

January 24, 2017



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 – Mr. Propst

Hello, Cougar Families! I hope you are enjoying the winter (I absolutely love it!). Our recent storm certainly hindered getting back in the school routine after the holidays, but I've been very proud of our students ROARING like the great Cougars I know them to be this month.

Please welcome our new media specialist, Stephanie Wils, to Swift Creek. Mrs. Wils is a recent UNCG grad (Go Spartans!) and is very excited to make our media center a hub of learning at Swift Creek. I'm sure you will give her the same warm welcome to the family that you extended to me.

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students are beginning a new online learning program this month called iReady. What is so great about iReady is that it combines benchmark assessment, on-going progress monitoring, individualized instruction, and teaching resources all in one program. Also, you will be able to work with your child at home online using prescribed, highly interactive, and engaging lessons that address your child's specific strengths and areas for growth. Very soon, you will receive a letter providing more details about the program along with your child's username and password for home use.

In the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to talk with several of you who are passionate about Swift Creek Elementary. Our future here is bright, and with your help we will be achieve great things. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and concerns. Thank you all!

Music Notes from Ms. Sutton

- The music website can be found on the school's homepage or <http://tinyurl.com/swiftcreekmusic>. This site contains music announcements, updates, and more.
- Chorus parents, sign up for the Remind App to receive updates about chorus.
- 2nd Grade Performance is scheduled for Feb. 7th following the PTA meeting. Be on the lookout for more information

Make Up Days for January Snow

Because we missed three days of school for the recent snow, these Teacher Workdays are now regular school days.

- Jan 27
- Feb 20
- March 31

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Meet Our Newest Staff Members

Mrs. Gia Hoke, Assistant Principal

Gia Sibert-Hoke graduated from North Carolina A & T State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. She received her teaching certification from North Carolina Central University and her Masters in School Administration at North Carolina State University. She has experience in teaching both elementary and middle school. She has been an Assistant Principal at Apex Middle School before moving to Swift Creek Elementary School. She enjoys traveling, reading and most of all spending time with her family. She is thrilled to be a part of the Swift Creek family and has settled in well with all. She is looking forward to the positive changes that she and Mr. Propst will implement together in the upcoming years.



Mrs. Stephanie Wils, Media Specialist

My name is Stephanie Wils, and I'm the new media specialist here at Swift Creek! I am so excited to be working at the school and everyone has been so welcoming. I grew up on the beach in Morehead City, I attended East Carolina University for an undergrad in English literature, and UNC Greensboro for my Master in Library Science and Information Studies. I graduated this past December and this is my first school library job. I am married to Jimmy, who is an ABD Doctoral candidate at NC State in public history. We have six-year-old identical twin girls who currently attend first grade at Green Magnet Elementary here in Raleigh. I love books, though I can't say I always have, but I was influenced by amazing teachers and librarians who have helped shaped me into the educator that I hope to be for our children. I am a huge Carolina Hurricanes fan, and love swimming and playing with my girls. I'm so excited to be here and to meet you all!

Cultural Arts Performances

Billy Jonas was at Swift Creek on Thursday, January 12 providing an engaging and energetic workshop for all second grade classes. Each second grade class spent a session with him exploring how to creatively make sound with recycled objects. Students put their knowledge of sound to the test as they combined various materials to create musical instruments which they used to drum, shake, and move to make different rhythms and beats. It was a wonderful, creative opportunity to explore science and art!

Our next Cultural Arts event will be on Wednesday, February 8 as the Moscow Nights and Golden Gates dancers come to provide a school wide performance featuring Russian music and dance!

These performances are brought to you by the United Arts Council and the Swift Creek PTA. You help pay for these opportunities when you donate money to the Swift Creek Fun Run or other fundraising events sponsored by the PTA. So thank you! We hope your children have enjoyed the performances this year.

A special thanks to April Bartley, the Cultural Arts committee chair, for organizing these glorious events. April does an outstanding job of listening to teacher and parent feedback about what they'd like to see at our school.

She carefully chooses the performances based on this feedback. Our incredible events this year have been all because of her dedication and passion for the arts.

Thank You!

Wake County School Board Advisory Council (District 5) – January 17, 2017

The second District 5 BAC meeting of 2016-2017 was held Tuesday, January 17th at West Lake Elementary School.

The meeting centered on Dr. James Martin, the Board of Education member, responding to questions posed at the previous BAC Meeting. Below is a summary of items discussed:

- **Reassignment** – District 5 should not experience much reassignment in the next few years with the exception of students in the downtown Raleigh area due to area's emphasis on re-development.
- **Strategic Plan** - The Board will modify the county's strategic plan and the upcoming board retreat.
- **Standardized Testing** – Wake County is in the process of reducing the quantity of standardized tests that are not state or federally required.
- **Response to HB2** – The County will focus on student safety and anticipates updating the student code of conduct.
- **Busing** – Most busing in Wake County addresses growth issues. The county spends approximately \$60 Million annually on busing.
- **School Bonds** – There could be a school bond in 2018

The remaining portion of the meeting was dedicated to discussion surrounding the budgeting process. The next District 5 Board Advisory Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7th at AB Combs Elementary at 9 am. The last meeting for this school year will be Tuesday, May 2nd at Washington Elementary.

On a side note, this is the third year Emily McGraw has served as Swift Creek's representative to the Advisory Council and by rules cannot serve a fourth consecutive year. Please contact Emily McGraw (emcgraw@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or may be interested in representing Swift Creek in this capacity for 2017-2018.

And the Spirit Award Goes To . . .

Congratulations to Mrs. Beauchamp's class, who won the January Spirit award. Their class wore the most purple and school spirit wear on January 6. Great job 4th graders. We will have several more spirit days in 2017: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2! Look for the reminders.

Proctors Needed

Mrs. Burkhalter needs proctors for ACCESS testing. There is a short training session on Jan 26. However, if you cannot attend, contact her to make other arrangements. A variety of days and times are available, and the time slots are about 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours.

Please sign up today! <http://tinyurl.com/sces-testing>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Happy New Year, Swift Creek Parents!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful, relaxing break with good friends and family. I'd like to remind everyone of the various volunteer opportunities here at The Creek. Listed below are areas where your time/talent would be greatly appreciated:

- **Cougar Counter** - The Cougar Counter sells fun pencils, erasers, pens, and more. Help is needed on Tuesday mornings between 8:30 – 9:15.
- **Copy Room** - Teachers and TAs spend a lot of time at the copy machine. You can help ease their load by spending as little as 30 minutes a week photocopying! Help is needed on Mondays and Fridays.
- **Book Fair** – Our Spring Book Fair will be here before we know it, and extra hands are always valuable. Assistance is needed with setup, helping the students when they come to preview and/or purchase, and take down.
- **Hospitality** – The Hospitality Committee hosts several events throughout the school year to support our teachers by sponsoring luncheons on early release days, and celebrating staff appreciation weeks (such as teacher appreciation week, bus driver week, office admin staff week, and so on).
- **Spring Fling** – This day comes later in the school year and help is needed to run some of the events on the field, water and break stations, etc.

Remember, most of these areas require that you be a WCPSS registered volunteer. Please contact the school if you need to register. If you have an interest in any of these opportunities, or would like to be added to the master volunteer list, please contact me at:

Email: dmragsdale@yahoo.com

Call/Text: 919-817-4112

Thank you and have a wonderful rest of the year!

Delores Ragsdale
SCE PTA Treasurer
Volunteer Coordinator

Upcoming Early Release Luncheon on February 10

Jason's Deli catered the early release luncheon for the teachers and staff on 1/20. A thank you to Jason's Deli for giving us a discount. The next early release day is February 10, where we will provide snacks. Be on the lookout soon for a sign up genius email.

Attention: Anyone with a Green Thumb!!

The Healthy Lifestyle Committee needs your help to start our grade level gardens. Please email Nehal Outlaw at nehaloutlaw@gmail.com and we can discuss plans. Thank you!!



Science Fair Winners and Participants

What an amazing science fair we had on January 12, 2017. We are so proud of all our participants and winners! Thank you to Jen Miller and Chris Miller for organizing the Science Fair this year! They did an amazing job organizing entries, getting judges, and soliciting prizes. We had a record turnout at this year's fair because of their hard work and persistence.

5th Grade

1 st place	You've Been Slimed Measuring pH Levels with Cabbage Juice	Anas Goubar Badr Yassin
2 nd place	The secret behind "explosions"	Israe Baqacem
3 rd place	Can something be liquid and solid?	Tori Butler

4th Grade

Best in Show/ 1 st place	Brissel Bot races of 2017 The Smell of Fear	Alex Douglas, Matthew Fernandez August Langerhans
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***These Best in Show projects will be entered in the Wake County Science Fair on February 11.

1 st place	Color and types of flowers Feed the Bin	Samantha Ogilvie Ava Sheppard, Meredith Myers
2 nd place	Magic Tree Cookies: Now or Later? How fast different crystals grow	Andrea Flores-Garcia Susan McGraw Alexis Mayhew
3 rd place	Elephant toothpaste Magnet Masters Rocks Freeze Frozen Through the Looking Glass Fire Tornadoes	Malik Berry Will Hofheimer, Liam O'Grady, Tyrus Horton Chay Smith Zoe Pacio Palmer Smith, Brayden Adams

3rd Grade

Best in Show/ 1 st place	Secrets of the Dead Sea	Fillip Funak
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***Although this project won Best in Show, it was in the demonstration category, which is not eligible for the county science fair.

1 st place	What is the Purrfect Toy? Extraction of DNA from Strawberries Breaking the Force of Magnetism Growing Lentils Using Different Liquids	Sophia Dexter Ryan Ashrafi Samantha Miller, Colt Jackson, Jillian Vaughn Jawa Yassin
2 nd place	Drew's Eggsperiment How Does a Volcano Work? No Helium Needed to Fill Balloons Sweet Experiment Vinegar and Baking Soda Rocket	Drew Worthy Hannah Moran-Morales, Audrey Smith Fernanda Flores Milan Outlaw Max Oliveria

Prizes were generously donated by:

Ruckus Pizza
Jellybeans Skating
Moe's Southwest Grill

Championship Martial Arts
Bruster's Ice Cream
Polar Ice House

Mission Valley Cinemas
Jumpstreet Indoor Trampoline Park
Durham Bulls

It's Baaaaccck! Another Chance to Order Your Child's Artwork!

This fall the PTA teamed with Mrs. Schwartz to bring the Original Works program to Swift Creek. With this program, you could order a piece of your child's artwork on items such as tote bags, magnets, notepads, and so much more! We will be doing this program again in the spring. During art class, Mrs. Schwartz will work with our students to create a unique piece. When the art is finished, the art and an order form will be sent home in Tuesday folders. You just pick the items that you want, return the order form, artwork, and payment, and we'll handle the rest. More information will be coming soon, so stay tuned!

In Case You Missed It . . . Congratulations to Our Reflections Winners and Participants

Congratulations to participants and winners in Swift Creek Elementary School's Reflections art competition!

Literature:

1st place: Ava Sheppard
2nd place: Susan McGraw
3rd place: Tatyanna Roland

Visual Arts:

1st place: Zoe Pacio
2nd place: Reid Veum
3rd place: David Morillo

Honorable Mention:

Austin Deaton
Samantha Deaton
Sophia Dexter
Phillip Funak
Devon Kress
Miguel Morillo
Kevin Nolan
Jordan Pegus
Emelin Rodriguez Ventura

Special
CONGRATULATIONS to
Christian Powell, who
earned 3rd place at the
Wake County level of
competition in the Visual
Arts category!

Thank you, Julie Nolan, who was this year's Reflections chair. Because of her work, the PTA was able to bring this wonderful program to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. It was incredible to see all the projects that the students created and to celebrate our love of the arts!



PTA REFLECTIONS

Your January Calendar

- ❑ **January 25 6:30-8:00pm:** Open House at Dillard Drive Middle School
- ❑ **January 27:** Regular School Day! Make up for the January snow.
- ❑ **January 31:** Deadline for applying to a magnet school in Wake County. For more information, see www.wcpss.net/parents/student-assignment.

Your February Calendar

- ❑ **February 3:** School Spirit Day! Support your school and wear as much purple as you can. The winning class gets to keep Swiftly the Cougar for the month!
- ❑ **February 7:** PTA meeting followed by 2nd grade performance
- ❑ **February 8:** School performance by the Moscow Nights, a Russian dance troupe!
- ❑ **February 10 1:15pm:** Early Release! School dismisses at 1:15pm
- ❑ **February 20:** Regular School Day! Make up from the January snow.
- ❑ **February 22 – 28:** Application period for transfers to another school (besides your base). For more information, see www.wcpss.net/parents/student-assignment.
- ❑ **February 23 5-9pm:** Swift Creek Night at Jumpstreet Trampoline Bounce Park. Come bounce with your friends. \$2 from every admission ticket goes to Swift Creek. See the flyer in your Tuesday folder for more details.

Your March Calendar

- ❑ **March 3:** School Spirit Day! Support your school and wear as much purple as you can. The winning class gets to keep Swiftly the Cougar for the month!
- ❑ **March 14 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center
- ❑ **March 20-24:** Spring Book Fair! Be prepared to camp out with a good book!
- ❑ **March 31:** Regular School Day! Make up day from the January snow.

Jump Rope for the Heart is Coming to Swift Creek!

Next week your child will bring home information from the American Heart Association about Jump Rope for Heart. This is a great opportunity to give back to our community and combat the nation's number one killer, heart disease. The goal of Jump Rope for Heart is to increase student knowledge of how their heart works and the best way to take care of it. They will be learning jump rope skills and ways to view physical activity as a fun and healthy choice. Swift Creek will honor those in our community who have been affected by heart disease and stroke and raise funds for the American Heart Association's effort to build healthier lives.

For more information, contact Ms. Graves (our PE teacher) at sgraves@wcpss.net.

BASKETBALL CLUB

Some of our 5th grade students are participating in the basketball club! They will be competing against 5 other elementary schools. Our goal is to build community and friendships with other schools through a positive experience and team environment.

Our game schedule is below! Let's cheer on and support our Cougars!

Wednesday Jan. 25th - HOME vs. Dillard Drive Elementary 5:00-6:30 PM
 Wednesday Feb. 15th - HOME vs. Dillard Drive Middle (6th grade) 5:00 PM
 Wednesday Feb. 22nd - HOME vs. Creech Road 5:30 PM
 Wednesday March 1st - AWAY @ Barwell Elementary 5:00 PM
 Wednesday March 8th - HOME vs. Walnut Creek 5:00 PM