

February 11, 2020

# 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

Hello, Swift Creek families! Well, it wasn't the weather many hope for, but we did get a weather-related day off on February 7. That time is be accounted for through banked hours, so it will not change our school calendar going forward. Hope you all enjoyed the time!

In January, our students in K-3 began working with NC's new literacy assessment system, Istation. This week, Istation's Parent Portal will open to provide families with online access to supplemental home activities, parent resources, and personalized data profiles. Families will have access to supplemental home instruction and can monitor progress outside the traditional school settings. If you have any questions about this new tool, please contact the school. We are learning how to use Istation along with you, but we will do our best to help.

Thank you to everyone that attended our last Celebration of Brilliance. The next celebration is coming up on February 26 during grade level specials time. I cannot tell you the wonderful impact it has on all of our students when you take the time to celebrate with us. Hope to see you there.

This year, our teachers have participated in professional development around academic vocabulary. We teach strategies for students to understand high-level vocabulary to improve their comprehension. You can assist in your child's learning as well. On Thursday, February 27 from 5:30-7:00 we will present another Family Academy - Developing Academic Vocabulary at Home. You will gain valuable resources and activities you can use to strengthen academic vocabulary.

Thank you for everything you do that makes Swift Creek great!

**Darrell Propst, Principal**  
**Swift Creek Elementary School**



## It's Love Your Bus Driver Week!

Our bus drivers work so hard to get our children to and from school safely every day! We thank them for all their hard work. Please take a moment this week to thank your child's bus driver!!!!



## In This Issue

### P2 Corner

**RESCHEDULED: Family Heart Hop is Friday, Feb 21**

**Sign Up for Camp Invention**

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**Cultural Arts News**

**Art Room Needs**

**Your February and March, Calendars**

## P2 Corner:

**Feb 9-15**  
**Love**



### **What Does Love Mean?**

You value close relationships with others and being close to people.

### **Why Does It Matter?**

Love is imperative to an individual's happiness and fulfillment in life. On a group level, love is vital for the well being of society. The world is endlessly interconnected. We are all dependent upon each other for survival and happiness. Love produces positive feelings, which help negate loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Without love, we cannot find intimacy nor form strong relationships with our families, friends, or communities. A world without love and connection is a dangerous world.

**Feb 16-22**  
**Make Up / Wild Card Week**



Teachers will spend time reviewing any character strengths that they might not have finished during the assigned week.

**Feb 23-29**  
**Zest\ Enthusiasm**



### **What Does Zest\ Enthusiasm Mean?**

You approach life with excitement and energy. You energize people around you.

### **Why Does It Matter?**

For individuals, zest and enthusiasm are easily identifiable and highly desirable personality traits. We feel good when we are energized by an activity or opportunity – and we like to spend time with people who are excited about life. Those who demonstrate a high level of enthusiasm are more likely to complete tasks and exceed minimum requirements as a result of their passion.

One person's enthusiasm can spark others to think, speak, and act with more energy and conviction. Groups that are enthusiastic about tasks are much more likely to spend longer periods of time in service to the group's overall goals.

**Mar 1-7**  
**Cheering Others' Success**



During this week, teachers will discuss another aspect of the Other People Matter mindset, Cheering Others' Success.

## Sign Up for Camp Invention This Summer

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 [mcoles@wcpss.net](mailto:mcoles@wcpss.net).

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

## Are You Interested in Becoming More Involved in the PTA Next Year?

Do you know someone who would be AWESOME as a PTA officer or committee chair?

We are currently accepting nominations for next year. Elections will be held at the May PTA meeting.

Would like to help the nominating committee with identifying talented, motivated, and responsible individuals to serve as officers of the SCES PTA? You're welcome to join their next meeting on February 20 at 9:15am to suggest potential PTA candidates.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Lewis at [sarahlynnlewis@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlynnlewis@gmail.com).

## Watch DOGS: Half-Day Opportunities Now Available

The school year is flying along and to help get more gentlemen involved in the program we are introducing **half-day sign-up opportunities**. Your day will either start at the beginning of school and end after your student's lunch, or begin with your student's lunch and end after school.

There is still time to make an impact at Swift Creek and volunteer to be a Watch D.O.G. Get your picture added to our Hall of Fame! It is a great way to contribute to your SCES community. It's also an opportunity to make a memory with your student during recess, lunch, or while working on fractions!

Please feel free to email Sam Allen with any questions or to sign-up for a day (or half-day either beginning or ending with your Cougar's lunch) at [sfallenprc@gmail.com](mailto:sfallenprc@gmail.com) or [sfallen@ncsu.edu](mailto:sfallen@ncsu.edu)

If you'd like to go directly to the sign-up website please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/scesDOGS1920> and I will add you to the school's calendar so they are ready with your schedule and picture with your Cougar(s). Thank you so much to those who have already volunteered. The school looks forward to new faces!

## Save the Date! International Night is Thursday, March 26

We are excited at how things are coming together for International Night on Thursday, March 26! Our theme is This Is How I Do It! It is going to be a great evening and will happen in conjunction with Family Night at the Book Fair. Here is the schedule for the evening:

- 5:30-7:45 Book Fair open in the media center
- 5:30-6:30 Sample international foods in the cafeteria
- 5:30-7:30 Country displays are open for tourists



We'd love for your family to get involved! The level of commitment is up to you. You can help create a display that represents the country your family is from and lists some of your traditions. You can bring books, music, food, and have a classroom! Or you can volunteer to help on the night of the event. We are looking for all kinds of help.

sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesInternational20> or contact Marie Dexter at [mariecddexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariecddexter@gmail.com).

### We Need You at Our Spring Landscaping Day!

Spring is just around the corner! Please join us on Sat April 18th as we continue to spruce up the school grounds. If you love working outdoors, we need YOU! Light snacks and water will be provided. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Don't forget the yard tools...rakes, hoes, clippers, wheelbarrow, etc.

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesApr18>

If you have questions, contact landscaping chair, Tracey McCloud at [mccloud1228@yahoo.com](mailto:mccloud1228@yahoo.com).

### How You Can Help Spread the Word about Swift Creek!

We have so many wonderful things at Swift Creek to celebrate! Parents play an important role in getting the word out to perspective parents. Here's how you can help:

- Review us on Great Schools.
- Tell parents to follow our school on Twitter @SCESROARS.
- Ask folks to like our PTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekpta>
- Share this newsletter.

### RESCHEDULED!

**Family Heart Hop is February  
21 from 5:30-7:30pm**

Check your Tuesday folder for more details!

## Cultural Arts News!



Swift Creek welcomed Number Drummer yesterday afternoon for an energetic and interactive performance! Students rocked the gym as every single student was including in making the music together while learning Math and having so much fun! Students became drumming masters!

Swift Creek would also like to welcome Billy Jonas back on February, 27! He will be providing an interactive workshop for all second graders as they explore sound and making instruments from recycling! Each year the students love to learn from Mr. Jonas and enjoy making their unique instruments that they will use to perform together!

This program is provided through your Fun Run donations and supported, 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.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Artists Need These Items:

- small solid boxes--like jewelry, cigar, candy, cell phone, ipad, matchboxes
- embroidery thread
- tapestry needles
- glitter glue
- sequins
- liquid starch
- maps
- happy meal toys
- matchbox cars
- Barbie doll accessories
- stickers of all kinds
- broken jewelry/watches
- anything miniature
- coins
- buttons
- game pieces--like from Monopoly, Game of Life, Scrabble, Checkers, Chess etc.
- white cardstock

## Recycling Program Updates!

Our TerraCycle programs for snack wrappers and squeezable pouches are off to a great start! In the first four weeks, our students and staff have collected **8 pounds of snack wrappers** and **8.5 pounds of squeezable pouches**. That's close to 17 pounds of waste that has been recycled, rather than being sent to the landfill. Incredible work, Swifties!

## Art News

Thank you for sending in your recycled materials. The art room still needs these items:

- Paper tubes
- Cool whip containers with lid
- Wine corks
- Legos
- Wooden blocks
- Container tops
- Easy mac and cheese containers
- Yarn
- Wire twist ties
- Electrical wire

View Mrs. McIntyre's Amazon Wish List at <http://tinyurl.com/scesArtWishes>

Does your artist have a creation at home that they'd love to share? Send it in for the Art Challenge Wall (which is located outside Mrs. McIntyre's classroom).

As a reminder, separate collection bins have been placed in the cafeteria for squeezable snack pouches (a TerraCycle and GoGo squeeZ program) and foil lined snack wrappers (a TerraCycle and Subaru program). Students, staff and visitors may recycle pouches and snack wrappers from foods consumed at school, and pouches and wrappers may also be brought in from home.

- The squeezable pouches may be of ANY brand, not just GoGo squeeZ.
- Foil lined wrappers include smaller chip, pretzel, and cookie bags, as well as granola bars, chocolate bars, etc.
- Please make sure pouches and bags/wrappers are EMPTY, with CAP placed back ON the pouches.
- For families collecting at home, one tip is to store empty pouches in the refrigerator, until they can be brought in to school.

Additionally, Wake County has recently implemented changes to the **Feed the Bin** recycling program in our school. Instead of just paper recycling in the classrooms, the school has moved to a mixed cart recycling system. Meaning, students and staff can now put all recyclable items in their classroom bins. This includes plastic bottles, aluminum cans, paperboard, AND paper. A special thank you to Ms. Hunt and the after-school program students who collect our classroom recycling each week!

For questions about the TerraCycle programs at Swift Creek or changes to the Feed the Bin program, or to join the recycling committee, please contact Megan Holler at [MeganAndrews81@gmail.com](mailto:MeganAndrews81@gmail.com)

### What a Wonderful World Read Aloud Day!!!!

Thank you to all our volunteers who participated in World Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, February 5. It was great to have so many parents and guardians throughout the school day! Everyone had a great day!

- |                   |                  |                    |               |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Lindsay Allen   | * Amy Lamm       | * Kristen Robinson | * Deb Killion |
| • Sarah Black     | * Sarah Lewis    | * Francine Sack    |               |
| • Heather Chapman | * Jessica Liao   | * Alissa Willett   |               |
| • Danielle Davis  | * Emily McGraw   | * Annie Pilz       |               |
| • Tracey McCloud  | * Angelica Reedy | * Lauren Nicholls  |               |

An extra special Thank You to Mrs. Hizer, our IRT teacher, and our Swifty teachers who organized this event for our families!

## Staying Healthy and Fit at the Creek

### Coming Soon to the Creek

#### Cougar Front Runners

Swift Creek Elementary Run Club



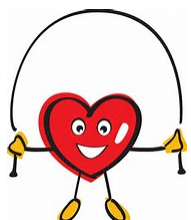
Look for information and sign up in your child's Tuesday folder on February 25. Sign ups will be due March 3rd.

### Basketball Scrimmage Feb 26

Swift Creek Basketball Club will have a scrimmage and showcase their basketball skills Wednesday February 26th - 4:30-5:30 in the gym! Parents are invited to come watch their child play!

### Kids Heart Challenge Starts Feb 21

Kids Heart Challenge will start Friday February 21st! Ms. Graves is aware some parents are receiving information about the challenge and unfortunately it is an automatic email sent from The American Heart Association that she cannot change- our students will kickoff our annual Kids Heart Challenge Friday the 21st- look for the information that afternoon!



### Jump into the Leap Year!

Are you working on your FEBRUARY Exercise calendar?  
This calendar is a great activity for students to do with their siblings or parents!!!

## Join Team Swift Creek at the Garden Gallop 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, March 21 9:00am

You may not know but the Interfaith Food Shuttle has been instrumental in the creating and maintenance of our Swift Creek Garden. This work is possible through the Interfaith Food Shuttle's Urban Agriculture Education Initiatives. The 5K directly benefits this program and so US!

We would love for you to join our team. Sign up today at <https://fsseries.com/event/garden-gallop-5k/>

At the event, look for the BIG Swift Creek sign so we can run/walk together!

## Your February Calendar

- **Feb 9-15:** P2 Love
- **Feb 16 - 22:** P2 Wild Card / Make Up Week
- **Feb 20 9:15am:** Meeting of PTA nominating committee. If you have suggestions for potential candidates or questions, please contact Sarah Lewis at sarahlynnlewis@gmail.com.
- **Feb 21**
  - Kickoff for Kids Healthy Heart Challenge
  - **5:30-7:30:** RESCHEDULED: Family Heart Hop!
- **Feb 23-Feb 29:** P2 Enthusiasm
- **Wednesday, Feb 26**
  - Celebration of Brilliance
  - 4:30-5:30pm: Swift Creek Basketball game

### Developing Academic Vocabulary at Home Using Hands-on Activities (K-5) Thursday, February 27 5:30-7:00pm

This workshop is presented by the Family Academy of Wake County. Academic Vocabulary is the language that is used to acquire new learning and skills. The parents will learn ways to encourage their child to develop academic vocabulary and activities they can use at home. Child care will be provided. For more information, contact Mrs. Burkhalter at cburkhalter@wcpss.net.

## Your March Calendar

- **Mar 1-7:** P2 Cheering Others' Success
- **Mar 3:** Sign ups due for Cougar Front Runners, Swift Creek's new running club. Information will be sent home in the February 25 Tuesday folder. For more information, contact Healthy Lifestyles chair, Maggie Howard, at maggieboltja@gmail.com.
- **Mar 8-14:** P2 Social Intelligence
- **Mar 22-28:** P2 Fairness
- **Mar 21 9:00am:** Garden Gallop 5K hosted by the Interfaith Food Shuttle. **Mar 23-27:** Spring Book Fair from Bedford Falls. If you are interested in helping, contact Book Fair committee chairs, Kristen Sherman [kmartaz73@gmail.com](mailto:kmartaz73@gmail.com) and Heather Chapman at wilsonreadingteacher@gmail.com.
- **March 26 5:30-7:30:** Family Night at the Book Fair and International Night "This Is How We Do It"

## TONIGHT!!!

### Read to Achieve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent meeting, 5:30-6:00pm

Have you heard of Read to Achieve but you aren't quite sure what it is? Join us for an informational meeting on how your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader might be impacted by the Read to Achieve law. Per this law, all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students must show that they are proficient in reading by the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade year or they will be considered "reading retained" in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Join us to learn what qualifications a student must demonstrate and what will happen if they do not show proficiency.

### PTA Meeting 6:00pm

Come join us for our February PTA meeting. Here is an overview of the agenda:

- Voting on ways to spend our budget surplus
- Submit nominations for officers and committee chairs for next year
- Updates on our recycling efforts
- Information about Watch DOGS program
- Learn about the New Running Club
- and much more!

### Literacy Curriculum Night, 6:30pm

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 on Feb 11 with report cards, so be sure to bring them.