

March 15, 2016

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,

What a beautiful month of March we have experienced! I am hoping that the remainder of our days until Spring Break will be warm and sunny. This is an amazing time of year and the perfect time to be outside in the fresh air.

Our Swift Creek family continues to grow with the addition of Michelle Steinberg and Lindsay Shore, teachers who have joined our second grade team. These ladies have jumped right in and are building positive relationships with our students, families, and staff members. We have loved the enthusiasm they have brought to our school. **Please also welcome Wanda Hollick, who is also our new teacher assistant.** She is currently serving our first and fourth grade students and has also worked very hard to establish positive and nurturing relationships with everyone she encounters. We feel so fortunate to have such wonderful new staff members as part of our community.

On March 16th (K-2) and March 17th (3-5) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, please join us for our Math Night at Food Lion in the Swift Creek shopping center. Math Night is a floating event, so drop in whenever it is convenient. Our teachers have organized instructional scavenger hunts, appropriately aligned to grade level math concepts. Families will be able to work together on these scavenger hunts, explore the Food Lion store, and have some fun in the process. There will be drawings for gift cards as well. We look forward to seeing you at Food Lion!

As many of you may recall from the presentation at Open House in the fall, I shared that our March 2015 free and reduced lunch percentage of 46% again qualified us for Title 1 status this school year. Even though many schools in WCPSS lost the status when the county moved to a tiered model of funding, we remained just above the 45% threshold to qualify. Schools between 35% and 44% free and reduced lunch lost the status last year. Our free and reduced lunch numbers in



MATH NIGHT Is this Week!

6:00-7:30pm at the
Food Lion in the Swift
Creek Shopping center

- March 16 : K-2
- March 17: 3-5

Mark Your Calendars: SPRING BOOK FAIR

April 11-15 with Family
Night on April 12

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the fall were 41.5%, and we have just been notified that we are still under the 45% required to qualify. Therefore, **we will not be a Title 1 designated school for the 2016-2017 school year.** Our funding for the last three years has provided teaching positions, supplies, and professional development days for our teachers. It has also provided funding for our Parent Involvement Nights, like Math Night and Literacy Night. Although this is a loss to our school budget, I remain positive and confident that our staff will be able to use their dedication and knowledge to find creative ways to meet the needs of your students. I also believe that now is also the time we need to continue to build our community partnerships, like the ones we have with Macedonia Methodist Church, Campbell Road Nursery, and Food Lion. These organizations help us with resources and volunteer opportunities and it will be important as we move forward to continue to build these relationships. As we look forward to the future, we will continue to explore various ways to maintain our strong school community.

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

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Wake County School Board Advisory Council (District 5) – February 18, 2016

The third District 5 BAC meeting of 2015-2016 was held Thursday, February 18th at Saint Augustine's College, hosted by the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy. The meeting began with 5 of the Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy seniors sharing their experiences with the Academy and their plans post-graduation. These young men shared about their experiences taking college level courses, their college credits (54 in one case), how they have matured and become more responsible. I was most impressed with their reference to the Academy having a sense of family and how focused their thoughts are on the future!

Dr. James Martin introduced a panel of WCPSS employees who discussed alcohol & drug abuse prevention. Emphasis was placed on data derived from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Grades 6-9 receive Healthful Living instruction which a portion is dedicated to substance abuse. City of Raleigh based schools are emphasizing the new LEADER program (which replaces DARE) in the 5th grade.

After the panel discussion, Dr. Martin shared that the Board of Education will begin the budgeting process in the near future. There are numerous issues associated with re-districting, including the expansion of the school board and future Board Advisory Council re-structuring. The next District 5 Board Advisory Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 5th. Please contact Emily McGraw (emcgraw@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.



Music Notes from Mrs. Huddle

March is Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM). The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children and remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. We are lucky at Swift Creek to have a music program that is supported by our administration, teachers, students, parents, and businesses. Thank you!

Our March composer is Aaron Copeland. He was a famous American composer who used jazz and folk songs in his classical music compositions. Our song for this month is "Celebrar el dia/Celebrate the Day." Classes are learning the days of the week in Spanish. This song is part of our MIOSM celebration.

Congratulations to our first grade students for their wonderful job in their "Read a Book" concert last week. Thank you for coming to support them!

Our fourth grade classes attended the NC Symphony Concert today. They experienced a live orchestra concert with the theme "What Makes Music, Music?" Be sure to ask your student about it.

The fifth grade Guitar Concert has been scheduled for Thursday, April 28 at 2:00pm in the gym. The fourth grade Recorder Concert will be Thursday, May 5 at 2:50pm in the gym. Our students look forward to showing off the skills they have learned this year. We hope you can come and support them!

Registration Open for After-School Spanish Classes

Explore Learning Programs is offering after-school Spanish classes. Registration is now open for Session 2: Wednesdays April 6-May 25. The cost of the session is \$120. You can register online at www.explorelearningprograms.com or call [919-805-0918](tel:919-805-0918).

Gracias!!

Introducing Mrs. Miller (formerly known as Ms. Fletcher)

Did you know that Assistant Principal Ms. Fletcher got married this past fall? Her new name is Mrs. Miller and her new email address is cmiller6@wcpss.net.

Yearbook News

It's Time to Order Yearbooks!

Yearbook order forms went home last week. Don't forget to order one! They're available for \$12 each and if you'd like to donate extra money to our Care & Share program that would be appreciated.

It's Not Too Late to Send in a 5th Grade Dedication!

We're still accepting dedications for our 5th graders to congratulate them and wish them well after Swift Creek. Reminder forms went home in last week's Tuesday folders. You can also email the information and then send in payment to the office.

Yearbook Pages Are Still Available for Sponsors!

There are still yearbook pages that need sponsors! Several classes are still available, as well as other activity pages. So don't forget to submit your request as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or have lost any forms, feel free to email Ginger at yearbookpics.sce@gmail.com.



Hear Swift Creek Roar!

Thanks for Donating Food to the March Early Release Luncheon!

Thank you to everyone who donated food and time for the March Early Release luncheon. This time, the menu was deli sandwiches with chips, salads, and yummy desserts. Thank you to the following people who contributed items to this luncheon.

Sela Vaughn	Nehal Outlaw	Elizabeth Worthy	Ann-Margaret Alexander
Marie Dexter	Christie Benjamin	Clair Green	Helen Bass
Dina Goembel	Ann Douglas	April Bartley	
Melinda Gelsing	Cristy Johnson	Kerry King	

This was the last Early Release Luncheon of the year. Thank you so much to committee chairs, Elizabeth Worthy and Sela Vaughn, for organizing, setting up and cleaning up after all these events! The staff's faces light up when they see food coming in for an Early Release Luncheon. They appreciate everything you do so very, very much! And so do we!!! Now, off to Teacher Appreciation Week in May. We can't see what you have planned.

Food Drive Results

Dear Swift Creek Community,

I would like to extend sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to our school's food drive during the last week of February. The good people at Urban Ministries of Wake County were thrilled with the amount of food our school donated.

I am proud to announce that we collected **2,260 pounds of food**, which is a school record!

Thank you to the Swift Creek Service Club for all their hard work collecting, delivering, and shelving all of that food and congratulations to our 5th graders who brought in the most items and will receive an extra 30 minutes of recess! Sincerely,
Mrs. Tina Chadwick

Book Total for Wake Up and Read Program

Thank you to everyone who donated books for the Wake Up and Read program. We collected

742 books!

That means, 74 kids will receive 10 new books because of our efforts. Great job everyone!

Special thank you to Mrs. Ramsey for sponsoring this book drive. She is so thankful for everyone's generosity.

For more information about the Wake Up and Read program and for volunteer opportunities, see <http://wakeupandread.org/>.

Congratulations, August Langerhans

Congratulations to August Langerhans! He recently represented SCES in the 3A Central Regional Science Fair held at Hillside High School in Durham on Saturday, February 13th, 2016. His science fair project "Why Are Some Squid Big and Some Small?" was awarded an "Honorable Mention!"

Character Education Awards: Perseverance

In March, we celebrate these students for the character trait of Perseverance. Awards ceremonies will be March 15-17 at 9:10am in the media center.

Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
<u>Mrs. Harris</u> Sullivan W. Janiya W. Abhiraaj A.	<u>Mrs. Phillips</u> Laila P. Trent V. Deven F.	<u>Mrs. Steinberg</u> Brian H. Phillip F. Avi S.	<u>Ms. Herrin</u> Silas E. Allen T. Meredith M. Cyril S.	<u>Ms. Beauchamp</u> Jada G. Jessica S. Johnny V.L.	<u>Mr. Krauter</u> Amanuel A. Kyle D. Brandon S.
<u>Ms. Lipe</u> Marisol R. Mia I. YongQian W.	<u>Ms. Zardas</u> Deont'e S. Jaylen S. Noah R.C. Journey K. Emaan C.	<u>Mrs. Sedaghat</u> Faraz C. Mikel F. Fatima G. Lucas N.	<u>Ms. Smith</u> Jeannette E. Jacob P. Adriana R. Jaydyn W. Jacob O.	<u>Mrs. D'Amelio</u> Noah B. Tristin A. Brandon H. Christopher P.	<u>Mrs. Coles</u> Shakiya B. Arianna M. Isaiah K.
<u>Mrs. Sharif-Clark</u> Jack O. Saleem A.H. Hailey W. Aziah S.	<u>Ms. Cillian</u> Isaiah P. Abdullah A.H.	<u>Miss Millichap</u> Samantha H. Bryson G. Mason G.	<u>Mrs. Burchardi</u> Samantha O. Amirra C. Malik B. Katie R.	<u>Ms. Windsor</u> Geovanny M.S. Ania P. Mackenzie D. David G.	<u>Ms. Mazuchowski</u> Jalen T. Hudson M. Randy V.S.
<u>Mrs. Robinson</u> Landon B. Adelyn S. Faris C.	<u>Mrs. Butler</u> Dima H. Semaj R. Ashya L. London R. Jordan D.	<u>Mrs. Shore</u> Carmella W. Marwan I. Lena O.	<u>Ms. Wyrsh</u> Beron G. Chay S. Tyrus H.	<u>Mrs. Fallon</u> Alejandro B. Joshua R.C.	<u>Mrs. Sandersen</u> Gavin F. Chanyce M.

Your March Checklist

- March 15-17 9:10am:** Character Educations awards in the media center.
- March 16 & 17 6:00-7:30pm:** Math Nights at Food Lion in the Swift Creek Shopping Center.
 - o **March 16:** Kindergarten – 2nd grade
 - o **March 17:** 3rd – 5th grade
- March 24:** Regular school day! This is a make-up day for the January snow. This is also the last day of the quarter.
- March 25-April 3:** Spring Break. No School.

Your April Checklist

- April 8:** Report cards sent home.
- April 11-15:** Spring Book Fair. Family Night is on Tuesday, April 12.
- April 12:** Family Night at the Book Fair. Come out and shop for books. Proceeds from the sale goes directly back to Swift Creek. Plus, there will be a special performance by Grey Seal Puppets that you won't want to miss.
- April 19 6:30pm:** April PTA meeting followed by the spring drama and chorus performance of Treasure Island in the gym. Nominations for PTA officers will be presented at this meeting. (Voting for officers will be in the May meeting.) If you have someone to nominate, please contact Marie Dexter at mariecddexter@gmail.com.
- April 28**
 - o **2:00pm:** 5th grade guitar concert in the gym
 - o **5-8pm:** Swift Creek Night at Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads
- April 29:** Spring Fling. All classes will have an opportunity to play games on the field behind the school during this annual tradition. More information and volunteer sign ups coming soon.

Your May Checklist

- May 2-6:** Teacher Appreciation Week!
- May 4:** Rain date for Spring Fling
- May 5 2:50pm:** 4th grade recorder concert in the gym
- May 10 6:30pm:** PTA meeting. Come elect officers for next year!
- May 30:** Memorial Day. No School

Your June Checklist

- June 9:** Last Day of School!

5th Grade Parents: Time to Think About Middle School Courses

We are in the midst of getting your children signed up for their middle school courses!

If you have any questions, concerns, or school assignment changes, please contact Mrs. Chadwick as soon as possible. cchadwick@wcpss.net or [919-233-4320 ext. 20890](tel:919-233-4320)

Lastly, if you have not already done so, check your middle school's website or give them a call to find out when their open house will occur!

