

March 3, 2015

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,

Thank you for your patience during all of our winter weather this season. Hopefully, the inclement weather chances are slowly dwindling, and we will not experience any further interruptions.

Our Swift Creek family continues to grow as we prepare to send Mrs. Haren into motherhood with her new addition at the end of March. We wish Mrs. Haren the best as she welcomes her little one and we will miss her contributions to our school. We thank Mrs. Haren for all she has done for our students at Swift Creek. She has helped our youngest students to grow and reach new heights as Kindergarteners--reading, writing, and solving problems. Good luck Mrs. Haren—we will miss you!

We hope that you will be able to join us for several important events in our school this month. This week, we will host the Spring Book Fair in our media center. We hope that you will be able to come by, browse, and purchase a book for your child. Please remember that Book Fair proceeds are used to purchase additional books for our media center. Our PTA has also planned exciting events for this evening's Family Night—there will be food and games as well as the book fair shopping to enjoy. In addition, on March 11th (K-2) and March 12th (3-5) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, please join us for our Math Nights 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. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to your child's teacher as soon as possible so that we can plan for your attendance. We look forward to seeing you at Math Night and Book Fair Family Night!



Upcoming Events

March 2 - 6

Book Fair in the Media Center

March 3 -- TONIGHT

- Interims sent home. Check Tuesday Folders.
- Family Night at the Book Fair 6-8pm. Join us for a free dinner too!

March 6

Full Day of School. No Early Release.

March 10

PTA meeting followed by Drama Performance 6:30pm in the Gym

March 11 -12

Math Night at Food Lion in Swift Creek Shopping Center 6:00-7:30pm

K-2nd is March 11

3rd-5th March 12

March 15

Deadline for Donating Books to the Wake Up and Read Program

March 17

1st Grade Concert 12:30pm in the Gym. (Rescheduled from March 3)

March 31

Deadline for Cooking with Kids Contest

Recently, I have noticed that some of our parents are parking on the grassy area behind the AIG trailer or along Yates Mill road during our dismissal time to walk and get students. This is creating unsafe conditions for our students and parents. We ask that if you drive a car to campus to pick up students, that you follow all carpool protocols. If you have registered as a walker, please wait at the Tryon Road gym entrance until 4:05 and we will dismiss those students for you safely at the end of the carpool. These procedures are also outlined in the 2014-2015 Swift Creek Parent/Student Handbook. I appreciate your understanding as we seek to maintain a safe and orderly environment for our students at dismissal.

At the writing of this newsletter, we have not been informed on the makeup days for the latest round of winter weather last week. Right now, we do know that March 6th and April 17th are now full instructional days, rather than Early Release days. We will let you know as soon as we receive that information. We also will use make up day information to determine an EOG testing schedule and a date for the fifth grade graduation celebration. More information to come soon!

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

Update from Wake County Schools

The first District 5 BAC meeting of 2015 was held Tuesday, February 3rd at Dillard Drive Middle School. Ms. Shejuanna Rodgers, Principal of Dillard Middle School welcomed the attendees.

Mr Rodney Trice, Assistant Superintendent for Equity Affairs shared information regarding his office's purpose, mission and scope. The Office of Equity Affairs intentionally focuses on achievement gaps and seeks to close gaps through community engagement, coaching and consultation at the central and local school levels.

Brenda Elliott, with WCPSS Support Services gave an overview of the units that comprise Support Services which include: Counseling and Student Support, Office of Early Learning, Intervention Services, and Student Due Process. Ms. Elliott indicated that Support Services is engaged with bullying prevention and that less than 5% of WCPSS students experience suspensions.

Dr. Martin concluded the meeting sharing that closing achievement gaps should not mean lowering expectations, but rather bringing students up. He further shared that discipline issues in WCPSS can only improve by improving behavior and not ignoring it. The School Board posted its strategic plan on line (<http://www.wcpss.net/strategic-plan>) and is actively working towards next year's budget. Dr. Martin also shared that the School Board is looking at developing a contract policy for teachers. If you have any questions regarding the BAC meetings please contact Emily McGraw (emcgraw@hotmail.com), Swift Creek Elementary parent representative.

School Corner

Music Notes

March is Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM) - an annual celebration to promote the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools. We are lucky to have a well-supported music program at Swift Creek. Thank you to our PTA, parents, students, staff, and administration for all you do to support the SC music program! Students will be celebrating MIOSM by learning and singing along with the "Concert for MIOSM" during music



classes. Our March song is "Feel the Beat" and is part of the "Concert for MIOSM". It was written in 2008 by a famous Children's Choir Composer and Director, John Jacobson. Our March composer is Sergei Prokofiev, a Russian composer, who lived from 1891 to 1953. He is famous for his musical stories, like "Peter and the Wolf", which our kindergarten and first grade classes will be studying this month.

The first grade "Read a Book" concert has been rescheduled for March 17th at 12:30pm in the gym. All first grade families are invited and we hope you can attend to show our students your support! They have been working very hard in between all our winter weather and are excited to perform for you.

Thank you for supporting music in our school. Please keep up with music happenings through twitter -@SwiftCreekMusic and our website - <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/swift-creek-music/home>

Musically, Mrs. Huddle, Music Teacher

Our Goal: 500 Books for the Wake Up and Read Program

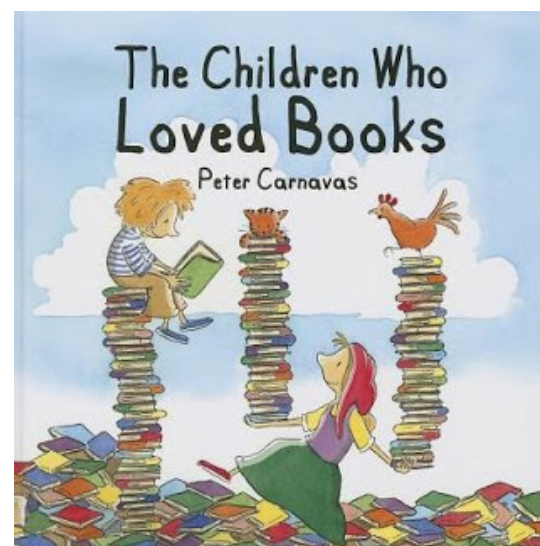
Once again, Swift Creek Elementary is collecting gently used books for the Wake Up and Read program! Look through those shelves, and send us gently used/new books to donate as a school. Because this program coincides with this year's Book Fair, you could buy a book at the fair (which helps Swift Creek) and donate it to the Wake Up and Read program.

Last year we donate 394 books. Think we can give more? Let's raise the bar to 500! We're collecting through March 15- so bring'em by the library! For more information, please contact Mrs. Ramsey.

Spring Book Fair Is This Week!!!

Please join us for family night TONIGHT from 6-8pm. There will be fun games in the classrooms, story time with Princesses, FREE dinner in the cafeteria, and the media center will be open to purchase new books for your family.

All the proceeds from the book fair sales go back to the library to purchase books and help keep Swift Creek Elementary School strong.



Help Plan Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is fast approaching, and the Hospitality Committee needs your help.

Would you like to help plan activities for Teacher Appreciation Week? Do you have a business that is willing to donate items (flowers, food, coupons for free food/items) for Teacher Appreciation Week. We are always in need of treats for goody bags for the teachers.

If you would like to help in any way, please email Elizabeth at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com.

Update on Winter Spirit Wear Orders

Winter spirit wear orders were scheduled to be delivered last Friday 20FEB; however, due to the weather conditions and business closings, delivery has been delayed. We are hoping the orders will be ready to go home this week. We apologize for this delay but wanted to let you know we're working to get them to you as soon as possible! Thanks for your patience.

Healthy Lifestyles

Cooking with Kids Winner for February

Congratulations to our Cooking With Kids winner for February—**Milan Outlaw!** Milan helped his mom cook a yummy meal of Zucchini Cakes and Sweet Potato Fries. He helped shred the zucchini and squeeze out excess water, then mixed the zucchini shreds into a homemade batter before they were sautéed in a pan. He also helped spread and season the sweet potatoes before baking. In addition, Milan was in charge of setting the table. During dinner, Milan and his family continued their family tradition of taking turns talking about something positive that happened during their day. What a fun, family meal! Way to go, Milan!

Preparing meals with your kids is a fun way to spend time together, and encourages healthy eating behaviors for the entire family. Don't forget to submit your series of photos (up to 5) documenting your dinner preparation and eating together, and you will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$20 gift certificate to a local grocery store (where you can purchase more ingredients to make another family meal!). Submit photos by 3/31/15 for the month of March to realfooddoc@gmail.com.

Get on the Move with Walking Wednesdays!

Walking Wednesdays was missed these last two weeks, but we will hopefully be back at it this week! Help us help your kids get active, and send them in on Wednesdays with comfortable shoes as well as encouragement to participate! Laps walked will be tallied each week, and students will earn one "walking token" for every 10 laps (2 miles) walked, while the class that cumulatively walks the most laps by the end of the year will earn a coveted gold trophy.



Tennis and Golf Lessons at Swift Creek

For the first time ever, TGA is offering Tennis and Golf lessons at Swift Creek! Lessons are offered in 6-week sessions, for your choice of either Tennis or Golf, right after school (4-5pm), right on campus. This program is for ALL levels, and ALL equipment is provided. Cost for each 6-week session is \$105 per child. The first session begins this week, so SIGN UP TODAY at Playtga.com/westwakecounty. Contact the Healthy Lifestyles Committee at realfooddoc@gmail.com with any questions.

Character Education Awards: Integrity

In February, the PE, Art, and Music teachers recognized these classes for the character trait of Integrity:

Music – Mrs. Fallon's 4th grade class

PE – Mrs. Harris' Kindergarten class

Art – Mr. Krauter's 5th grade class

Congratulations to these students for being recognized for the Integrity Character Education award.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Harris

Dima Hammed
Heidi Ford
Selim Yildiz

Ms. Lipe

Sophia Lu
Ferne Parker-Young
Jack Lovitt
Demitri Morgan

Mrs. Haren

Gavin Coyle
Raeanna Morgan
Aamani Nandal

Mrs. Robinson

Norman Williams
Majd Mohamed Amin
Emaan Chohan

Mrs. Tanner

Kaleb Moore

First Grade

Mrs. Phillips

Danny Gelsing
Lucas Nesgoda
Alize Brown
Jillian Vaughn

Ms. Zardas

Samantha Harris
Jerry Thompson

Ms. Cillian

Chase Hardy
Avi Shukla

Mrs. Butler

Azul Velazquez-Herrera
Casey Wyche
Nayquan Clark
Emerson Myers

Second Grade

Mrs. Ellis

T Niyah Guy
Billy Morales-Hernandez
Yadira Orellana-Gallardo
Ava Sheppard

Mrs. Sedaghat

Harmoni Cromwell-Ward
Sherlin Arreola-Romero

Ms. Koster

Michael Harper
Addison Watkins
Matthew Van Tassel
Hazel Kovalik

Mrs. Bernstein

Katelyn Ragsdale
Abigail Sanford
Iker Flamenco-Lopea
Bryan Green

Third Grade

Ms. Herrin

Caleb Dudley
Ethan Deloach

Ms. Smith

Alyssa Byrd
Damian Montgomery
Enara Ward
Ania Pruchnik

Mrs. Barker

Sam Huddle
Kaylee McCohn
Luke Hatala

Ms. Wyrsh

Jeremy Soto
Joshua Hall
Aubrey Delgado

Fourth Grade

Ms. Beauchamp

Antonio Alonso-Stepanov
Emma Vatter
Kayla Hoang
Michael Sherrill
Sarah Smith
Edward Gonzalez-Rodriguez
Yaire Olayo-Zuniga

Mrs. D'Amelio

Evelyn Giska
Gabriel Mercado Santos
Adam Funak

Ms. Windsor

Jalen Theet
Arianna McMillian
Nevaeh Sutton
Gabriela Mercado-Santos

Mrs. Fallon

David Phillips
Emma Alexander
Zander Mayhew
Jack Morgan

Fifth Grade

Mr. Krauter

Savannah Dixon
Ashley Holleman
Tory Sanchez-Campos

Mrs. Coles

Matthew Goembel
Desmond Lynch
Hunter Miller

Mrs. Jackson

Jocelyn Castro-Valadez
Vickie Mendez
Benjamin Peeler
Nikolas Gaines

Mrs. Pearman

Kendyl Nitschke
Brooke Berning
Asher Morwick
Alaysia Williams

Character Education awards will be held the week of March 9-16, and we will be celebrating perseverance. Any character education integrity celebrations for the month of February that were missed due to inclement weather will be celebrated in conjunction with March trait.

Student Directories

Student directories for the 2014-2015 school year went home in December. If you are a paid PTA member and didn't receive your directory, contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com.

Like Us on FaceBook

Did you know that the Swift Creek Elementary PTA has a FaceBook page? We use it to communicate school closing, upcoming events, and important deadlines. It is a great way to stay informed about what's happening at the Creek. Like Us Today! <http://goo.gl/SzUnrb>



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Keep Your Contact Information Up-to-Date!!!

As the incident with the boiler room showed us in January, it is very important to keep your contact information up-to-date with the school. If you need to make any changes to your emergency contact information (such as contact phone numbers), contact your child's teacher or stop by the front office.