

February 3, 2015

# 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 letter finds you all well. I want to thank you for your patience and flexibility over the last few weeks. With the unexpected dismissal due to our boiler, I have been reminded just how great it is to be a part of this community. Our students and staff did a wonderful job with the dismissal and we appreciate your quick parental response. It is truly great to be a Swift Creek Cougar!

We are excited to welcome two new members of this community in the recent days. Many of you already know that we have a new Speech Language Pathologist. Michelle Torello began with us on January 21<sup>st</sup> and has jumped right in! She is a veteran speech language pathologist, with experiences in both private and public settings. She comes to us from Franklin Charter School and is excited about sharing her knowledge with us and serving students in both a push in and pull out setting. We also welcome a new part time custodian, Brian Wooten. Mr. Wooten's professionalism is clearly evident and he will be a perfect complement to our fantastic custodial staff. I know that you will extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to these individuals when you have the opportunity.

I would like to take a moment to say congratulations to the Swift Creek Spotlight on Student award recipient James Brooks. James was presented with a plaque at the Wake County School Board meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. He is a fifth grader in Mrs. Coles' class and has attended Swift Creek Elementary throughout his career. James is conscientious, self-disciplined, and is kind to his peers and to school staff. He assumes responsibility without hesitation and is a role model for our younger Swifties. James is a student council representative and safety patrol member and has been a track team member for three years. We appreciate James representing



## Upcoming Events

### February 3

mClass Home Connect letters issued – Check your Tuesday folders

### February 6

Orders due for Winter Spirit Wear

### February 10

6:30pm Second Grade Concert & PTA meeting in gym

### February 13

Early Release – School out at 1:15

### February 19

5-8pm Chick-Fil-A Night. Join us at the Chick-Fil-A on Walnut Street in Crossroads Shopping Center

### February 28

Deadline for Cooking with Kids Contest

## In This Issue

Music Notes

Science Fair Winners

Character Education Award Winners – Self-Discipline

our school with such integrity and thank him for his hard work! Way to go James—you are one of the reasons our school is so special!

Please check your child's Tuesday folder today for the mCLASS Home Connect letter. This letter will provide you with valuable information about your child's progress towards grade level reading skills. The report was based on the most recent mCLASS assessments, which were conducted since the winter break and measure basic reading skills and the test of reading comprehension for grades K-3. Feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding this report.

**Congratulations to the  
Swift Creek Spotlight on  
Student award recipient –**

**James Brooks**

On Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> the North Carolina State Board of Education will be issuing "School Performance Grades" for each school in our state. These "grades" will be calculated from a formula combining EOG proficiency scores and growth scores for elementary schools. As these grades are released to the public, please know that it is difficult to measure a school with a single grade. This single grade for the entire school does not account for the complexity of all of our children at Swift Creek. Furthermore, one letter grade cannot accurately reflect the heart and soul of a school, its progress towards goals and objectives, or take into consideration the plethora of variables that affect student outcomes. At Swift Creek, we will continue to use our data to make instructional decisions and to identify areas for improvement as well as to our celebrate successes. We will also continue to love and support your children as always and will commit ourselves to "Setting the Standard of Excellence For All Children." Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this school performance grade once it is released. You may also want to review the progress reports that Wake County is releasing on all of the schools. These progress reports will give you more accurate insight—and you will be able to see strengths, challenges, and how our teachers feel about our school.

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

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

## School Corner

### Music Notes

Our February song is "Follow the Drinking Gourd". It is a folk song used by slaves to help them escape on the Underground Railroad. We are learning the secret messages in the song. Our composer is Duke Ellington. He was born Edward Kennedy Ellington in 1899. He is a famous pianist, composer, and conductor. His nickname "Duke" was given to him because he had an elegant manner and always dressed neatly. We are enjoying his jazz music!

Second grade classes will perform their "Sound" concert on February 10th following the 6:30 pm PTA meeting. Students are working very hard to prepare and we hope you can come and support them as they perform this special science, music, and art integrated concert!

Cougar Chorus is off to a great start this semester with third, fourth, and fifth grade singers. Chorus is every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am in the gym. Please remember there is NO chorus rehearsal February 11th! All County Chorus is February 20 and 21. We wish Asher Morwick, Elijah Harris, Gabriella Mauch, and Noah Rhodes "good luck" as they represent Swift Creek in this special concert.

Thank you for supporting music in our school. Please keep up with music happenings through twitter - @SwiftCreekMusic and our website - <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpsps.net/swift-creek-music/home>

Mrs. Huddle, Music Teacher

## Early Release Luncheon: Feb 13

To recognize the incredible teachers and staff at Swift Creek, the Hospitality committee is hosting an early release luncheon on February 13. If you are interested in contributing items to this luncheon, please sign up today at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945a9ab2ba31-swift16>.

## Need Winter Spirit Wear?

Winter Spirit Wear is here with a totally new design! The order forms were sent home on Tuesday, January 27th. **Orders are due back no later than FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th.** The orders will be delivered on Friday, February 20th.

Ordering spirit wear is a great way to help raise money for our school and show your school pride! Remember, this is a one-time order only.

Thank you for your support!

## January Super Snippers: Mrs. Pearman's Class

Congratulations to Mrs. Pearman's class for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Super Snipper win this year. In January, this class collected 47 Tyson labels, 253 Box Tops, and 346 Labels for Education. Amazing job!!!!

**SCHOOL**Info  
Your school. Your connection. **APP**



## Get the School Info App

You can keep up with the latest news and information (including inclement weather and bus dismissals) right on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices through the Swift Creek Elementary SchoolInfoApp!

The Swift Creek Elementary SchoolInfoApp is free and can be found in the Apple App Store and on Google Play by searching for "School Info".

## Science Fair Winners

We had some very innovative and well-done projects at the Science Fair this year. Here are this year's winners:

Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
1 <sup>st</sup>	William Angell	Alexandra Miller & Rosie Ryan	Anna Bittner & Benjamin Barrangou
2 <sup>nd</sup>	James Brooks & Will Woodward	Georgia King, Alayna Arellano, & Rohan Vanga	Austin Deaton, Charlotte Holcombe, & Ania Pruchnik
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christopher Cartaino, Alexandra Bowman, and Nate Hagan	Deema Habib, Billia Onyangore, Belva Omwenga, & Bridget Omwenga	Thomas Goembel, Jake Ellis, & Carter Miller
Honorable Mention			CindyAnn Abudayeh, Mahasin Abdul-Hakim, Amina Del pilar seck Soudani and Essence Peebles

William Angell, James Brooks and Will Woodard were each named as **Best in Show projects** and selected to represent Swift Creek Elementary School in the 3A regional fair.

This year all participants received prizes that were generously donated by Ruckus Pizza, Chick-fil-a, Sweet Frog, Marbles Kids Museum, Jellybeans Skating, Moe's Southwest Grill and Red Robin.

We are working on some changes such as simpler forms to make next year's Science Fair even bigger and better, so stay tuned!

## Healthy Lifestyles

### Cooking with Kids Winner for January

Congratulations to our **Cooking With Kids** winner for January— Noah Rhodes! Noah hunted a deer on Christmas Day, and then later turned that deer into deer stew. On New Year's Day he and his dad prepared the deer stew, along with collard greens, corn bread, and pumpkin pies. What a great example of creating a meal from farm-to-fork. Way to go, Noah!

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 2/28/15 for the month of February to [realfooddoc@gmail.com](mailto:realfooddoc@gmail.com).

## Walking Wednesdays Is a Success!


Walking Wednesdays kicked off this week with great success! We had many students (and staff!) participate in walking around the track for the entire recess, eager to earn their "walking tokens." Students will earn one "walking token" for every 10 laps (2 miles) walked, as well as a chain to collect and hang the walking tokens on. Students will be able to see how many miles they walked throughout the year by counting their earned tokens, and the class that cumulatively walks the most laps will earn a coveted gold trophy. Help us help your kids get active, and send them in on Wednesdays with comfortable shoes as well as encouragement to participate!

### Chick-Fil-Night: February 19<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm

Take a break from the kitchen and come join us at the Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads for Swift Creek Elementary night. Show this flyer to have a portion of your sale (dine-in and drive through) go directly to Swift Creek. (The flyer can be on paper or on your phone! Check our Swift Creek Facebook page if you forget to bring your paper.)

Spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Marie Dexter at [mdexter@nc.rr.com](mailto:mdexter@nc.rr.com).



**Chick-fil-A**  
Crossroads Plaza

**SWIFT CREEK  
ELEMENTARY**

**FUNDRAISER**

**CHICK-FIL-A CROSSROADS PLAZA**  
1815 WALNUT ST. CARY NC 27518  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015  
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**By dining with us on Thursday, February 19, 2015,  
20% of your sale will be donated to Swift Creek  
Elementary. You must present a flyer to the  
cashier to receive credit for your order.**

**So bring this flyer in on paper or your phone  
between 5pm - 8pm to Chick-fil-A of  
Crossroads Plaza. Also, don't forget  
the cow and spinning wheel will be there!**

So dine in or drive thru---  
we just hope to see you there!

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Amount Spent

## Character Education Awards: Self-Discipline

In January, the PE, Art, and Music teachers recognized these classes for the character trait of Self-Discipline:

**Music** – Mrs. Barker's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class

**PE** – Mrs. Pearman's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class

**Art** – Mrs. D'Amelio's 4th grade class

Congratulations to these students for being recognized for the Self-Discipline Character Education award.

### Kindergarten

**Mrs. Harris**

Presley Smith  
Ava Langat  
Taylor Douglas

**Ms. Lipe**

Adam Brockelsby  
Nataly Herrera-Marcelo  
Annika Froberg

**Mrs. Haren**

Mariah Barker  
Anna Pavone  
Lucy Pavone

**Mrs. Robinson**

Destiny Gordon  
Gage Hess  
Emma Dewey

**Mrs. Tanner**

Cesia Sanchez Campos

### First Grade

**Mrs. Phillips**

Taniya Barker  
Sam D'Amelio  
Jeannie Drummond

**Ms. Zardas**

Gabriela Soto-Fernandez  
Maximilian Schmidt  
Aditi Vanga

**Ms. Cillian**

Lincoln Fountain  
Emma Grace Brady  
Jaeda Amato

**Mrs. Butler**

Fernanda Flores-Garcia  
Ethan Seese  
Max Olivera

### Second Grade

**Mrs. Ellis**

Susan McGraw  
Shania Murphy  
Kevin Nolan

**Mrs. Sedaghat**

Heidelyn Perez-Lopez  
Tatyanna Roland  
Ali Steward

**Ms. Koster**

Mailk Berry  
Jeannette Evans  
Donovan Montgomery

**Mrs. Bernstein**

Emerzon Argueta-Marquez  
Sylvie Stegmann  
Bryan Green  
Arissa Jones

### Third Grade

**Ms. Herrin**

Diego Mendez  
Walid Aitboulahri

**Ms. Smith**

Johnny Valadez-Lopez  
Waleed Haraish  
Javier Paz Uscangg

**Mrs. Barker**

Xavier Deloach  
Charlotte Holcombe  
Jacob Pickurel

**Ms. Wyrsh**

Evelyn Coyle  
Skylar Hodges  
Christian Sanchez  
Eyasu Tadesse

### Fourth Grade

**Ms. Beauchamp**

Chanyce McClain  
Jared Sloop  
NaDayzia Page-Draughon

**Mrs. D'Amelio**

Stephanie Cruz Benitez  
Emma Green  
Lucas Benson  
Luke Jackson

**Ms. Windsor**

Alvaro Villegas-Ornelas  
Hudson Myers  
Claire Hensley

**Mrs. Fallon**

Alex Miller  
Gianna Goss  
Deema Habib

### Fifth Grade

**Mr. Krauter**

Zion Lawrence  
Edgar Lopez-Benitez  
Michaela Terrell

**Mrs. Coles**

Camryn Huddle  
Grettel Perez Lopez  
Derek Tanner

**Mrs. Jackson**

Jonathan Brittain  
Auria Polefka  
Katherine Dean  
Loren Liu

**Mrs. Pearman**

Brady Bittner  
Will Woodard  
Lisey Pillay  
Eric Morgan

Character Education awards will be held the week of February 13<sup>th</sup> through February 20<sup>th</sup> and we will be celebrating integrity.