

February 16, 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

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been another busy month around the creek! Mid-year assessments are complete and we are working hard on third quarter objectives and standards. Please reach out to your child's teachers if you have any questions about learning. We are always happy to help you with things you can do at home with your children.

We have welcomed two new teacher assistants on board to assist our teachers in delivering a strong instructional program. Please take a moment to welcome Annie Kress, who will be working primarily with second and third grade and Kim Rutila, who will be working with Mrs. Sharif-Clark in Kindergarten. We are so excited to have them as a part of our school community. We also have recommended a third teacher assistant who will be working with first and fourth grade and should be joining us in about a week.

Fifth Grade parents, please mark your calendars—we have set the date and time for our Fifth Grade Graduation ceremony as Wednesday, June 8th at 10:30 am. More information will be shared as it draws closer.

Please also save the dates for Math Night on March 16th (K-2) and March 17th (3-5) from 6:00-7:30 pm at Food Lion near our school. This is a wonderful way to engage in relevant math activities in our final Parent Involvement Night of the year.

Congratulations to Mrs. Huddle and our Swift Creek students who have been chosen for All County Chorus this month. These students are Mira Coles, Lauren Prillaman, Cameron Reid, and Rosie Ryan. We are so proud of them for their hard work and wish them luck next weekend at the competition. Way to go Swifties!

I would also like to extend a huge congrats to Charlotte Jacobson, who was chosen as Swift Creek's Spotlight on Student Award winner by faculty and staff. She was honored at the end of January at a school



Attendance Is Important!

Regular school attendance has been shown by many studies to have a positive impact on student learning. Students need the continuity of daily attendance, regular reading and math practice, and collaboration with students and teachers to learn at optimal levels. We value attendance strongly at our school and have a goal of a 95% attendance rate.

In addition to attendance, please ensure that your student arrives at school between 8:45 and 9:15 am. It is equally as crucial that students remain at school until 3:45 pm.

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Mark Your Calendars: Your February, March, and April Checklists

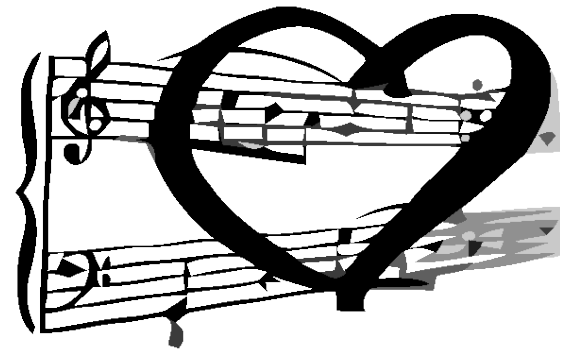
board meeting. We are so thankful for her contributions to our school community and appreciate her representing us so well. Charlotte, we thank you for your hard work and dedication each and every day!

As we head into the last half of our school year, **please commit to ensuring that that your children attend school regularly.** Regular school attendance has been shown by many studies to have a positive impact on student learning. Students need the continuity of daily attendance, regular reading and math practice, and collaboration with students and teachers to learn at optimal levels. Even when absences are excused, students can fall behind in their academic work. When student absences are not categorized as excused by board policy, they are considered unexcused. At three unexcused absences, the teacher will notify you. At six unexcused absences, you will receive notice in writing. We value attendance strongly at our school and have set a goal to maintain a 95% attendance rate. If a child misses more than nine days for any reason, then they will not meet this goal. In addition to attention to attendance, please ensure that your student arrives at school between 8:45 and 9:15 am, which will provide them with a great start to the day before our bell rings. It is equally as crucial that students remain at school throughout the school day, as we provide instruction until our bell rings at 3:45 pm. Every minute matters to us at Swift Creek and we want to help your child to be the best they can be. Regular attendance will help us to maximize our time with them and give them what they need to be successful.

As always, thank you for all you do for your children and our school. Stay warm!
Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Music Notes from Mrs. Huddle

Our February song is "Train is A-Comin." It is an Underground Railroad song that dates back to the mid-1800s. Our composer is William Grant Still. He lived from 1895 to 1978 in America. He played five instruments and is famous for his operas and orchestra music. Classes are listening to his piece, "African-American Symphony" this month.



Congratulations to our 2nd grade students for their awesome job in their "Sound" concerts last week. The students worked hard learning about sound, making their own instruments, and sharing all they have learned. Great job, 2nd graders!

Our first grade students will present their "Read A Book!" concert on March 9 at 12:00pm on the Swift Creek stage. We hope you can all join us for this exciting performance!

Congratulations to several 5th graders who were nominated to participate in All County Chorus. For more information, see the Way to Go! section of this newsletter.

Musically, Mrs. Huddle

Did You Receive Your School Directory?

The Swift Creek student directory went home with students to all PTA families in January. If you are a PTA member and did not receive a copy, please contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com or [919-816-8632](tel:919-816-8632).

Yum, Yum! Thanks for the Grub!

Thank you to everyone who donated food and time for the February Early Release luncheon. The staff was very thankful for all the goodies on such a cold winter's day. An extra special thank you to Elizabeth Worthy, who always does a fantastic job organizing these events!



Sela Vaughn
Marie Dexter
Beth Callaway
Melinda Gelsing

Caroline Richardson
Amy Johns
Helen Bass
Dina Goembel

Rafeala George
Carrie Fernandez
Wenye Wang
Kristy Pickurel

Clair Green
Nehal Outlaw
Mona Hoyer
Jaimi Smith

WAY TO GO!!! So Many Reasons to Celebrate Our Students!

Reflections Winners in Regional and State Competitions	Congratulations to Our All County Chorus Participants
<p>Swift Creek is proud of all our participants in the 2015-16 Reflections Art competition. We are especially proud of these students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audrey Nolan earned 2nd place in the Visual Arts category in the Wake County competition. Zoe Pacio's theme "come with me and you'll be ..." has been chosen to compete in the nationwide competition of the 2016-2017 theme. 	<p>Congratulations to 5th grade students, Mira Coles, Lauren Prillaman, Cameron Reid, and Rosie Ryan. These students were nominated and will be participating in Wake County's Elementary All County Chorus this weekend. They will spend two days rehearsing music with a clinician and performing in a special concert with 150 other 5th grade singers. We thank our PTA for making this wonderful experience for our students possible!</p> 
2016 Science Fair Entries and Awards	Thank You to Our Science Fair Sponsors
<p>The SCES Science Fair was held on Thursday, January, 14th, 2016. We received 14 project entries with 22 students participating. 8 projects were experimental based and 6 were demonstrations. The highest participation was from the 3rd grade (7 projects submitted) and 5th grade had the lowest participation (3 projects submitted). Prizes and breakfast for the judges were generously donated by local merchants.</p> <p>A list of all projects, participants, and awards are listed in the following table. We will continue to brainstorm ideas to grow and improve our science fair for next year.</p>	<p>And a special thank you this year's business sponsors!</p> <p>Prizes were generously donated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweet Frog Jellybeans Skating Moe's Southwest Grill Carolina Hurricanes Durham Bulls Championship Martial Arts Aquatots SkyZone Adventure Landing <p>Breakfast for the Judges was donated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruegger's Bagels

Science Fair Entries and Awards:

5 th Grade		
Best in Show, 1 st Place	Using Mirrors to Create Optical Illusions	Georgia King Alayna Arellano
1 st Place	Sweat Evaporation	Alexander Miller Rosie Ryan Morgan Persinger
2 nd Place	What Makes Your Dentist Sad?	Lauren Prillaman
4 th Grade		
Best in Show, 1 st Place	How Capillary Action Affects Plants	Benjamin Barrangou Noah Burkhalter Basher Fannachi
1 st Place	Our Amazing Solar System	Thomas Goembel
1 st Place	Planets of the Solar System	Liam O'Grady
2 nd Place	Electric Salt	Austin Deaton Geovanny Morales-Sanchez
3 rd Grade		
Best in Show, 1 st Place	Why Are Some Squid Big and Some Small?	August Langerhans
1 st Place	Volcano	Andrea Flores-Gracia
1 st Place	What Makes the Best Invisible Ink	Alexis Mayhew
2 nd Place	Jog My Memory	Ava Sheppard Elli Sheppard
2 nd Place	Tremble, Rumble, Shake, Shake	Chay Smith
3 rd Place	Floating and Sinking Candy	Susan McGraw
3 rd Place	Bell Ringer	Shreya Ganapathy Hazel Kovilic

Did You Know? Swift Creek Has a Basketball Club?

A big shout out to Ms. Herrin (3rd grade), Ms. Smith (3rd grade), and Ms. Windsor (4th grade) for starting a basketball club at Swift Creek in January. The response from interested 4th and 5th graders was so overwhelming that the club spots quickly filled up. One day a week after school, these teachers work with students on basketball skills and drills. And they LOVE it.

This is just another example of the wonderful extracurricular activities so many of the Swift Creek staff provide. Thanks to all of the teachers and staff who take the time to share their passion with our students.

Thank You!

Help Wanted. We Need You to Make a Difference!

Needs for Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week is fast approaching. If you want to help plan activities for this very important week, please let Elizabeth Worthy (Elizabeth.worthy@me.com) of the Hospitality Committee as soon as possible.

If you own a business, please consider donating coupons that the Hospitality committee can put in the teacher goody bags for that week!

Reflections Committee Chair

Do like to encourage students in the arts? Reflections is a national arts program sponsored by the PTA. This program reaches out to students who interested in art, photograph, literature, music, dance, and so on. The current chair, Ann-Margaret Alexander, has done a tremendous job revitalizing this program at Swift Creek. But without your help, we will lose this program next year.

As Reflections chair, you organize the school competition, arrange for judges, help students with required paperwork, and most important of all, help celebrate our participants' success.

Time commitment runs from August to November. Don't be nervous. Ann-Margaret has organized notebook with detailed instructions. Contact Ann-Margaret Alexander at amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com.

Yearbook Committee Needs You!

Ginger Yu (the returning Yearbook committee chair) needs help with the following positions:

- **Yearbook layout/designer (1 or more)**. Do you love to scrapbook or create photo albums? Maybe you have Photoshop experience? This is a project than can fit any schedule. For creating the yearbook, you can work at home on your own time.
- **Photographer**. Help take pictures at school events (you know you will be there anyway). We also need photographers who can capture candid shots of daily life at the Creek.

For more information, please contact Ginger Yu at d.ginger.yu@gmail.com.

Have a Say in the Direction of the PTA!

One of the biggest goals of the PTA is to help facilitate community at Swift Creek. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the PTA, these officer positions are open for the 2016-2017.

Nominations for positions will be accepted through April. Elections occur at the May PTA meeting. If you are interested or if you'd like to nominate someone, please contact Dina Goembel at dgoembel@gmail.com, Kim Partin at kpartin@nc.rr.com, or Marie Dexter at mariecddexter@gmail.com today!

President – Yes, it's a big job but somebody's got to do it. Are you great at managing multiple projects? Do you like being a cheerleader? Do you want to help facilitate communication between the parents and staff? Then this job is for you.

Vice President 2 – supports Vice President 1 (Kim Partin) and acts as a backup if needed for the President. (No dodging in front of bullets required.)

Secretary – Do you like to take minutes and keep meetings on track and organized? You must be able to attend the most of the monthly PTA meetings for this position.

Help Us Collect Books for the Wake Up and Read Program!

When donating books to the Wake Up and Read Program, remember these guidelines. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Ramsey at mwramsey@wcpss.net.

- Books must be new or gently used and appropriate for children birth – 12
- Titles like Curious George, The Magic Treehouse, Charlotte’s Web, and bilingual books are appreciated
- For gently used donations, book covers, pages, and spines should be intact and without rips, tears, or added pencil/crayon markings (names of original owners/dedications are acceptable)
- Gently used books should not be damaged by mold, water, or fire, and should not show signs of discoloration or age
- No textbooks or used coloring or activity books, please

Character Education Awards: Integrity

In February, we celebrate these students for the character trait of Integrity. Awards ceremonies will be February 23-25.

Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
<u>Mrs. Harris</u> Grace D. Railyn B. Ethan O.	<u>Mrs. Phillips</u> Za’Nya A. Heidi F. Sean P.	<u>Mrs. Roh</u> Sam D. Laena W. Ella S.	<u>Ms. Herrin</u> Whit S. Donovan M.	<u>Ms. Beauchamp</u> Colby R. Kavon M. Christian P.	<u>Mr. Krauter</u> Jack M. Dagmawit T. Julian C.
<u>Ms. Lipe</u> Fenn J. Kevin N. Mason F.	<u>Ms. Zardas</u> Adam B. Suhey E. B.	<u>Mrs. Sedaghat</u> Emma Grace B. Emerson M. Danny G. Max S.	<u>Ms. Smith</u> Zoe P. Lonie R.	<u>Mrs. D’Amelio</u> Tristin A. Damian M. Anthony R.L. Sasha B.	<u>Mrs. Coles</u> Charlotte J. NaDayzia P.D. Chase W.
<u>Mrs. Sharif-Clark</u> Malak O. Alaina W.	<u>Ms. Cillian</u> Toni A. Selim Y. Casey W.	<u>Miss Millichap</u> Azul V. Justin S. Dylan H.	<u>Mrs. Burchardi</u> Alexis M. Bryan G.	<u>Ms. Windsor</u> Geovanny M.S. Carter B. Trevor H. Fayda H.C.	<u>Ms. Mazuchowski</u> Alexis N.H. Kieren B. Jared S.
<u>Mrs. Robinson</u> Lisseth P.M. Jaslene M. Gage C.	<u>Mrs. Butler</u> Demitri M. Greydis A.M. Mabel B. Katrina N.	<u>Mrs. Woods</u> Dominick L. Colt J. Chase H.	<u>Ms. Wyrsh</u> August L. Emerzon A.M.	<u>Mrs. Fallon</u> Xavier D. Clark W.	<u>Mrs. Sandersen</u> Zander M. Emran F.

Addedum: The following students from Ms. Beauchamp’s class were recipients of the Self-Discipline award in January: Diego, Ny’ema, and Majesty B.

Your February Checklist

- **Feb 19:** The Beast will be coming to Swift Creek to perform for students on Friday, February 19! This will be an energetic performance of African American music and dance! We look forward to this exciting cultural arts experience!

This program is provided by the Swift Creek PTA and is 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, and a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

- **Feb 23-25 9:10am:** Character Ed Awards in the media center

Your March Checklist

- March 1:** Last Day to turn in books for the Wake Up and Read program!
- March 4:** Early Release. School dismisses at 1:15pm.
- March 7-11:** Social Worker Appreciation week. Please thank Ms. Mary Jane Brooks for all she does for our students.
- March 8 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center. All are welcome.
- March 9 12:00pm:** Read a Book! Concert performed by the 1st graders. The concert will take place in the gym.
- March 16 & 17:** Math Nights at Food Lion in the Swift Creek Shopping Center.
 - **March 16:** Kindergarten – 2nd grade
 - **March 17:** 3rd – 5th grade
- March 23:** End of 3rd quarter
- March 24:** Regular school day! This is a make-up day for the January snow.
- March 25-April 3:** Spring Break. No School

Your April Checklist

- April 11-15:** Spring Book Fair. Family Night is on Tuesday, April 12.
- April 19 6:30pm:** April PTA meeting followed by the spring drama and chorus performance of Treasure Island is in the gym.
- April 28 5-8pm:** Swift Creek Night at Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads

Feb 22-26: Food Drive

The Swift Creek Service Club (SC2) is sponsoring a food drive for Urban Ministries. The grade level that collects the most food wins an extra period of recess, to be supervised by our amazing administrators, Ms. Bradshaw and Mrs. Miller. Students should bring the food directly to their classrooms. Look for a flyer coming home soon with more details!

Today – March 1: Book Collection in the Library

Partner with Swift Creek to help collect books for the Wake Up and Read! Book drive, which is a county-wide effort to provide grade-level appropriate reading materials to students in need in Wake County. Swift Creek Library will be collecting new and gently used books through March 1. Now you have a great place for all those books your kids have outgrown!

See the "Wake Up and Read" article for more details!

Important Date Change:

Treasure Island, presented by the Swift Creek Chorus and Drama Club, will now be on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30pm.

Dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, April 16.