

May 14, 2019

# Swift Creek Current

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

<http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>

919-233-4320

## Volunteers Needed for EOG Testing!

Parents, we need hall monitors and proctors to help our EOG testing run smoothly. Please see the Sign-Up Genius linked below for more information and opportunities to volunteer. You do not have to be a parent of a 3rd-5th grader to help!

<http://tinyurl.com/scesEOG19>

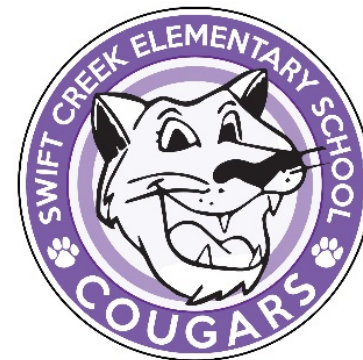
Also, here are the specific dates for EOG testing:

- May 29- 3rd ELA
- May 30- 4th and 5th ELA
- May 31- 3rd Math
- June 3- 4th and 5th Math
- June 4- 5th Science and 3rd Read to Achieve Test
- June 5-7th Make-ups

## P2 (The Positivity Project) Corner

This week, another year of the P2 project will end as students discuss the Other People Matter mindset. What another great year it has been. The addition of the Celebrations of Brilliance have been so amazing. Thank you to Mrs. Chadwick and the members of the school PBIS committee for making these celebrations possible. Also, thank you to our specials teachers, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. McIntyre, Ms. Graves, and Mrs. Wils, for all of their support in making these events run so smoothly!

While that might be all for this year, the Positivity Project will be back next year and better than ever. For more information about this movement, see [posproject.org](http://posproject.org).



TONIGHT 6:30pm

Short PTA meeting. We will be voting on these items:

- Officers for next year
- Our summer budget
- Increase in membership dues for next year

This meeting will be followed immediately by a Cougar Chorus concert!

## In This Issue

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**Your May and June  
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# 5th Grade



Can you believe on Monday, June 10 our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be graduating? Where has the time gone?

**Here is all the information that you need for that special day:**

- **9:30am:** Graduation ceremony in the gym
- **10:30am:** Awards in the classrooms
- **11:00-12:30pm:** Reach for the Stars on the field behind the school. Parents, families, friends, and staff are invited to celebrate each child's accomplishments and to wish them well in middle school.
- **2:00pm:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Show in the gym

## Swift Creek Family Picnic: June 6 5-7pm

Another school year is coming to a close. Let's celebrate the year by having a family picnic on the field behind the school. You provide the food for your family and we'll provide the fun.



Families, bring a picnic dinner for your family only. (This is not a potluck. Each family is responsible for their own dinner.) Then afterwards gather with your Swifty friends to play on the playground, kickball, or with the parachute.

This is a chance just to kick back, relax, and be with our nifty Swifty family. If you have any questions, contact Marie Dexter at [mariecddexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariecddexter@gmail.com).

## Order Your School Supplies Today!

You can get all your kids' school supplies today. You can order online at [www.shopttkits.com](http://www.shopttkits.com). Our school code is 38021. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Kelly at [lkelly2003@gmail.com](mailto:lkelly2003@gmail.com)

## Thank You to Our Grade Parents!

Our Grade Parents (or room moms) work so hard each year to make sure that the teacher and students receive the support they need. Thank you so much for everything you've done to make this year great!

Grade Level	Teacher	Parents
K	Hanna	Sarah Wohldmann, Alison Clarke, Dena Waters
	Lipe	Kim Sheppard, Danielle Davis
	Zardas	Christie Spence, Tara Wicker, Kelly Pruitt
	Bumgarner	Ashley Camerino, Ashley Elliott
	Flynn	Keecia M., Erica Spann
1	Pearson	Lauren Nicholls
	Phillips	Sarah Lewis
	Cillian	Deborah Killion
2	Miller	Anju Jain ,Emily McGraw, Meredith Jones, Rachel Weatherspoon
	Sedaghat	Adrienne Gross
	McKeon	Helen Bass
	Krauter	Elizabeth Worthy, Tina Rhyne, Kim Sheppard
3	Perry	N/a
	Michaud	Jennifer Hayes, Karla DeJesus
4	Smith Kuhn	Carrie Fernandez Jaimi Smith, Erin Galloway, April Bartley
	Fallon	Delores Ragsdale
	Beauchamp	Jill Hinton, Kimberly Holder, Dina Goembel
5	Williams	Malene Haxholdt
	Coles	Dionne Glast, Sy Karius, Tina Rhyne
	Boyd	Marie Dexter
	D'Amelio	Shae Osborne, Helen Bass, Melinda Gelsinger, Nehal Outlaw

## Congratulations to Our Drama Club and Cougar Chorus

Thank you for your wonderful performance of Summer Camp on April 9 and all your BRILLIANT performances throughout the school year.

### Drama Club Director: Kimberly Fallon

Colt Jackson	Mackenzie Polich	Isaiah Stewart	Eliana Betz
Ainsley Fisher	Emma Grace Brady	Chase Hardy	Kayla Batemon
Evan Englert	Dominick Lopez	Solomon Batemon	Lizzy Boyd
Khyler Hatrick	Sophie Holder	Julie Holt	Carissa Matthews
Iasia Smith	Ella Sterling		

### Cougar Chorus Director: Ms. Sutton

Brooklynn Adams	Valerie Aguirre	Aya Azbbouze	Seth Burkhalter
Landon Byrum	Noralis Cortes	Ava D'Amelio	Grace DeSimone
Mason Fernandez	Valeria Flores	Jayce Holt	Mia Ismail
Brenna Johnson	Dorian Kelly	Bara Khatib	Mason Kress
Rylei McClamroch	Mia Olivares Delgado	Liseth Paez Mora	Ethan Phillips
Macy Pope	Jayla Richards	Juan Rojas	Adelyn Smith
Giuliana Spence	Brooklyn Wade	Sullivan Waters	Hailey Williams
Janiya Williams	Tanner Wohldmann	Aliana Wolber	Leah Word
Tony Adeyemi	Solomon Batemon	Lizzie Boyd	Evan Englert
Suhey Espinoza Barron	Alysson Espinoza Guerrero	Ainsley Fisher	Jordan Gaddy
Khyler Hatrick	Sophie Holder	Julianna Holt	Ava Langat
Daniel McDonald	Meredith McIntyre	Owen Porter	Karrington Stephens
Natalie Zavala	Kayla Batemon	Eliana Betz	Emma Grace Brady
Morgan Davis	Devon Kelly	Ella Sterling	

### Girls on the Run

Congratulations to these girls for completing your 5K on April 27. We had such a fantastic season together!

Valerie Aguirre	Simone Brown	Grace DeSimone	Sophia Dexter
Suhey Esponiza Barron	Alysson Espinoza Guerrero	Willa Frazier	Sophia Lu
Carissa Matthews	Meredith McIntyre	Alena McQuiston	Sami Miller
Hannah Morales	Adelyn Smith	Gabby Soto Fernandez	Sullivan Waters
Guiliana Spence	Kim Soto Fernandez	Alaina Waters	

Thank you to our Girls on the Run coaches – Ms. Miller, Mrs. McKeon, Ms. Flynn, and Mrs. McIntyre. Rising 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls, please join us for our Spring 2020 season!

## Big Changes are Coming to Box Tops!

Over the next few months, you'll begin to see a new way to earn cash for our school: BoxTops4Education is going digital!

A new, improved app is in the works, and eventually all products will no longer have a physical Box Top to clip. Instead, Box Tops will be earned by scanning your receipt into the new app. You'll instantly be able to see how many Box Tops you earned for our school!

Participating products will have this logo:



## Dads, Be a Watch DOG!

Dads, uncles, cousins, grandfathers, sign up to be a Watch DOG before the year ends. Your child will be so proud to have you at school for the day!

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/scesDads1819>

## Thank You for Teacher Appreciation Week!

Thank you to everyone for making our teachers feel like Hollywood stars during Teacher Appreciation Week. A special Thank You to these volunteers who covered the classrooms so all our teachers could enjoy a lunch together on Friday.

Maggie Howard  
Erica Spann  
Kim Sheppard  
Francine Sack  
Dina Goembel  
Sy Karim

Alissa Willett  
Deb Killion  
Sam Allen  
April Bartley  
Delores Ragsdale  
Nehal Outlaw

Danielle Davis  
Sarah Lewis  
Aimee Langerhans  
Lauren Nicholls  
Beth Englert

Elizabeth Worthy  
Nancy Cornello  
Rachel Villalbos  
Jennifer Hayes  
Marie Dexter

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I know if a product qualifies?

The scan logo will replace the Box Top that you used to clip. If you buy a product with the new logo, scan your receipt in the app to earn the Box Top points.

### How long will I still cut the physical Box Tops?

As long as you see a Box Top that you can clip on products, you can clip them and turn them in to the school. Current expiration dates go to 2023.

### Can I send my receipt in to my coordinator and have them scan it for me?

We don't know yet, but Box Tops for Education will let us know over the summer break. So stay tuned!

### Where can I get the app?

You can download the app today from Google Play or the App Store. Search for Box Tops for Education.

## Wow! Look What We Did This Year!

We've certainly had a busy but BRILLIANT year at Swift Creek. Together, with our staff and community volunteers, we've accomplished so much this year!

We should be proud of what we've achieved. In addition, because of YOUR hard work and contributions, the NC PTA recognized us as a DISTINGUISHED PTA for the second year in a row.

Here are some of the events and activities that happened at Swift Creek this year:

### Parent Education and Outreach

- Meet the Teacher
- 2 Awesome Curriculum Nights (ELA and Math) put on by our fabulous staff
- New this year: "Keeping Children Emotionally and Physically Safe" seminar provided by our Swift Creek Student Services team (Mrs. Chadwick, Mrs. Hill, Ms. Smith) and WCPSS Crisis Intervention and Prevention Specialists
- New this year: 2 Family Academy Nights – one on transitioning to middle school and one on preparing your child for the EOGs
- Watch DOGS – This program was introduced to Swift Creek by Mr. Propst and run by parent, Dr. David Outlaw. It was such a pleasure to have so many Dads in our school!

### Community Outreach

- New this year: Donations to Pender County for Florence relief
- Wake Up and Read Book drive – we collected 554 books for the program and our Service Club spent a Saturday afternoon helping to sort the books. Garden Gallop 5K for the Interfaith Food Shuttle – Our largest team ever represented Swift Creek at this event. Interfaith Food Shuttle helps us with our school garden.
- Kids Heart Challenge -- we raised \$5000 and helped Ms. Graves earn new PE equipment.

### School Clubs and Activities

- 2 Book Fairs: one Scholastic fair in the fall and New this year: Bedford Falls in the Spring.
- Read Across America Week!!!
- New this Year: Cougar Book Club for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Reflections – Heroes Among Us
- ReadVolution -- The reading program through the Carolina Hurricanes. Swift Creek read over 1000 books.
- WUSSA Speed Stack Guinness Book of World Records – Ms. Graves helped 5 classes participate in the world record for the most locations stacking cups on the same day!
- School Garden: The PTA was awarded a \$2000 grant from Whole Kids Foundation!
- Science Fair
- Cougar Chorus
- Safety Patrol
- Drama Club
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Cougar Counter (school store)

### Special Events

- The Positivity Project
- New this year: Celebrations of Brilliance
- Fun Run: Exceeded our fundraising goal and raised \$20,200
- Cultural Arts
  - New this year: Transit Vocal Band, a cappella music
  - Silver Trout Arts, music, puppetry, and storytelling
  - Michael Beadle, writer in residence for 4th grade
  - Billy Jonas, sound workshop for 2nd grade
- STEM Night – We had 10 different experiments on Family Night at the Fall Book Fair. And it was a big HIT!
- International Night – A HUGE success. We had over 300 people attend and over 15 countries to visit!

- Girls on the Run led by Ms. Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Mrs. McKeon (2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Mrs. McIntyre (art teacher), and Ms. Flynn (kindergarten)
- Yearbook
- Father / Daughter Dance: I Love You to the Moon and Back
- Muffins and Movement with Mom
- Donuts with Dad
- New this year: Mother and Son game night
- Field Day
- 2 Walk or Bike to School Days organized by Ms. Graves and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Wellness Team
- Monthly Newsletter: Swift Creek Current
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and celebrations
- Kindergarten Open House
- End-of-year Family Picnic on June 7
- Hospitality: Teacher Breakfast at the beginning of the year, Celebrate staff birthdays, Early Release Luncheons, Staff Appreciation Weeks, Teacher Appreciation Week
- Family Fun Nights: McTeacher's Night (\$700), Chick-Fil-A Night (\$?), New this year: BJs (\$220), City Barbeque (\$279)

#### PTA Advocacy Efforts

- Keeping parents informed about the School Bond on the Nov 6 ballot.
- Hosting a viewing of "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope"
- Informing families about the proposed budget for Wake County public schools for 2019-20.

#### PTA Purchases

- Painless Fundraising money (Box tops, VIC cards, Coke bottle tops, Amazon Smile) to purchase Reading A-Z software for K-2
- STEM Materials for the whole school -- \$2500
- \$125 Gift Card for each teacher at the beginning of the year
- **Agendas for every 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grader**

## Thank You to Our PTA Officers and Committee Chairs

Thank you to all these VERY hardworking PTA officers and committee chairs for making this school year so brilliant.

<b>President</b>	Marie Dexter	<b>Healthy Lifestyles</b>	Nehal Outlaw
<b>Vice President 1</b>	Tara Batemon	<b>Hospitality</b>	Elizabeth Worthy
<b>Vice President 2`</b>	Deborah Killion	<b>Membership</b>	Melinda Gelsing
<b>Treasurer</b>	Delores Ragsdale	<b>Newsletter</b>	Marie Dexter, Isabel Giraldo
<b>Secretary</b>	April Bartley	<b>Reflections</b>	Carrie Fernandez
<b>Book Fair</b>	Aimee Langerhans	<b>Science Fair / STEM Night</b>	Jennifer and Chris Miller
<b>Cougar Counter</b>	Sue Fountain	<b>School Kitz</b>	Lynn Kelly
<b>Cultural Arts</b>	April Bartley	<b>Spirit Wear</b>	Aimee Langerhans
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration</b>	Kristy Pickurel	<b>Student Directory</b>	Amy Johns
<b>Fun Run</b>	Annie Pilz, Kim Sheppard	<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Delores Ragsdale
<b>Grade Parent</b>	Emily McGraw	<b>Watch DOGS</b>	David Outlaw
		<b>Yearbook</b>	Kristy Pickurel

## WCPSS Proposed Budget for 2019-20: Notes from BAC District 5 Meeting

These notes are from the Board Advisory Council (BAC) meeting for District 5 on April 23. If you have specific questions about these notes, please contact Marie Dexter (scribe) at [mariecdexter@gmail.com](mailto:mariecdexter@gmail.com).

Recently, Superintendent Moore released the proposed WCPSS Operating Budget for 2019-20. To help community members understand more about the budget details, Dr. Jim Martin had this as the topic of the April 23 Board Advisory Council (District 5) meeting.

The agenda of this meeting was to show where we currently are with Wake County schools and where the needs are. David Meter, the CFO for the Wake County Public School System, and his colleagues from the Finance dept lead the presentation.

Wake County Public Schools has a \$1.7B operating budget. If you include capital, it is a \$2B budget, which is basically the budget of a big business.

Things to note:

- Wake County Schools are legally required to accept EVERY customer in a certain age range (unlike private or charter schools who can select students).
- Wake County does not have a way to re-invest profits for future growth. They are depended on funding.
- In the budget, the amounts listed from the state are what we think we are going to get. These amounts have not been confirmed.
- While student growth has slowed in the county this year, it is not consistent throughout the county. For example, elementary schools lost 1000 students, but middle schools gained 1000 students and high schools grew by 150 students. New schools are still needed because we cannot take elementary school seats and apply them to middle school.
- WCPSS is underfunded \$25M for what we need to maintain our buildings. To add 1 day of custodial cleaning to all schools in the county, costs \$2M.
- To meet the K-3 mandate, which will go into full effect in two years, Wake County needs to hire 300-400 additional teachers. The current staff turnover in a year is 1200-1500. With the requirement of these additional teachers, Wake County will require more teachers than is currently in the pipeline of schools like UNC. Other counties in NC are at risk of losing their teachers to Wake County, which means students in other counties might have long-term subs rather than teachers.
- For student support services (counselors, social workers, and more), the state funds for only 1/2 the nationally recommended amount. Any additional funding is provided by local sources.
- Local funding comes from sales tax and property tax. Soon, Wake County property tax will be 64 cents on \$1. In other counties, Durham, Mecklenburg, Orange, it is 80 cents on the \$1. For every penny (per \$100) that we increase Wake County property tax means \$15M for Wake County public schools. (So a \$100,000 property would see a yearly increase of \$10).
- Charter schools also receive local funding and this funding comes from the Wake County school budget. So if \$5M goes to transportation for Special Education kids or bus repairs, charter schools currently receive 7.9% of this money even though they don't have to provide transportation resources. Next year, this increases to 8.7%. So if Wake County has a \$1M need, they need to ask for \$1,095,290 so \$95K can go to charter schools.

For the past decade, funding for Wake County Public Schools has come from these resources:

- 60% state funding



- 30% local funding
- 10% federal funding

Wake County is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, so it gets less state appropriation than other NC counties. This means more local funding is required. However, in Wake County, the cost of living is 7% higher than the national average.

Here are some details from this year's budget:

- \$7M goes to charter schools
- \$4.5M for funding the K-3 class size mandate
- \$2.2M for Employer State Benefit
- \$4.2M for salary increase for certified staff
- \$0.9M for salary increase for non-certified staff
- \$8.2M to operate the 4 new schools that are opening next year (2 Elementary, 1 Middle, 1 High)
- \$2.9M for student growth. The county is predicted to grow by 600 students next year.
- \$2.8M for Special Education needs. A lot of this goes to contracts for transportation costs.
- \$4.2M for Program Continuity and to maintain Extra Duty Schedule.
- \$3.5M for Property Costs. Most of this is for a \$2.5M rate increase from Duke Energy.
- \$8M is to address needs that have been deferred for several years. This allocation puts a dent in those needs but does not fully fund these programs.
  - \$708K for teacher salary supplement schedule
  - \$3.8M Compensation for non-certified staff (nutrition, bus drivers, data manager). This is a 5 year phase in. Currently, these employees make less than the \$15 minimum wage that is required for all state employees who are NOT K-12 employees.
  - \$2.5M for Maintenance and Operations. 5 Year phase in plan.
  - \$600K for instructional support. 5 year phase in plan.
- \$2.8M for new programs and expanding current programs
  - \$868K requested for an additional Assistant Principal in Elementary schools with over 850 students
  - \$916K for Special Education

### What You Can Do

So that's ALOT of information. Here are some next steps that you can take.

Review the resources under the Important Links section at

<http://swiftcreekescwcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/wake-county-public-schools.html>.

- Share this information with your family, friends, neighbors
- Contact your state legislature and advocate for the [legislative agenda](#). An additional point of advocacy is Senate Bill 247, which proposes that NC stop opening charter schools until more studies are done about their effectiveness. Another suggestion is to advocate for charter schools to be responsible for advocating for their own funding. Currently, the Wake County Board of Education advocates for both public schools and charter schools, and as stated previously, a portion of this money goes to charter schools, even if the charter school doesn't provide that service (such as transportation). It could be that charter schools must individually request funding to meet their specific needs.
- Go to a School Board meeting and ask for more information about next year's budget

## Your May Calendar

- **May 13-17:** P2 Other People Matter
- **May 14:**
  - Play60 for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - PTA meeting. Elect officers for next school year.
  - Chorus concert
- **May 23 6-7pm:** Kindergarten Open House. Do you know an incoming Kindergarten family? Invite them to join us on Thursday, May 23 to meet the kindergarten teachers, see their classrooms, and so much more!
- **May 27:** Memorial Day
- **May 31:** Box Top Collection Day!

## Your June Calendar

- **June 4:** Last newsletter of the year sent home in Tuesday folders.
- **June 10:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation
  - 9:30: Graduation ceremony in the gym
  - 10:30: Awards in the classrooms
  - 11-12:30: Reach for the Stars Celebration on the field
  - 2:00: Talent Show in the gym
- **June 11:**
  - Last Day of school!
  - Final Box Top collection Day!

### It Is Not Too Late to Sign Up for Camp Invention!

Need a summer camp for June 24-28? Then look no further. Camp Invention will be at Swift Creek!

This is a great opportunity to learn new STEM skills in a familiar environment with our Swifty staff! Both my girls participated last year and loved it. I've heard similar praise from other parents!

Register at [campinvention.org](http://campinvention.org).

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

### EOG Testing Schedule

**Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats a good breakfast on testing days!**

- May 29- 3rd ELA
- May 30- 4th and 5th ELA
- May 31- 3rd Math
- June 3- 4th and 5th Math
- June 4- 5th Science and 3rd Read to Achieve Test
- June 5-7th Make-ups