

June 5, 2018

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

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredible support of Swift Creek during this school year. Parents, staff members, and community volunteers have invested in the lives of our children this year in ways that are seen and behind the scenes. You have created dynamic, engaging learning opportunities for students that they otherwise would not have; such as Odyssey of the Mind, Drama Club, Mural Club, Girls on the Run, and chorus. You've shown up for family nights, PTA meetings, special events throughout the day, and to be WatchDOGS. Together we celebrated this proud school's 85 year history and our international culture. Thank you for making Swift Creek great!

If you are leaving us after this year, I wish you all the best. Never forget the roots of your child's education right here at Swift Creek. You will always be a part of our tradition and culture.

If you are returning next year, I can't wait to welcome you back in August! The 2018-2019 school year will be off the charts in academic growth and success for our students. We are already planning many exciting activities and programs that will enhance your child's educational experience. One change you will see over the summer is that instead of a letter from your child's new teacher, you will all be receiving a letter from me with pertinent information about the start of school. At least one week before school begins, we will post class lists on the front glass doors, with students listed by first name, last initial.

Our staff recently crafted a new vision statement for Swift Creek: "Students at Swift Creek will be productive college and career ready citizens, equipped to succeed in our ever-changing world." This vision is our hope for each boy and girl who attends Swift Creek; and this vision will drive us to provide the excellent educational experience your child deserves.

Have a beautiful, fun, and restful summer.

Darrell Propst, Principal



DUE TODAY!!!

Remember to send in your library books! Contact Mrs. Wils at swils@wcpss.net if you have questions or can't find a book.

4th graders: Turn in your recorders by Wednesday, June 6! If you have questions, contact Ms. Sutton at jsutton3@wcpss.net.

Fifth Grade Graduation is Thursday!

- 9:30 ceremony in gym
- 10:30 High Fives and Good Fives celebration on the field
- 2:00 Talent Show

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Tips from your School Psychologist

Kristen Lewis

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SUMMER READING TIPS FOR PARENTS:

FROM READING ROCKETS.ORG:

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read will gain skills. Parents should remember that children need free time in the summer to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. Summer reading should be fun. Following are a few tips to make reading enjoyable for your children this summer:

1. Read aloud together with your child every day.

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, point out the relationship between words and sounds.

2. Set a good example!

Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.

3. Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

This is the way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.

4. Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction.

It will only discourage the reading habit.

5. Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability.

Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

6. Take your children to the library regularly.

Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

7. Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Highlights for Children*, or *National Geographic World*.

Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

8. Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals.

Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email is another option.

9. Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices.

Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

10. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.

Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

Remember the public libraries have wonderful reading programs and incentives for reading books. Happy reading and happy summer! 😊

Wow! Look What We Did This Year!

At Swift Creek, parent and community involvement is a HUGE contributor to student success. Together, with our staff and community volunteers, we've accomplished so much this year!

We should be proud of what we've achieved. Because of YOUR hard work and contributions, the NC PTA recognized us as a DISTINGUISHED PTA for 2017-18.

Here are some of the events and activities that your PTA sponsored or hosted:

- New this year: Purchased 1 xylophone, 2 stands, and glockenspiel for music room
- New this year: Technology purchases: 6 ipads and 6 ChromeBooks
- Fun Run: new online donation process; Exceeded fundraising goal and raised \$21,000!
- Cultural Arts
 - New this year: Donna Washington, storyteller
 - New this year: African American Dance Ensemble
 - Michael Beadle, writer in residence for 4th grade
 - Billy Jonas, sound workshop for 2 nd grade
- New this year: 85th anniversary party
- 2 Book Fairs
- Reflections
- New this year: School Garden!!! We received a \$250 Healthy Schools grant from NCPTA
- New this year: STEM Night – We had 10 different experiments on Family Night at the Fall Book Fair. And it was a big HIT!
- Science Fair – great participation. August Langerhans went on to win 1st place at State!
- New this year: International Night – Another success! We learned so much about the diversity at the Creek!
- New this year: Watch DOGS – This program was introduced to Swift Creek by Mr. Propst and run by parent, Dr. David Outlaw. It was such a pleasure to have so many Dads in our school!
- Cougar Counter – Each child had the opportunity to purchase something from the counter this year.
- Student clubs
 - Cougar Chorus. Thanks to Ms. Sutton our students went on to sign in front of the Board of Education and the governor! We were the only K-12 school in the state selected to participate in March Music Month.
 - Safety Patrol
 - Drama Club – 2 successful performances of Go West by our 4th and 5th grade drama club and the Cougar Chorus
 - New this year: 2 Odyssey of the Mind teams: Placed 4th and 6th in their divisions at regional competition
- New this year: Father / Daughter Dance
- Muffins with Mom
- Donuts with Dad
- Field Day
- Yearbook

- Monthly Newsletter: Swift Creek Current
- 5th grade graduation and celebrations
- New this year: Family Picnic on June 7
- Painless Fundraising money (Box tops, VIC cards, Coke bottle tops) to purchase Reading A-Z software for K-2
- Hospitality: Teacher Breakfast at the beginning of the year, Celebrate staff birthdays, Early Release Luncheons, Staff Appreciation Weeks, Teacher Appreciation Week
- Kindergarten Open House
- Meet the Teacher
- New this year: Advocacy: Keeping parents informed about the Class Size mandate for grades K-3. We kept parents informed through flyers and information at membership meetings. We also created a position statement that was approved by the general membership and sent this statement to our state representatives.
- Family Fun Nights: McTeacher's Night (\$600), Chick-Fil-A Night (\$800), New this year: Goldfish Swim School (\$235)

PTA Officers for 2018-19

Thank you to everyone who attended the May PTA meeting. We elected the following officers for next school year.

- President – Marie Dexter
- Vice President 1 – Tara Batemon
- Vice President 2 – Deborah Killion
- Treasurer – Delores Ragsdale
- Secretary – April Bartley


Thank you to Pam Myers (Treasurer) and Kim Partin (Vice President 1) who served this year!

Also, the PTA recognized Kim Partin as our 2017-18 Volunteer of the Year. Kim has been an integral part of Swift Creek for over 10 years. She has contributed in to many ways both big (Fun Run, International Night, the School Garden, Drama Club, serving as a PTA officer) and small (providing butterflies for 2nd grade). She has taught so many of us the importance of giving back to our community and been a mentor for so many. Thank you, Kim, for your dedication to the Creek. In fact, she's so dedicated you might see her around again next year helping with our new garden!

Thank you to Our Proctors!

Thank you to all of our WONDERFUL parents and community members for volunteering to proctor our EOG tests!! All of our testing days ran smoothly and our students worked extremely hard. We truly could not have done it without your help and support. I wish you all the best this summer! Thank you again! Best, Amanda Nichols

June Calendar

Date and Time	Event
June 7 	5th Grade Graduation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 Graduation ceremony in the gym • After the ceremony, we will have High Fives and Good Vibes on the field behind the school. Parents, Families, Friends, and Staff are welcome to

	<p>join us! Help us celebrate each student's accomplishments and to wish him/her well in middle school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00 5th Grade Talent Show in the gym. This event will be attended by the entire school. Parents and family members are welcome as well. • 5:00-7:00pm: Swift Creek Family Picnic on the field behind the school. <p>All families are welcome. (This picnic is not part of the 5th grade graduation celebration.) We have turkey and ham sandwiches, chips, and popsicles, while supplies last. Music will be provided by DJ Burkhalter. If you have questions, contact Marie Dexter at mariecarter@gmail.com.</p>
June 8	Last Day of School and Field Day! Deadline for ordering School Supply Kit online.

August Calendar

Date and Time	Event
Mid-August	Teacher and Class assignments will be posted on the front doors of the school building. No letters will be sent my mail. You must stop by the school to see your assignment.
August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-6 Meet the Teacher • 6:00 Popsicles on the Playground for new kindergarteners
August 27	First Day of School!

Join us for Camp Invention: June 18-22

Camp Invention is one week in the summer where your child's creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills are challenged and developed in fun and exciting ways. For more information, contact Camp Director Monica Coles (mcoles@wcpss.net) or Camp Parent Marie Dexter (mariecarter@gmail.com).

Register at campinvention.org. **Two Siblings Discount:** \$25 off each child promo code SIBLING

We are currently collecting these items for camp: Boxes (shoe, cereal), bubble wrap, paper towel tubes • Containers/lids (oatmeal containers, film canisters) • Craft supplies • Foam trays, rubber bands, CDs • Magazines, newspapers, etc. • If you have anything to donate, send it to school labelled "Camp Invention." Thanks!