

January 14, 2020

# Swift Creek Current

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

<http://swiftcreek.wcpss.net>

919-233-4320

## Important Dates!

### Coffee and Conversation with Mr. Propst on Friday, Jan 24

**9:30am** Come bring your questions, feedback, and ideas. Our past conversations have been great and led to school events such as International Night. We'd love your input! Hope to see you there!

### Read to Achieve 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent meeting, Tuesday, Feb 11

**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.

### Literacy Curriculum Night, Tuesday, Feb 11 6:00pm

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.

### 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. For more information, contact Mrs. Burkhalter at [cburkhalter@wcpss.net](mailto:cburkhalter@wcpss.net).



## TONIGHT!

Join us starting at 6:30pm for our January PTA meeting followed by our Science Fair awards ceremony!

## In This Issue

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## Did You Know?

Every morning at Swift Creek, the students start their day with the ROAR pledge.

**Respect**  
**On the Path to Success**  
**Act Responsibility**  
**Remember Self Control**



## The Positivity Project: P2 Corner

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**Jan 5-11**  
**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.

**Jan 12-18**  
**Prudence**



### **What Does Prudence Mean?**

You plan for the future and achieve your goals by making careful everyday choices.

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

Prudence supports effective individual self-management. Whether aspiring for an athletic record, academic grade, or purchasing a car, foresight and planning are necessary. However, long-term goals – even with a plan – can only be obtained by overcoming those impulses and desires that steer you away from your goals.

On a group level, prudence is crucial – especially today, as shortsightedness has crept into many parts of life. Prudent individuals will produce a prudent society. And, as always, we need leaders who can think long-term and create the world we want our descendants to inherit.

**Jan 19-25**  
**Perseverance**



### **What Does Perseverance Mean?**

You complete what you start despite obstacles. You never give up.

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

For individuals, persistence can be directly connected to an individual's ability to be successful throughout their life. Those who persevere through setbacks often reap the benefits of the success gained by refusing to give up.

On a group level, perseverance can be contagious. A single group member's ability or willingness to persevere can have a substantial impact on those working with him/her and the team. Groups that show high levels of perseverance are able

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**Jan 26 – Feb 1**  
**Supporting Others When They Struggle**



to achieve goals they may not have believed possible. The results benefit both individuals and the group.

This is another aspect of the Other People Matter mindset.

**Feb 2 - 8**  
**Forgiveness**



**What Does Forgiveness Mean?**

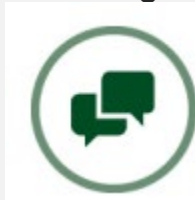
You forgive those who have done wrong. You accept that people make mistakes.

**Why Does It Matter?**

For individuals, forgiveness has benefits that range from increased health to developing positive relationships to coming to an understanding that no one is without fault.

The ability to reconcile differences and move forward positively is a trait of any effective group. When people work together, conflict is inevitable. However, when people value each other's contribution and believe in the group's goal, they become more capable of moving past conflict toward genuinely positive behavior.

**Feb 4-8**  
**Social Intelligence**



**What Does Social Intelligence Mean?**

You are aware of other people's thoughts and feelings. You understand why they do things.

**Why Does It Matter?**

Social intelligence helps individuals build relationships – and is important to numerous aspects of a person's life. It allows an individual to form friendships and alliances. And, it assists a person against being taken advantage of.

On a group level, social intelligence is what allows us to function as humans. We are social beings and rely on each other's cooperation. By understanding ourselves and other people, we can find ways to collaborate for mutual benefit.

## Post from PTA President

A very happy 2020 to all of you!

Learning how to express yourself in a healthy way can be a wonderful way to live an authentic, more fulfilling life. When our wonderful parents and families of our students express themselves, they make a big contribution to the strength and success of our PTA. Some of our newest activities of landscaping, recycling and advocacy, reflect your passions and commitment to our students and overall community. So, whether you serve on a committee, volunteer your time/resources, or simply commit to being a member each year, thank you!

Please feel free to contact me at [imbateamon@yahoo.com](mailto:imbateamon@yahoo.com) with any questions and suggestions or ways you wish to express yourself. Your input and involvement are always welcome!

Warmly, Tara M. Batemon, Swift Creek ES PTA President

## Girls On the Run Starts Feb 4

Girls on the Run will start February 4th and will be from 4:00-5:15 every Tuesday and Thursday after school. If your daughter is on the team this year, please have her wear tennis shoes to practice and bring a water bottle. If there are any questions about GOTR, please email Ms. Miller at [amiller5@wcpss.net](mailto:amiller5@wcpss.net). We look forward to having a great season!"

## Congratulations to Our Reflections Winners!

Congratulations to all our Reflections winners and participants! The theme for this year's contest was "Look Within".

### Winners were announced at the December PTA meeting:

1st place (tie): Mason Fernandez -- photography;  
Tanner Wohldmann Literature

2nd place: Hailey Williams Visual Arts

2nd runner up: Levi Boyd Literature

If you have questions, contact Reflections chair Carrie Fernandez at [cfernandez@wcpss.net](mailto:cfernandez@wcpss.net).

## Register Your Kindergartener!

Have an incoming kindergartener or know of a friend who does? Kindergarten registration is open. Registering NOW means that our school has a better idea of our student numbers for next year. So do it today!

For more information, see <https://www.wcpss.net/kindergarten>. Want a tour of our school with one of our principals? Call the front office at 919-233-4320.

## Wake County Schools Magnet Application Deadline is Jan 30

Are you interested in applying to a magnet school for the next school year? The deadline for applications is January 30.

For more information, see <https://magnet.wcpss.net/apply/>

## Thank You DJ Burkhalter!

Thank you to DJ Stephen Burkhalter for donating his time and energy to the Winter Glow Dance in December. You made our event spectacular! Both the kids and the volunteers enjoyed grooving to your tunes!



<https://www.facebook.com/DJStephenBurkh>

## Announcing Two New Recycling Programs

Swift Creek Parents and Staff, we are excited to announce the start of two recycling programs at Swift Creek.

Collection bins are 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 CAPS 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.

Thank YOU for helping us on our new recycling journey!



For more information about these programs for typically non-recyclable waste, and TerraCycle's reuse, upcycling, and recycling methods, please visit:

- <https://www.terracycle.com>
- <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/gogo-squeeztm-brigade>
- <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/subaru#@40.77027075200147:-95.93705549677736zoom:4>

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



**In our first week, we are already making a difference!**

**Here are our numbers for last week. We recycled:**

- 1 lb 8 oz of squeezable pouches (with lids)
- 1 lb 7 oz of foil-lined snack bags/wrappers

## Volunteer Opportunities – WE NEED YOU!!

There are many ways that you can get involved in the Creek. Any amount of time and energy is GREATLY appreciated! If you are interested in an event but have limited time, please talk to the committee chair about possible at home or other opportunities. Everyone has something to share!

### Watch DOGS!

The school year is flying along! However, there is still time to make an impact at Swift Creek and volunteer to be a Watch D.O.G for a day. It is a great way to contribute to your Cougar's community. It is also a great opportunity to make a memory with your student during recess, lunch, or working on fractions! Also, it can be a wonderful birthday or good behavior surprise.



Please feel free to email Sam Allen directly with any questions or to sign up for a day (or half day) 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 <http://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 for your participation!

### Donate to the January Teacher Cart

Hospitality Chair, Sarah Wohldmann, plans to visit the staff with the Teacher's Cart on January 31. She is looking for items for the cart.

You can donate at  
<https://tinyurl.com/scesCartJan20>

### Join the Book Fair Committee

Preparation for the Spring book fair is underway and the book fair Chairs would love volunteers to be part of the book fair committee. Please reach out to Heather Chapman at [wilsonreadingteacher@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonreadingteacher@gmail.com) and/or Kristen Sherman at [Kmartaz73@gmail.com](mailto:Kmartaz73@gmail.com). Thank you!

### Swift Creek Ball: Friday, Feb 7

Come one, come all to the Swift Creek Ball. Young ladies are invited to bring their special someone to this year's Swift Creek Ball. We need lots of volunteers to make the event a success – from planning to set up to food service & crafts to clean up. We need one and all. Teen volunteers who need service hours are welcome too!

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesBall20> or contact Marie Dexter at [mariec Dexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariec Dexter@gmail.com).

### International Night: Thurs, March 26

One of the best nights of the school year! Would you be interested in helping plan or participating in our annual International Night?

We are looking for families who are interested in sharing their cultures with us! If you can help, sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesInternational20> or contact Marie Dexter at [mariec Dexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariec Dexter@gmail.com). There are so many possible ways to contribute for this event. Every job is appreciated!



## Understanding Maintenance and Operations in Wake County Public Schools

In the November Board Advisory Council District 5 meeting, WCPSS Maintenance and Operations Senior Directory, Greg Clarke and Chief Financial Officer, David Neter, presented information about the maintenance and care of our school facilities.

Here are my takeaways (or OH WOW! moments) from the meeting.

- Maintenance and Operations care for EXISTING schools, repairing minor things such as light bulbs to large projects, such as HVAC system.
- WCPSS has 25 million square feet of facilities (equivalent to 12,500 homes) to care for with a budget of about \$100 million.

To understand the number of maintenance employees per school, Mr. Clarke presented the information in comparison to number of homes.

- There is 1 Facility Maintenance Tech for 174 homes.
  - 1 HVAC Tech for 1250 homes
  - 1 plumber for 2083 homes
  - 1 electrician for 1250 homes
- School administrators (K-12) met with Maintenance and Operations to develop the priority list, ranking the urgency of items such as graffiti removal, temperature adjustments, water leaks, and so on.
- On an average day, about 1000 work orders are submitted and approximately 450 work orders are completed.
- During the early 2000s when WCPSS was experiencing explosive growth, some of the maintenance budget was used to build new schools. As a result, some repairs were delayed and we are still playing catch up.
- The Maintenance and Operations needs \$25M over 5 years to improve response times.
- Challenges include recruiting and retaining qualified staff and skilled trade workers. The current vacancy rate is 25%. The salaries in the private sector can be three times as much as WCPSS can pay.

The next Board Advisory Council meeting for District 5 is Tuesday, Jan 28 at 9:30am at St Augustine's College. If you are interested in attending or have questions about these notes, please contact our school representative Marie Dexter at [mariecarter@gmail.com](mailto:mariecarter@gmail.com).

## 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).

## Our January Calendar

- **Jan 12-18:** P2 Prudence
- **Wednesday, Jan 15 6:00:** Dillard Drive Middle School Open House
- **Thursday, Jan 17 10-11am:** Attend this 1-hour info session to learn about Wake County's K-12 magnet, early college programs, year-round schools, and the application process. Location is [Crossroads I, 5625 Dillard Drive, Cary, NC 27518](#)
- **Monday, Jan 20:** Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday. No school.
- **Jan 19-25:** P2 Perseverance
- **Friday, Jan 24:**
  - 9:30am Coffee and Conversation with Mr. Propst in the media center
  - 10:00am and 1:45pm: Tours at Dillard Drive Middle School
  - Nominations for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for AIG are due. Send your nominations to Mrs. Krutsch at [skrutsch@wcpss.net](mailto:skrutsch@wcpss.net).
- **Jan 26-Feb 1:** P2 Supporting Others When They Struggle
- **Tuesday, Jan 28:** District 5 Board Advisory Council Meeting at Vernon Malone College and Career Academy. One of the subjects at this meeting will be Social and Emotional Learning in Wake County Public Schools. For more information, contact Swift Creek's BAC representative, Marie Dexter at [mariedexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariedexter@gmail.com).
- **Wednesday, Jan 30:** Deadline for applying to a magnet or year-round school. More information at <https://magnet.wcpss.net/apply/>
- **Friday, Jan 31:** Box Top Collection day! Turn in your Box Tops and Coke bottle tops to your child's teacher.

### Nominations for Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program Due Jan 24

If you are interested in nominating your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader for AIG, nominations are due by Jan 24. Send your nomination to Mrs. Krutsch at [skrutsch@wcpss.net](mailto:skrutsch@wcpss.net).

## Your February Calendar

- **Feb 2-8:** Forgiveness
- **Tuesday, Feb 4 4:00:** Girls on the Run begins. If you have questions, contact Ms. Miller at [amiller5@wcpss.net](mailto:amiller5@wcpss.net).
- **Friday, Feb 7:** Swift Creek Ball for the young ladies of the Creek! To RSVP, see the invite in your Tuesday folder or contact Marie Dexter at [mariedexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariedexter@gmail.com).
- **Feb 9-15:** P2 Love
- **Monday, Feb 10:** School Cultural Arts performance: Number Drummer
- **Tuesday, Feb 11 6:30pm:** PTA meeting and ELA Curriculum night
- **Feb 16 - 22:** P2 Wild Card / Make Up Week
- **Feb 23-Feb 29:** P2 Enthusiasm
- **Wednesday, Feb 26**
  - Celebration of Brilliance
  - 4:30-5:30pm: Swift Creek Basketball game
- **Thursday, Feb 27 5:30-7:00pm:** Family Academy Night: Developing Academy Vocabulary at Home with Hands-On Activities. Child care will be provided. For more information, contact Mrs. Burkhalter at [cburkhalter@wcpss.net](mailto:cburkhalter@wcpss.net).