

March 13, 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

The End of Grade (EOG) tests are state-mandated for third, fourth, and fifth graders. Please note the testing dates below.

It is important that we test 100% of our students. Please refrain from scheduling doctor appointments, vacations, and anything else that would **not** allow the student to be in attendance at school on these days. Our goal is to minimize the need for makeup testing sessions as these sessions do not create the best test environment for students, pull staff from their regular assignments, and interrupt the flow of the school day.

Also, testing environments cannot be disrupted, so early pickups are not permitted until after 2:00 PM.

We appreciate your support in helping us to maintain smooth sailing as we comply with the testing requirements.

End of Grade Testing Dates:

- Tuesday, May 29th: ELA (Grade 3) and Science (Coles: Grade 5)
- Wednesday, May 30th: Math (Grade 3) and Science (Krauter: Grade 5)
- Thursday, May 31st: Science (Boyd: Grade 5)
- Friday, June 1st: Math (Grade 4) and ELA (Grade 5)
- Monday, June 4th: ELA (Grade 4) and Math (Grade 5)

We also need testing proctors. To help, sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/EOGatSwift>.

April 1: Let Your Voice Be Heard! Lookout for Wake County Survey

Wake County is reaching out to families to get input on how we can develop a stronger partnership for student achievement.



What a Week!

- **Tonight, March 13 6:30pm**
PTA meeting followed by 5th grade drama performance in the gym
- **Wednesday, March 14 5:00 pm** – Last Basketball Game of the season again Creech Road (at Creech Road Elementary)
- **Saturday, March 17 8am** – Join Team Swift Creek as we participate in the Garden Gallop to support the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

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Around April 1, you will be receiving an email from Panorama Education. Please respond to this survey as soon as possible.

The survey will cover these areas:

- How involved are you in your child's school? What challenges prevent you from becoming more involved?
- Is academic support available for your child outside of school?
- What do you think of the social and learning environment at your child's school?



P2 (The Positivity Project) Corner

During March, students will be learning about these character strengths.

Mar 11- 17	 <p>Zest/Enthusiasm You approach life with excitement and energy. You energize people around you.</p>
Mar 18-24	 <p>Forgiveness You forgive those who have done wrong. You accept that people make mistakes.</p>
March 25-31	 <p>Humor You like to laugh and bring smiles to other people.</p>

Join Team Swift Creek in the Garden Gallop 5K

The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle is helping Swift Creek design and create our new school gardens, which we will start building in April. (Keep an eye out for a build date. If you have questions, contact Nehal Outlaw at nehaloutlaw@gmail.com.)

This year the Food Shuttle Garden Gallop 5K will benefit our Growing School Gardens program, which supports high need schools in Wake and Durham counties as they grow school gardens, food access and healthy school communities while working incorporate garden based learning into the school day.

Through our Growing School Gardens program, children at partner schools (like Swift Creek!) have access to gardening and basic food prep instruction during the school day and after school enrichment programs that get them excited about agriculture, eating healthy, and growing fresh produce. By integrating the urban agriculture programming into school communities, the Food Shuttle can impact hundreds of children at once (not to mention parents, teachers and administration) as they work with school staff to strengthen the self-sufficiency skills of students, increase their consumption of fresh produce, and help improve food literacy.

Please join us on **March 17th at 8am** at the the Food Shuttle headquarters in Dorthea Dix Park for the race and help us spread the word through email and social media! This is a family friendly event - please feel free to bring your kids!

To participate as part of Team Swift Creek, register at: <https://app.racereach.com/event/food-shuttle-garden-gallop-5k-run-walk/>

Yearbooks are Now on Sale!

Spring is coming and the end of the school year will be here before you know it! Yearbooks are on sale now for \$12! To help keep our yearbook costs low, we also need page sponsors! You can sponsor a page for \$10. Want to be a business sponsor? You can do that too! All forms are available from the PTA website: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/>

Father Daughter Dance: Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

Our Father Daughter Dance on February 16 was a HUGE success! It wouldn't have been possible without help from so many parent volunteers and these business sponsors:

Thank you to DJ Burkhalter for rocking the night away! No party can be a success without a good DJ. For more information, see their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/DJStephenBurkhalter/) at <https://www.facebook.com/DJStephenBurkhalter/>.



Thank you to Bruegger's Bagels and Jimmy Johns for their donations of food.



5th Grade News!

5th grade parents, **remember to submit your student dedications as soon as possible.** For the forms, see the PTA website: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/>.

If you have questions, contact Kristy Pickurel at kristypickurel@gmail.com.

5th Grade Parents: **Are you interested in helping coordinate or contribute to the end-of-year celebration?** Please contact Carrie Fernandez via email if you have ideas to share or contributions to make to this year's celebration. cfernandez@wcpss.net

What is a legacy project? It's a way in which current 5th grade students can leave something behind for future generations of Swift Creek students, a way to mark their legacy, so-to-speak. If you're interested in helping make this a tradition at Swift Creek and would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact Carrie Fernandez via email if you have ideas to share or contributions to make to this year's 5th Grade Legacy Project Committee. cfernandez@wcpss.net

Happy Music In Our Schools Month!

Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM) is a national celebration that encourages students, families, teachers and communities to focus on music education within schools. This is a special year for MIOSM in NC because on March 1st, Governor Cooper proclaimed our state's first official Music In Our Schools month.

This past Thursday, the Swift Creek Chorus performed for State Superintendent Mark Johnson and the NC Department of Public Instruction staff. This was a huge honor for our students as we were the only **K-12 school** selected to perform during the MIOSM celebration. Well done Swift Creek!!!



Tips from your School Psychologist

Kristen Lewis at Klewis2@wcpss.net



"Luck occurs when preparedness meets opportunity"



As St. Patrick's Day approaches, shamrocks, rainbows, pots of gold, and luck are in the air! What is luck? We often use phrases like, "Good luck!" "The best of luck to you!" "Now, that's some bad luck!" "Oh you're so lucky!" Luck occurs when preparedness meets opportunity. This quote is attributed to a Roman philosopher, but has been used widely by others. As our children progress through life, let's work to teach them that their luck is much within their control and that the more prepared to embrace opportunity, the luckier they will be! In a post by a school psychologist and blogger, Dr. Kate Roberts, she suggested the following ways that we can help our children to receive an opportunity once it is prepared:

Teach your children it is okay to take risks

- Your kids will encounter new opportunities when they believe in themselves.
Be open minded

- When your kids are open to new experiences and thinking in different ways, they might “stumble” across a new opportunity.

Maintain a positive outlook

- Teach your kids to try new things as they might find “luck” with a skill they didn’t know they had.

Ask for help

- It can be intimidating for kids (and adults!) to ask for help, but the willingness to be honest and open with others may provide your child with more opportunities to learn.

Be brave enough to fail

- Failure is okay and actually important for children to experience. After all, life isn’t always rainbows with pots of gold! Teaching them resilience in the face of failure is key.

Know when to quit something

- Teaching kids it is okay to move on to the next opportunity in life is helpful at times. It’s important to remain challenged and not feel “stuck.”

Content from: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-kate-roberts/7-ways-kids-can-make-their-own-luck-on-st-paddys-day_b_4976028.html

Congratulations to Our Odyssey of the Mind Teams

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. Participants build self-confidence, develop life skills, create new friendships, and are able to recognize and explore their true potential. OotM proves that students can have fun while they learn.

This year for the first time, Swift Creek participated in the regional competition. Our two teams placed 4th and 6th, which is awesome for first year teams. Congratulations to these Swifties and their coaches.

Thank you to Mrs. Krustch for bringing this program to our school! We look forward to more teams next year!

Also thank you to Mrs. Sedaghat and Ms. Beauchamp for being judges, which made it possible for the teams to complete at the regional competition.



Mockumentary Team (4th place)

Elijah Alston
 Laura Capps
 Alex Douglas
 Matthew Fernandez
 Meredith Myers
 Ava Sheppard
 Reid Veum
 Coaches: Kim Partin, Annie Veum, Mrs. Krutsch

Stellar Hangout Team (6th place)

Eliana Betz
 Samantha Deaton
 Sophia Dexter
 Phillip Funak
 Alexis Mayhew
 Katie Ragsdale
 Palmer Smith
 Coaches: Marie Dexter, Mrs. Krutsch

Have you heard of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library?

Please consider taking advantage of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library! This program is free for children from birth until five years of age. While this may not be something current Swift Creek Cougars can take advantage of, younger siblings may be able to benefit from this FREE program!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program that mails out children a free book each month from birth up until 5 years old. These are high-quality books that are chosen by experts in the education and writing field and are based on the child's age. This program's mission is to foster a love of learning in children, making the experience fun and meaningful. The free books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library strive to showcase diversity, help build self-confidence, and show the importance of the arts and its impacts on the world.

Visit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and click **Register My Child** at the top of the page. Choose your country and go through the registration process to sign your child up. If you can register online in your area, you'll be taken to a form that you can submit asking for your mailing address and information about your child.

Reader's Corner

Do you know what your child is reading? Next time your child finishes a book or you finish reading a book together, help your child answer these questions to improve reading comprehension.

- Who was the main character of the story?
- Where did the story take place?
- What happened in the story?
- What in the story is similar to your life? What is different?



Fit for Life! News from Ms. Graves

Jump Rope for Heart Total

During Jump Rope for Heart, we raised \$5,041.08!!!! Great job Cougars, amazing work!



March Fitness Challenge Calendars

Keep working hard at home :) We will start adding these to PE classes this week so if you are confused on an exercise Ms. Graves can help!



Active Kids at Play = Happy Healthy Kids

Did you misplace your form? It is available from <http://tinyurl.com/scesFit>.

March is National Nutrition Month!

For the week of March 19th-23rd, we will have a grade level challenge on which class can bring the most HEALTHY Snacks! Our list of healthy snack choices will be Fruits and Vegetables. The winning class will get a bonus in their PE class the following week :)

Your March Calendar

- ❑ **Mar 11-17:** The Positivity Project: Zest/Enthusiasm
- ❑ **Mar 13 6:30pm:** PTA meeting followed by 5th grade drama performance, Go West, in the gym.
- ❑ **Mar 18-24:** The Positivity Project: Forgiveness
- ❑ **Mar 19-23:** Spring Book Fair
- ❑ **Mar 22:** Family Night at the Book Fair / International Night.
- ❑ **Mar 26- 30:** The Positivity Project Humor
- ❑ **Mar 29:** Regular School Day to make up for January snow.
- ❑ **Mar 30:** Holiday.

Your April Calendar

- ❑ **Apr 2-6:** Spring Break!
- ❑ **Apr 9-13:** The Positivity Project: Integrity
- ❑ **Apr 10 6:30pm:** PTA meeting followed by 4th grade Drama performance in the gym
- ❑ **Apr 13:** School Spirit Day!
- ❑ **Apr 17 5-8pm:** Swift Creek Night at Chick-Fil-A (in Crossroads)

Please Save Your Cardboard!

Mrs. Wils is in need of cardboard items for a large scale fairy tale project. Grades K through 4 will be recreating fairy tales through various means and media, and cardboard of all types will be needed for the model projects. Especially needed will be wrapping paper, paper towel, and toilet paper rolls! Send in all cardboard to Mrs. Wils any time, through March 21st.



Looking for a Great Summer Camp?

Did you know that Camp Invention will be at Swift Creek 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.

Register at campinvention.org.

Early Bird Discount: Valid through March 23
Save \$25 with promo code SummerFun25

Spring into Summer Discount: Valid March 22-May 4
\$15 off with promo code SummerFun15

Two Siblings Discount
\$25 off each child promo code SIBLING

For more information, contact Camp Director Monica Coles (mcoles@wcpss.net) or Camp Parent Marie Dexter (mariecddexter@gmail.com).

We Need YOU!!!

- Volunteer at the Book Fair!
<https://tinyurl.com/y74svvlt>
- EOG testing is right around the corner (end of May, beginning of June) and we are in need of registered parent volunteers to help proctor!! If you are interested in helping please use the web link to complete a form with your information: <https://tinyurl.com/EOGatSwift>