

May 10, 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,

I want to give a huge shout out to all parents and staff for such a wonderful Spring Fling event this year! It was an exciting day for everyone—the students are still talking about it! I appreciate all of our wonderful volunteers who made it a success—each station was a hit because we had adults to support and encourage our students. I also want to thank all of our amazing families and students for their generosity during Teacher Appreciation week. It was so nice to see our staff honored, in such a kind and thoughtful manner. The lunch coverage, breakfast, and treats were wonderful! Your support means so much—so thank you again for making everyone in our building feel special!

As I shared in a previous newsletter, Ms. Bobbie Lipe is our 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. She will be honored on Wednesday, May 11 at the WCPSS Banquet. We love how she nurtures our Kindergarten Swifties and we thank her for the many years of of service and dedication to our school. If you see her this week, please congratulate her again!

The testing season is upon us. We are currently in the midst of benchmark assessments for mCLASS. Teachers will be working diligently to assess basic reading skills and comprehension during this mCLASS window. Our EOG testing will begin on May 26 for 3-5 students. **Students will receive free breakfast from Child Nutrition Services on the two days of their math and ELA EOG.** Please note the testing schedule above.

Student assignment strips were sent home on last week by Mrs. Kmec. If you are not planning for your students to return to Swift Creek for the 2016-2017 school year, please return the strip with corrections as soon as possible. This is extremely important for our planning and hiring for the new school year, as all staffing allotments and decisions are based on student enrollment projections.



End-of-the-Year Tests

- May 2 – June 2:** mCLASS testing window
- May 26 3rd, 5th grades:** EOG Testing for English/Language Arts (ELA)
- May 27 3rd, 5th grades:** EOG Math Testing
- June 1:** 4th grade ELA Testing; 5th grade Science
- June 2 4th grade:** Math Testing
- June 3 3rd grade:** Read to Achieve Test
- June 2 4th grade:** Math Testing

Any make up testing will be completed throughout the testing window.

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A Million Thank You's

It is the time of year when allotments are projected for the new school year. **For the 2016-2017 year, we are projected to have 488 students, which is less than our current 520 students. 488 students would earn us 22 classroom teaching positions to staff our building.** Right now, we currently have 449 students enrolled for the new year, which is below the projection. The 449 students will earn us 20 classroom teaching positions. Because of our distribution of those students across grade levels, we are planning to have these classes next year:

- two Kindergarten classes
- a Kindergarten/1st grade combination class
- three 1st grade classes
- a 1st grade/2nd grade combination class
- three 2nd grade classes
- four 3rd grade classes
- three 4th grade classes
- three 5th grade classes

We anticipate that we will gain more students in the coming days and additional students at various grade levels could change the number of sections per grade level and possibly eliminate the need for the combination classes. We will continue to keep you informed and appreciate your support!

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

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Music Notes

Our May song is "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley. We are learning about Reggae music and using this song to help us calm down when we get upset, frustrated, or worried.

Our composer is Alan Silvestri. He is an American film composer whose music credits include "Polar Express," "Avengers," and "Back to the Future." We are enjoying listening to his movie music in class!

Musically, Mrs. Huddle

Reminder for Walkers

Please be reminded that we are unable to dismiss students as walkers during carpool line each day due to safety of all students. We will call all registered walkers for dismissal at 4:05 pm each day. Please refer to the 2015-2016 Student Parent Handbook if you have questions.

Kindergarten classes perform their "Our Year in Song" concert this Thursday, May 12 at 11:00am in the gym. We hope you can attend this special performance by our youngest Swifties!

Congratulations to our 5th grade classes for their excellent job in the guitar concert. Also, congratulations to our 4th grade classes for their wonderful recorder concert last week. Performance is an essential part of learning and experiencing music, and we appreciate your support of our student performances.



Swift Creek Track Team -- NO SPEED LIMIT! CATCH US IF YOU CAN!

For the past 3 months, the track team has been working hard to prepare for the Wake County Public Schools Track Meet on May 10. Thank you to the parents and students for committing to the team and working so hard! We are very excited for the meet and can't wait to show the other schools that at Swift Creek's there's "NO SPEED LIMIT! CATCH US IF YOU CAN."

A big congratulations to these students for their hard work!

5 th Grade	4 th Grade	3 rd Grade
Antonio Alonso-Stepanov	Carter Bass	Matthew Fernandez
Grant Etheridge	Noah Burkhalter	Bryan Green
Alexis Herrera	Austin Deaton	Billy Heler Morales
Luke Jackson	Luke Hatala	Tyrus Horton
Hudson Myers	D'Anthony Huff	Jacob Ogundele
Jake Sanford	Kavon Manning	Chay Smith
Q Whitehead	Jai Stephens	Napoleon Totten
Kieren Battle	Badr Yassin	Shreya Ganapathy
Mira Coles	Tori Butler	Claire Leidy
Emma Green	Aubrey Delgado	Alexis Mayhew
Avery Lotz	Jada Gibson	Shania Murphy
NaDayzia Page Draughon	Nora Hall	Meredith Myers
Elli Sheppard	Kaliyha Manning	Abby Sanford
	Ania Pruchnik	Ava Sheppard
	Isabel Schmidt	

Join Us this Summer for Camp Invention: June 20-24

Camp Invention will be at Swift Creek June 20-24. Registration for Camp Invention is now open! Camp Invention takes place at Swift Creek and is taught by Swift Creek teachers. For more information, or to register, please visit www.campinvention.org or contact the director, Margarete Harris at mharris5@wcpss.net

Thank You!!!!

It takes a tremendous amount of time and energy to run all of the Swift Creek events during the year. This edition thanks several parent volunteers and businesses for their recent help. Please note if you were omitted from this list (or your name is misspelled) it was unintentional and solely the fault of the newsletter editor (Marie Dexter).

We appreciate all of the big, little, and unrecognized volunteer work done by ALL the members of the Swift Creek community. None of this would happen without YOU!

Grade Parents

Thank you to all the parents who helped in the classrooms this year. A special thank you to these parents for signing up as grade parents. They had the responsibility of organizing volunteers, meeting teacher needs, and communicating between the teacher and parents. Thanks for all your work this year!

Ann-Margaret Alexander	Dina Goembel	Nehal Outlaw
Helen Bass	Clair Green	Kari Prasad
Christie Benjamin	Tara Holland	Caroline Richardson
Shazia Chohan	LaTanya Holmes	Kara Sanford
Marie Dexter	Frankie Justice	Tiffany Saye
Ann Douglas	Natasha Kirby	Jaimi Smith
Jennifer Dunn	Aimee Langerhans	Sophia Taylor
Michelle Eudy	Pooneh Lari	Betsy Treece
Catherine Ferguson	Emily McGraw	Sela Vaughan
Carrie Fernandez	Jennifer Natarcola	Susan White
Erin Galloway		Rhonda Williamson
Melinda Gelsinger		

A BIG Thank You to Helen Bass, this year's grade parent committee chair. She helped update all the My Favorite Things lists for all the teachers, and created a distribution list that was used by various committees all year to communicate to grade parents. Thanks, Helen!

Our Spring Fling Volunteers

The Spring Fling on Friday, April 29 was an AMAZING success! The kids had the best time. The teachers loved it too.

Thank you to the members of the Spring Fling committee, Farzaneh Rezei and Caroline Richardson, for all of their help. And to Ms. Graves for organizing everything. You did an OUTSTANDING job.

Thank all the volunteers who came out on a warm day to setup the event, run the games, and clean up afterwards. We know many of you got a little wet, maybe a little muddy, lost your voices, and worked those muscles all to help make this such a special day. Thank you!!!

Dunai Abd	Kerry King	Tina Rhyne
Helen Bass	Melanie Klotz	Lana Richards
Christie Benjamin	Anamika Laad	Angelica Reedy
Shazia Chohan	Amy Lamm	Lana Richards
Sarah Dusel	Nehal Outlaw	Caroline Richardson
Matt Ellsworth	Amy Johns	Katherine Pittman
Michelle Eudy	Blair Johns	Tiffany Saye
Sue Fountain	Cristy Johnson	Tiffany Stuart
Clair Green	Desiree	Zofia Prunchnik
Cassandra Hess	McClamroch	Dena Waters
LaTanya Holmes	Jen Miller	Wenye Wang
Mona Hoyer	Chris Miller	Nedra Wicker
Lynn Kelly	Pam Myers	Ginger Yu

From Ms. Graves, Our PE Teacher

A big thank you to the Swift Creek administration, staff, and students for being such great sports at Spring Fling! Thank you to PTA for providing us with the equipment and activities to make such a great day for our Swift Creek community!

Also, a big shout out to Mrs. D'Amelio's 4th grade class for winning the golden kickball for best sportsmanship!

Way to Go Cougars, you all were WINNERS at Spring Fling!



And there is more! These parents helped provide water bottles, so every student could help keep cool in the heat. THANK YOU! Because of your donations, we had enough water bottles for the entire student body, the staff, and volunteers. The water was very nice, especially in the warm afternoon sun!

Ann-Margaret Alexander	Mona Hoyer
Rubi Garcia Arroyo	Amy Johns
Michelle Eudy	Jennifer Natarcola
Carrie Fernandez	Desiree McClamroch
Erin Galloway	Angelia Reedy
Cassandra Hess	Farzaneh Rezei

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you to these parents for donating food items:

April Bartley
Helen Bass
Caroline Brady
Beth Callaway
Susan Fountain
Melinda Gelsinger
Dina Goembel
Clair Green
Mona Hoyer
Amy Johns
Cristy Johnson
Lashonda Miles
Jenni Morse
Colleen Oliveira
Nehal Outlaw
Farzaneh Rezei
Jaimi Smith
Sela Vaughn
Elizabeth Worthy

Thank you to these parents for covering classrooms on May 6 for the teacher luncheon:

Ann-Margaret Alexander
Karen Baumann
Helen Bass
Marie Dexter
Ann Douglas
Michelle Eudy
Catherine Ferguson
Melinda Gelsinger
Dina Goembel
LaTanya Holmes
Frankie Justice
Lynn Kelly
Natasha Kirby
Cristy Johnson
Aimee Langerhans
Cathy Church Norman
Nehal Outlaw
Kim Partin
Allison Phillips
Tina Rhyne
Sharon Sloop
Elizabeth Treece
Sela Vaughn
Wayne Wang
Elizabeth Worthy

Just WOW!

All of the Hospitality events throughout the year have been organized by just two people: Elizabeth Worthy and Sela Vaughn. They have organized the early release luncheons; early release snacks; the appreciation weeks for the teachers, counselors, office staff, custodians, bus drivers, social workers; celebrating staff birthdays, and so much more. This is a really BIG job, and it has such a huge impact on our teachers and staff. Elizabeth and Sela have done a fabulous job organizing all of these events and providing a little creative flair to make each event extra special.

Thank you for all you have done this year! Please know that we appreciate you too!



Thank You Again to Our Classroom Sponsors

As we start to reflect back on this amazing school year, we would like to once again thank our generous families and business who donated to our classrooms this year! Your generous funds were used to purchase valuable materials, which benefit every child in the school! Thank you!!!

Grade Level	Classroom	Sponsor
K	Mrs. Harris Ms. Lipe Mrs. Robinson Mrs. Tanner Mrs. Sharif-Clark	The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Dexter Family Element Analytical, PLLC Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A. The Klotz Family
1 st	Mrs. Butler Ms. Cillian Mrs. Phillips Ms. Zardas First Grade Team	The Pickurel Family Donald Douglas, Realtor-Coldwell Banker HPW The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava Bradford Law Offices Bradford Law Offices
2 nd	Ms. Millichap Mrs. Roh/Ms. Steinberg Ms. Sedaghat Mrs. Woods/Ms. Shore	The Outlaw Family Kennan's Auto Repair Inc. Lucas Nesgoda's Family Friends of Mrs. Woods
3 rd	Mrs. Burchardi Ms. Herrin Ms. Smith Ms. Wyrsch	Donald Douglas, Realtor-Coldwell Banker HPW The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Prillaman Family The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava
4 th	Ms. Beauchamp Mrs. D'Amelio Mrs. Fallon Ms. Windsor	The Barkhau Family, In Honor of Ashley The Dexter Family The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava Friends of Swift Creek
5 th	Mrs. Coles Mr. Krauter Ms. Mazuchowski Mrs. Sandersen	Ann-Margaret Alexander, Alexander & Doyle, PA The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava Laurie Onorio Lobbying Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
Art	Ms. Cannon	EcoStyle Transportation, The Pickurel Family, & The Johns Family
PE	Mrs. Bratton/Ms. Graves	The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Pickurel Family
Music Media	Mrs. Huddle Mrs. Ramsey	The Family of Chad & Sela Vaughn & The Johns Family Rockridge Realty
Special Education	Mrs. Fountain Mrs. Willis	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A. Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
AIG	Mrs. Green	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
ESL	Mrs. Burkhalter	Royal Parking
Intervention	Mrs. Bernstein Mrs. Bornman	Rockridge Realty Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
Speech Guidance	Mrs. Torello Mrs. Chadwick	Royal Parking The Dexter Family

Your May Checklist

- ☐ **May 2 – June 2:** mCLASS testing window
- ☐ **May 10:**
 - Wake County Schools Track Team Meet. Go Swifties!!!
 - **6:30pm:** Last PTA meeting of the year in the media center.
- ☐ **May 12 11:00am:** Kindergarten “Our Year in Song” concert in the gym. Arrive early for good seats!
- ☐ **May 18**
 - **8:00am:** Fun Run Planning meeting. Want to help get a jump on next year? Please join us for a Fun Run planning meeting. We will discuss themes and any steps that can be done over the summer, so we’ll be ROARING to go in the Fall. If you have questions, contact Committee Chair, Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com.
 - **5th graders:** Deadline for Talent Show forms. If you want to participate in the Talent Show on June 9, you must turn in your forms TODAY!
- ☐ **May 19 5:30pm:** Kindergarten Open House. This event is for rising kindergartners who will start Swift Creek in August.
- ☐ **May 23:** Deadline for School Kitz order form. You should receive it in the May 10 Tuesday folder. Make shopping easy for next year! Buy your school supplies now! (You can also order online through June 10.)
- ☐ **May 26-June 2:** EOG Testing. Please note that we cannot ensure that all EOG testing will be complete by this date. The end date is determined by the amount of testing make ups that must be completed due to absences.
- ☐ **May 25:** Box Top collection date! Did you know that Box Tops expire???? Another big expiration date is June 1 and June 30. Box Tops with these expiration dates must be sent to General Mills by this date. Otherwise, we don’t get the money for Swift Creek. Please make sure to turn in your Box Tops by May 25 so we can get these dimes for Swift Creek!
- ☐ **May 30:** Memorial Day. No School

Proctors Needed!

According to state law, we must test our 3rd-5th graders in the last 10 calendar days of school. In order to make testing happen seamlessly for our staff, we need 18 proctor volunteers to help out! If you are a registered volunteer and are willing to help with testing, please contact Mrs. Ramsey at mwramsey@wcpss.net

- 3rd-5th grade testing: May 26 and 27
- 4th and 5th grade Science: June 1 and June 2 (just 4th grade)

You will need to attend a short training and on testing days should plan to be available from 9:15-1:15. In most cases, you should be done by 1pm.

Your June Checklist

- ☐ **June 8 10:30am:** 5th grade graduation and picnic. The full schedule is on the PTA website.
- ☐ **June 9:** Last Day of School! 5th Grade Talent Show in the afternoon.
- ☐ **June 10:** Deadline for ordering your School Supply Kitz online. Be sure to use Swift Creek’s account number when you order. This number was sent home in the May 10 Tuesday folders!
- ☐ **June 13:** If any parent feels strongly about their child’s unique characteristics or needs in the next grade level, they are welcome to submit a letter to Ms. Bradshaw by June 13th. This letter should describe the type of teacher only or any factors about your student that might be helpful in selecting a placement for them. As we are unable to grant teacher requests and the make-up of grade teams are subject to change, we appreciate you not mentioning any teacher names.