life skills including resolving conflict, helping others and making intentional decisions.



To be a Watch Dog, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/scesDOGS1920>

If you have questions, contact Sam Allen:

- sfallenprc@gmail.com
- sfallen@ncsu.edu



Dads of Great Students

Supplies Needed for the Art Room:

Mrs. McIntyre is collecting:

- paper tubes – toilet, paper towel, gift wrap
- clean plastic tops or lids – off laundry detergent, milk jugs, soda bottles
- wine corks
- legos (when you are tired of stepping on them)
- wooden blocks
- paper drink trays from fast food
- clean styrofoam trays or containers
- clear plastic lids off prepared food containers
- easy Mac & Cheese containers
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- wire twist ties

Send these items to school with your child and label them Art Supplies. Please help Mrs. McIntyre and our Swifties create some outstanding art projects!

Amazon wish list for the art room is
<https://tinyurl.com/scesArtWishes>

AIG Nomination Window is Open

4th and 5th grade parents: If you wish to nominate your child for AIG testing during the first semester, you must send a letter (paper or email) to Mrs. Krutsch (skrutsch@wcpss.net) by January 24, 2020.

Science Fair is January 14!

The Science Fair is coming up on January 14th! Participation is open to Grades 3-5. Registration forms are due January 7th. For project ideas see the following websites:

- <http://www.sciencebuddies.org/>
- <http://www.education.com/science-fair/>

Please contact Ashley Elliott with any questions
digsgeology@gmail.com

From the Art Room

- Twenty-two fifth grade artists have their Onomatopoeia pieces on display this month at Wake Med Cary Hospital.
- If you are a clay artist and know how to throw pots on a wheel, please contact Mrs. McIntyre by email at jmcintyre2@wcpss.net or through Talking Points.
- Remind your artist to bring in art they create at home for the Art Challenge Wall.

Join Us for Camp Invention: June 22-26

Camp Invention® is a nationally acclaimed summer program where STEM concepts come to life. Led by local teachers, this program has tapped into kids' natural curiosity since 1990, giving them the opportunity to become innovators through teamwork and immersive, hands-on creative problem-solving.

This summer, campers will explore flight with rockets and robots, learn the value of their creativity through hands-on activities, collaborate to help protect the Earth and design a sports complex!

At the end of the week, they will bring home their very own personalized robot!

If you have questions, contact Camp Director, Mrs. Monica Coles at mcolese@wcpss.net.

Register for this year's summer camp at
<https://tinyurl.com/scesCamp2020>

Your December Calendar

- **Dec 9 – 13:** P2 Humility
- **Dec 16-20:** P2 Self Control
- **Dec 19:** Winter Glow Dance.
- **Dec 20:** Regular School Day!
- **Dec 23 – Jan 3:** Winter Break

Your January Calendar

- **Jan 6:** Back to school!
- **Jan 6 – 10:** P2 Optimism
- **Jan 10:** Spirit Day
- **Jan 13 – 17:** P2 Prudence
- **Jan 14:** PTA meeting, Science Fair
- **Jan 20:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No School.
- **Jan 21-24:** P2 Perseverance
- **Jan 27-31** P2: Supporting Others When They Struggle
- **Jan 29:** Teacher Work Day

The Cougar Counter is Open on Wednesdays!

The Cougar Counter is our school store and is open from 8:45am – 9:10am in the front lobby. Most items range from .25 to .50 cents. Items available include pencils, pens, highlighters, and smelly erasers.

If you have questions about the Cougar Counter, contact Helen Bass at helenbass@gmail.com.

Application Period for Magnet and Year-Round Schools is Open

Are you exploring middle school options for next year? Many magnet schools are having Open House and Tours this fall. For more information about how to apply to a magnet school, see the application process at <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/189>

Help Us with a Cookie Exchange!

On Friday, Sarah Wohldmann, our Hospitality Chair, is putting together a cookie exchange for our amazing Swifty staff.

We need lots of cookies to make this happen. You can donate homemade or store bought cookies. To sign up, see

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4faca92aab9-staff>

If you have questions, contact Hospitality chair, Sarah Wohldmann at swohldmann@gmail.com.

Check the Lost and Found

With the start of cold weather, our school Lost and Found has been growing with jackets, coats, hats, and more. Be sure to check the Lost and Found in the front hall of the school!

3rd Grade Read to Achieve Parent Meeting

The third grade RTA parent meeting will be held on the same night as Literacy Curriculum Night, February 11th. The parent meeting will take place from 5:30-6:00. This meeting will focus on the Read to Achieve law and how this can impact your child.

