

March 21, 2017



Swift Creek Current

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

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>

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From the Principal's Desk

Attention all friends and fans of Swift Creek!

Did you know that Swift Creek School first opened for classes in 1932? Just think of all of the children who learned to read here; educators who began their careers in our classrooms; and generations of families who have loved and supported this school.

We believe that a legacy of 85 years is reason to celebrate! We want to have several activities planned for this fall. If you would like to serve on the SCES 85th Anniversary Celebration Committee, please email me at dpropst@wcpss.net with your name, email, phone number, and whether you could meet during the school day, in the evenings, or either. Thank you, and I look forward to celebrating the milestone of this wonderful school with you.

We Might Be Small, But We Have a Mighty Big ROAR!

During February and March, Swift Creek helped our community by:

- Collecting over \$6000 for the American Heart Association during the Jump Rope for Heart program
- Collecting over 2100 books for the Wake Up and Read program.

Good job, Swifties!!!!

News from Wake County Public Schools

Over the past couple of weeks, I was fortunate enough to attend a couple of Wake County School meetings. I'd like to share my impressions with all of you. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Dexter at mariecdexter@gmail.com.

Supporting Wake County's Strategic Plan

I attended the District 5 Council meeting on March 9. (This council is comprised of schools in District 5 of Wake County. The meeting is organized by Dr. Jim Martin, our school board representative.)

This Thursday!

**Family Night at the
Book Fair**

**Math Night: Fraction
Frenzy**

Join us from 5:30-7:00pm for these exciting events and a FREE dinner.

- Learn how math is being taught in your child's classroom.
- Shop at the Book Fair.
- Buy Swift Creek spirit wear for \$5.
- Order your child's yearbook.
- Enter the raffle to win a 40" LED flat screen TV donated by Storage King on Tryon Road.

In This Issue

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from 6-8pm**

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The focus of the meeting was to discuss how some schools are working to support Wake County's strategic plan of 95% graduation rate by 2020. I was pleased to hear that the examples discussed mirror what we plan at Swift Creek – more dynamic learning experiences, project-based learning, and the use of collaborative spaces. For more information about our plans at Swift Creek, see the recording of the "Future of Swift Creek" meeting, which was held on February 28 by Mr. Propst. A link to the video is available from the PTA website.

New ELA Curriculum for 3-5th grades next year

I also attended a feedback session on the new curriculum resources that Wake County plans to introduce in our schools beginning next year. The timeline for the implementation of this curriculum is VERY aggressive.

Wake County asked for bids in the fall and selected 3 vendors by January. The feedback sessions were held to allow teachers, administrators, and parents an opportunity to see and give their feedback about these resources. One thing that I am excited to report is that all of the vendors had online resources for students, teachers, and parents.

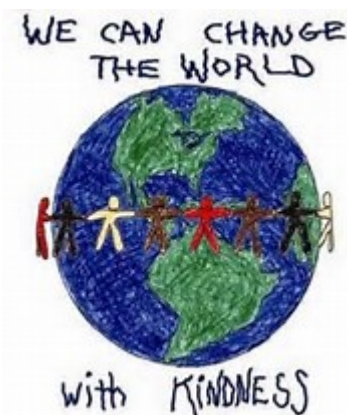
Wake County plans to make its selection soon and to start training teachers in June. (I told you this was aggressive and obviously stressful for our staff.) They probably will roll it out to one grade level at a time, but no one could give specific details at this point. As parents, we need to do all we can to support our staff during this transition. I'll keep you posted on what I hear in the coming months.

Character Education: Kindness

During the month of February, the character trait was Kindness. At the end of the month, the teachers selected one student from each class who represented kindness. These students were recognized at a special breakfast with Mr. Propst on Friday, March 10.

Congratulations to these students!

Kindergarten	First Grade	2nd Grade
Johnny Lewandowski	Brooklyn Wade	Johnny Rutherford
Bailey Langerhans	Jayla Richard	Sophia Lu
Brissa Rodrigues-Mora	Mason Kress	Stella Pittman
Alyssa Salazar	Malak Baquacem	Annika Froberg
Sierra Fischetti		
3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Nathan Lotz	Jaydyn Wells	Trey Turner
Drew Worthy	Susan McGraw	Elizabeth Hite
Victor Lowenstein	Madison Byrd	Lojin Alshehri
Emma Grace Brady		



Protect Your Noggin'. Wear a Bike Helmet

Spring is here and as warm weather approaches, playing outside is a first choice to reach our goal of PLAY 60 Everyday! One of my childhood favorites and a favorite of our Cougars is riding bikes! Bicycling is a fun way to get out and about with your friends and family, take advantage of every opportunity you get to bicycle and you'll be happy and healthy for life!

Throughout the Spring, Ms. Graves will be talking to students in PE about bicycle safety and safe play but here's a reminder that can save a life!

BIKE SMART



WEAR A HELMET

Walking to School

Many students walk to school every day! Please use the cross walks and remember to look both ways any time you are crossing the street. Here's a little saying to remind you of safe crossing!

STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN
BEFORE you cross the street.
First use your EYES and EARS,
then you use your feet!

Keep making those healthy choices
Cougars!

Golf or Tennis Anyone?

Is your child interested in golf or
tennis lessons?

TGA offers golf and tennis programs
after school at Swift Creek on
Wednesday afternoons. The next
session starts April 19. To register, see
TGA's website:

www.playtga.com/Wakecounty



Music in Schools Month: An Interview with Ms. Jazzmone Sutton

March is Music in Schools month, so I interviewed our music teacher, Ms. Jazzmone Sutton.

Who are your favorite musicians?

This is always the hardest question for me because I love all kinds of music.

If I had to choose a couple of musicians/groups they would be

- International musicians: Soweto Gospel Choir, A.R. Rahman (composer), Celia Cruz, Adele, Ed Sheeran
- U.S./Traditional: Rogers and Hammerstein, John Legend, Doris Day, anyone from the 1920's-1930's, Motown, Prince,



What inspired you to become a music teacher?

My family always had all kinds playing on the radio when I was growing up. It was a part of our daily lives. By the time I was a senior in high school, I had taken every music class that was offered at my school. My high school band director let me take an independent study class where I taught students how to play music. I loved being able to share music with people so much, that it seemed the logical choice to teach music.

Do you play any musical instruments?

Most people are born with the oldest instrument in the world, the voice. In college, music teachers are trained to play brass, woodwind, percussion, and string instruments. Outside of my voice, I was trained to play classical clarinet. I really want to learn how to play the Hang. This is similar to an inverted steel drum.

What is your most memorable music moment?

Memorable music moments typically come when I am experiencing music in a different way than normal. My top three moments would be:

1. Performing and teaching in India and Haiti.
2. Teaching and experiencing music with several deaf/hearing impaired students. Despite their different abilities, we were all able to be a part of music.
3. My students performed a traditional Flamenco performance with songs in Spanish, Flamenco movements, and Spanish attire. The students performed with professional Flamenco dancers and musicians that have perform all over the world.

If there is one thing that you hope our Swifties learn about music, what would it be?

I have two hopes for all Swifties to learn about music.

- The first is that music is for everyone everywhere at all times. Find the music that interests you. We can listen, sing, dance, create and/or connect through music. Be brave and try something new. Secondly, music is a universal language that all people speak. We can use it to explore and connect to the people and world around us. We can listen, sing, dance, create and/or connect through music. Be brave and try something new.
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Get Caught Up with Our News Briefs

Yearbook Deadlines!

- The deadline for ordering a yearbook is March 24.
- Is your business interested in advertising in our yearbook? The deadline for ads is March 24. Not sure where to start? One of our very own parents, Sy Karim from AAA Grafix, will help provide design services for FREE. Contact Sy at infor@aaagrafix.com.

Keeping Your Child Safe on the Internet

As technology becomes more prevalent in our child's life, it is vital that we as parents know how to keep them safe. Please join us for a presentation on Internet Safety on Wednesday, April 5 from 6-8pm. Child care will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Chadwick (our school counselor) at cchadwick@wcpss.net.

Original Works Orders Due Friday, March 31

Swift Creek is partnering with the Original Works program to help you order your child's artwork on items such as magnets, coffee mugs, flags, and so much more. These are great ideas for Mother's and Father's Day gifts! The deadline for placing orders is Friday, March 31. Please turn your child's artwork and your payment with your order form. For more information, contact Michelle Eudy at bm1105@gmail.com.

And the Spirit Award Goes To . . .



Congratulations to Pearson's 1st grade class, who won the March Spirit award. Their class wore the most purple and school spirit wear on March 3. We will have several more spirit days in 2017: April 7, May 5, and June 2! Look for the reminders.

Camp Invention: A One Week Summer Camp at Swift Creek

Registration is open for Camp Invention! Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized, non-profit summer enrichment program for rising kindergarteners through rising 6th graders. Throughout the week, children will be presented with fun challenges that emphasize a STEM based curriculum, problem-solving collaboration, and entrepreneurship through critical thinking and innovation. We are excited to offer extended before and after camp hours this year to accommodate working parents. We are also looking for individuals or businesses to donate to our scholarship program to assist economically disadvantaged students who would not normally be able to benefit from this camp experience. For more information or to register your child, please visit www.campinvention.org or contact Margarete Harris at mharris5@wcpss.net.

Your March Calendar

- **March 20-24:** Spring Book Fair! Be prepared to camp out with a good book!
- **March 23 5:30pm:** Family Night at the Book Fair! Math night: Fraction Frenzy! More information was sent home in Tuesday folders. Please RSVP if you plan to attend!
- **March 24:**
 - Bring a blanket to participate in Drop Everything and Read day!
 - Deadline for ordering your yearbook! Also deadline for adding a business ad to the yearbook. Business ads are vital to helping keep our yearbook costs low.
 - Box Top collection! Please turn in your Box Tops by this date.
- **March 31:**
 - Regular School Day! Make up day from the January snow.
 - Wear your favorite hat to school in honor of Hat Day!
 - Deadline for Original Works orders. You should have received your child's artwork and the order form in a recent Tuesday folder. If you have questions about this program, contact Michelle Eudy at bm1105@gmail.com.

Thank You to Our Community!

To achieve our goals, Swift Creek relies on community support. Thank you to our business sponsors for their donations to Family Night at the Book Fair.

- Papa John's Pizza for donating the pizzas
- Harris Teeter for donating the fruit
- Storage King for donating the 40" LED Flat Screen TV for our PTA raffle.



Your April Calendar

- **April 4:** Picture Day! LifeTouch will be at school taking individual and class pictures.
- **April 5 6-8pm:** Internet Safety Presentation in the media center. Everyone is welcome to attend. Child care will be provided.
- **April 6-26:** The nomination window for Single Subject Acceleration is 4/6-4/26/17. For more information, contact Mrs. Krutsch (our AIG teacher) at skrutsch@wcpss.net or see <http://wakeacceleration.weebly.com/>.
- **April 7:** School Spirit Day! Support your school and wear as much purple as you can.
- **April 10-14:** Spring Break! No school.
- **April 18 6:30pm:** PTA meeting & Drama Performance in the gym. During the PTA meeting, we will be accepting nominations for officers. The vote will occur during the May meeting.
- **April 27 5-8pm:** Swift Creek night at the Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads

Your May Calendar

- **May 1 – 5:** Teacher Appreciation Week!
- **May 5:** Spirit Day! Show your Swift Creek colors!
- **May 9 6:30pm:** PTA meeting & Drama Performance in the gym. During the PTA meeting, we will be electing officers for next year!
- **May 11:** Muffins with Mom! More information soon.
- **May 12:** Teacher Work day
- **May 29:** Memorial Day. No school!

