

May 31, 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 Families,

It is hard to believe that another school year has passed us by. In about a week, we will say goodbye to the memories of the 2015-2016 school year. As I reflect on the hard work and accomplishments of our students and staff, I am reminded of how precious the time we have with our students really is. I have said this many times, but I am blessed to work with such talented teachers, supportive families, and wonderful students. I thank you so much for sharing your wonderful children with us every day--it has truly been a pleasure to work with them. I am happy with the work we have completed this year and know that our strong family connections have contributed to the success of our students.

As we close this year, we want to say a very special thank you to several individuals who have given 24 years or more of service to our school. These ladies will be enjoying the call of retirement in just a few days. In a county the size of Wake, it is unusual for employees to spend their entire careers in one school. We have been fortunate to enjoy Linda Kmec, data manager; Cynthia Gunter, clerical assistant; and Rhonda Bornman, interventionist at Swift Creek for the duration of most their careers. Mrs. Kmec worked in the office in a clerical position before assuming her role as data manager. In her 24 years at our school, she has registered many, many students, answered countless phone calls, and has been a friendly face to all who enter our doors. She does all of her duties with a smile and positive attitude! Ms. Gunter is our clerical assistant, was a teacher assistant at one time, and has also been the coordinator for the before and after school care program. In her 30 year career, she has shelved and checked in and out more books than we can count, has run an exceptional before and after school care program, and has been another invaluable office staff member who helps our students and staff. Mrs. Bornman was a classroom teacher before assuming her current position as interventionist for multiple grade levels. Not only does she coordinate our Read a Book program, she has been our Title 1 liaison, and she has worked with many teams and students in her 29 years to help students make improvements in reading and math skills. Mrs. Bornman's positive influence on our students is sincere and heartfelt and is what you hope every student will encounter in their school career. These ladies have made tremendous contributions to our community, and it will be with



End-of-the-Year Tests

- May 2 – June 2:** mCLASS testing window
- June 1:** 4th grade ELA Testing; 5th grade Science
- June 2 4th grade:** Math Testing
- June 3 3rd grade:** Read to Achieve Test

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

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much tears and heartbreak that we bid them farewell. Please take a moment to wish them the best as they embark on this new adventure of retirement. They will be missed and will not be forgotten! Thank you all for your selfless service to Swift Creek!

I would like to wish a big heartfelt thank you to all of our PTA members who have given their all to our school this year and for all their contributions to our PTA committees and events. We appreciate the work of our PTA Board, who have spent countless hours working on school items for the benefit of all of our students and teachers. Without you all, our year would not have gone as smoothly. We also thank all PTA fifth grade parents for all of their support through the years and wish you all the best as you leave our special community. The middle schools are lucky to have all of your support as you "graduate" with your children.

Swift Creek also wishes our fifth graders, the Class of 2023, good luck as they move to the various middle schools. Students--always remember your Swift Creek roots, and come and visit us. You are blessed to have a solid academic foundation and strong connections to take with you. We wish you the best and know you have bright futures ahead!

Thank you to all parents who volunteered to proctor for the EOG testing last week and this week. With your help, we should be able to finish our testing soon. We will finish our Read to Achieve Test for select 3rd graders and will send scores as soon as we receive that information. In the final report card, parents will also receive the mCLASS Home Connect letter that will inform you of progress on the final benchmark.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Meet the Teacher event on August 24th from 4 pm to 6 pm. (Popsicles on the Playground for rising Kindergarten students will be from 6:00-6:30 on that day.) Class assignments for grades 1-5 will be mailed a few days prior to the event, so that you will know your teacher assignment prior to arriving. If you feel strongly that your child's learning style should be shared with me prior to making class placements, please describe your child's personality and how he or she learns best in a written statement no later than June 13th. Please do not mention teacher names or allude to specific teacher placements. **The first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year will be August 29th.**

The WCPSS Transportation Department will continue current practices for bus service for the 2016-2017 school year. Traditional calendar students must request bus service by July 25th to receive first day service if they are not currently riding a bus. If your child is currently not riding the bus, is eligible for transportation, and wants to ride the bus next year, you may request transportation for them online at www.wcpss.net. Postcards will be mailed from WCPSS Transportation Department beginning May 20th to let eligible families know if they need to take action regarding transportation.

This summer, I hope that you will continue to encourage your children to read and write, as the long summer break can impact reading achievement. Just a little reading everyday can prevent your children from losing skills they have worked so hard to attain this year. Mrs. Ramsey, media specialist, will enclose in report cards a flyer about our online subscriptions that you can access for free from home.

So as we close yet another year, I thank you all for the support and smiles this school year. Swift Creek is a wonderful place, and it has been my pleasure to serve you. Have a great summer, stay safe, and we will see you soon!

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Thank You from PTA President, Dina Goembel

Dear Swift Creek Families,

I cannot believe that 2 years as PTA President have flown by. I wanted to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you for being so helpful and understanding these past 2 years with all the changes that have been made. Thank you for your support at the PTA meetings and for being so attentive and listening . . . we all really appreciated it!

I also want to say THANK YOU to all of you who have helped with our committees, events, activities, luncheons, etc...anything we needed help with you all stepped up and made it possible.

Lastly, a HUGE THANK YOU to our amazing PTA team of Marie Dexter, Ann-Margaret Alexander, Delores Ragsdale, and Kim Partin. They all worked very hard and I am so proud of them! I'm excited for our new team next year and know that we will be in good hands.

We have an amazing school that has something special about it – I don't know how to put it into words, but we are all one big family and you can FEEL the difference when you walk through our school or come to an event. I am thankful that my children are a part of Swift Creek and I look forward to next year!

Dina Goembel, PTA President & SCES Mom ☺

Celebrate Good Times!

At their May 10 track meet, the Swift Creek Track Team earned 40 first, second, and third place ribbons.

Way to make us proud, Swifties! You sure lived up to your team motto:



NO SPEED LIMIT!
CATCH US IF YOU CAN!

Thanks to everyone who came out for Chick-Fil-A night on April 29. Between sales from food and the spinning wheel game, we raised \$466 for Swift Creek! Excellent job!

A special Thank you to the Chick-Fil-A at Crossroads for hosting us again this year!

This year, through our various Painless Fundraising programs (such Box Tops, Harris Teeter VIC cards, and Coke bottle tops) we raised approximately \$3000 for Swift Creek. This money will be used to buy new, up-to-date material for our reading library, which contains instructional materials for every grade level.

Remember to keep collecting those Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Coke bottle tops over the summer, so we can buy more materials next year!

Thanks from the Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank everyone who donated their time and food during the year. The teachers appreciated everything that we did for them, and we couldn't have done it without your support.

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

Camp Invention will be at Swift Creek June 20-24. Scholarships available! Registration is still open for Camp Invention. Please go online to register at www.campinvention.org. For information about scholarships, please contact Margarete Harris at mharris5@wcpss.net.

Music Notes

We are completing a wonderful year of music making! I encourage you to keep your child involved in some type of musical activity during the summer. There are many ways to do this:

- Music Camps
- Private Lessons
- Attend live concerts with your child
- Suggest involvement for your child in church, civic and family music performances
- Listen to a variety of music at home or in the car.

“Musical Training is a more potent instrument than any other form of education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.” **-Plato**

I want to thank you for the support and encouragement you have provided during the year(s) to me and the music program. I will not be returning to Swift Creek next year as I am transferring to another school that is closer to my home. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your child and getting to know our wonderful Swift Creek families. This school will always hold a special place in my heart! I know that you will continue to support our school music program. The rewards for enhancing your child’s musical experiences are endless. Have a great summer. I will miss you all!

Gratefully, Mrs. Huddle Music Teacher

Thank You to Our Swift Creek Community!!!!

In the last newsletter, we thanked so many of the parent volunteers who have helped in recent weeks. Now, let’s thank our local community for all they do for us.

Our Volunteers from Macedonia United Methodist Church

As the saying goes, “it takes a village to raise a child.” One of our biggest community supporters has been Macedonia United Methodist Church. Many parents probably don’t realize how much these volunteers help at our school. They help with reading, copying, shelving library books, so much more. In addition, the church often surprises the staff with sweet treats (for example, the church provided a day of desserts during Teacher Appreciation week). They also leave little surprises and notes of encouragement in the teacher mailboxes.

All of this work has a tremendous impact on our school. We cannot thank all of these volunteers enough for everything they do!!!

Local Businesses

A special thank you to all these businesses who helped this year. With the recent cuts in education funding, we depend more on our local businesses to help us succeed. These businesses contributed coupons to teachers and staff, coupons to PTA members, free book on Book Fair nights, prizes for the Fun Run and Science Fair, flowers for the front of our school, and so much more. In addition, many of these businesses donated gift cards and prizes for a special end-of-the-year raffle for the teachers. Caroline Richardson did an AMAZING job of getting these donations. Kudos to her for all her energy and effort!

Please thank these businesses for all of their help this year!

Adventure Landing	Food Lion	Red Robin
AquaTots	Harris Teeter in Tryon Village	Releve
Baba Ghannouj Mediterrean	Harris Teeter (next to Cary	Rita's
Bistro	Towne Mall)	Roly Poly
Barry's Cafe	JellyBeans Skating	Ruckus Pizza
BJs	Lauralee gifts	Shear Elegance
Break Time	Lowes	SkyZone
Bruegger's Bagels	Marbles Kids Museum	Starbucks in Tryon Village
Campbell Road Nursery	McDonalds in Crossroads	Sweet Frog
Carolina Hurricanes	Mellow Mushroom	Sweet Tomatoes
Carolina Panthers	Moe's Southwest Grill	Target
Cary Ale House	NC State Basketball	Tasu Restaurant
Championship Martial Arts	Olive Garden	The Guy's Place – Haircuts for Men
Chick-Fil-A in Crossroads	Papa John's	Wellington Animal Hospital
Craft Public House	Paws in the City	Whole Foods in Raleigh
Crossroads 20	Phydeaux	Wild Wing Cafe
Daniel's Florist	Polar Ice House	
Domino's Pizza	Qdoba Mexican Eats	
Durham Bulls		

Thanks to the Cary Exchange Club

Did you know that the Cary Exchange Club donated \$400 to our Book Fair to help buy books for the kids? I didn't either! Thank you to Caroline Richardson for reaching out to the community and getting us this donation.

Stuff an SUV Summer Food Drive: June 6-9

Swifties! We are asking for your help to benefit the Swift Creek Community. Please bring in non-perishable food items (canned goods) the last week of school. Our goal is to completely Stuff an SUV full of food!

There will be collection bins at the school entrance of the bus loop and in the carpool area.

Watch throughout the week to see how much we can stuff in the SUV!
Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!!!



Your June Checklist

- June 1 4th grade:** EOG Testing – English Language Arts; **5th grade:** EOG Testing -- Science
- June 2 4th grade:** EOG Testing – Math
- June 3 3rd grade:** Read to Achieve Testing
- June 6:** Yearbooks will be handed out the week of June 6. If you forgot to order one earlier, extra yearbooks will be available for purchase in the office for \$12. If you can't remember if you ordered one or have any other yearbook questions, please contact Ginger at yearbookpics.sce@gmail.com
- June 7 5:30-7:30pm:** PTA Social at Ruckus. Please RSVP at <http://goo.gl/forms/PWD4CU2qxK> or email Marie Dexter at mariecddexter@gmail.com.

- **June 8 10:30am:** 5th grade graduation and picnic.

Schedule for 5th Grade Graduation: June 8, 2016

- 10:00 - 10:20 am Check-in at the office
- 10:30 – 11:30am Graduation in the Gym
- 11:30-11:45am Picnic near Playground at Basketball Court -- behind the school
 - Opportunity for your child to change out of their nice graduation clothes
 - Pick up meal tickets at the picnic area
 - Sign up for kickball
 - Socialization time
- 11:45-12:45pm Lunch and Cake
- 12:45-12:55pm Recognition of 5th grade volunteers
- 12:55-1:10pm Class Photograph
- 1:10-1:40pm Kickball games, chalk graffiti, yearbook signing, memory board
- 1:45pm Farewell
- 2:00pm Talent Show – Dress Rehearsal (Groups A and B)

Students who are participating in the Talent Show on June 9 must attend the dress rehearsal. Parents may attend the dress rehearsal. Students who are not participating should return to their classrooms.

- **June 9:** Last Day of School! 5th Grade Talent Show in the afternoon.
- **June 10:** Deadline for ordering your School Supply Kit online at <http://www.shopttkits.com/>. Be sure to use Swift Creek's account number 38021 when you order.
- **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 13. 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.

Your July Checklist

- **Encourage your child to READ!!!!**
- **July 25:** Deadline for requesting bus transportation (so bus service will start on the first day of school). If your child is currently not riding the bus, is eligible for transportation, and wants to ride the bus next year, request transportation services at www.wcpss.net.

Your August Checklist

- **Mid-August:** Watch your mailbox for teacher assignments and news about the new school year.
- **August 24 4-6pm:** Meet the Teacher for 1st-5th graders
 - **6:30pm:** Popsicles on the Playground for incoming Kindergarten families
- **August 29:** First day of school. The bell rings at 9:15am.