

November 17, 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,

I hope this month finds you all well and ready to settle in for just one more week until Thanksgiving break. This year, I am thankful for an amazing start to the year and for the hard work of our teachers, families, and students. Each day, our learning community is "Setting the Standard of Excellence For All" and I am thankful for these efforts. It is truly why our school is such a special place to work and learn.

There are many moments as principal that make you proud. **One of the highlights of the year is announcing our Teacher of the Year. This year, our staff has voted that Bobbie Lipe should hold this honor** and represent us in the county event. Ms. Lipe is an amazing Kindergarten teacher who has spent 27 years in education. Ms. Lipe has spent her entire career right here at Swift Creek Elementary—even completing her student teaching here. She has spent all but two of her years of experience teaching Kindergarten, and it is hard to imagine her doing anything else. She is professional, compassionate, dedicated, and kind hearted towards our children. She loves exposing students to literature and is organized and hard working. She has touched many young lives and we are proud to have her as our representative. Congratulations Ms. Lipe!

With every good news tidbit, we also have news we wish were not true. Mrs. MaryAnne Bratton, PE teacher extraordinaire, will be retiring on December 31st. Mrs. Bratton has been at Swift Creek for 22 years and has 28 years of experience in the field of education. She motivates our students on a daily basis to set and maintain fitness goals and encourages excitement for her subject area with engaging activities. She serves on Leadership/SIP team, sponsors Track Team, and has been the teacher representative at PTA for many years. We will miss her contributions to our school, her positive attitude, and her professionalism. We wish her the best and hope she will take fond memories of our school community with her!

This year's Fun Run was a success—and we raised approximately \$16,800 for our school community. We appreciate your donations and PTA will use it wisely to fund items for your students and teachers



Thank You to Our Local Community!

At Swift Creek, we have such a supportive business community. We appreciate all you do for us.

- Thank You to **Campbell Road Nursery** for donating the pansies for the front of the school.
- Thank You to **Domino's Pizza, Food Lion, and BJs** for providing the food, drinks, and paper supplies for 3 class pizza parties. Ms. Lipe and Ms. Beauchamp won a pizza party for having 100% of their students donate to the Fun Run. Miss Millichap's class won a party for the highest total of donations.
- Thank You to **Starbucks (Tryon Village), Harris Teeter (Tryon Village), and Roly Poly** for their donations to Book Fair week and Literacy Night.

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Farewell, Swift Creek

My Swift Creek family,

I announce with much excitement, yet some melancholy, that I'll be retiring this December. I'd like to thank all of the families and staff, both past and present, for your support in valuing the importance of physical education and I hope that support continues. Nothing made me feel better than hearing a child say how much they loved PE, or a parent tell me that their child was upset to miss school because it was PE day.

I'd also like to thank everyone who supported the track team. As many of you know, I'm an avid runner and watching kids fall in love with running makes my heart smile.

Although there is much I will miss about Swift Creek, I'm looking forward to seeing what this new chapter in my life has in store for me. So as one door closes, another opens.

Take care, Swift Creek. I'll miss you.

Maryanne Bratton



this school year. Such items include teacher gift cards, teacher appreciation items, recess equipment, cultural arts assemblies, Walking Wednesdays program, Reflections program, and the list goes on and on. I personally appreciate all of your contributions as I know that you could choose to donate to many wonderful organizations and causes, and you chose **our** school. Every donation helped and even though we were short of the PTA goal, it is not lost on me how much this small community raises each year. Congratulations to Ms. Millichap's second grade class for raising the most money collectively and to Ms. Beauchamp's fourth grade class and Ms. Lipe's Kindergarten class for having 100% participation by all students. (These classes received a pizza lunch.) The PTA met last week and voted to revise the budget slightly to accommodate for the \$3000 not raised. The good news is—no one program was eliminated from the budget. A job well done for our Swifties!

And speaking of thanks, I want to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who came to Literacy Night on November 5th! It was a widely successful Title 1 Parent Involvement Night, and I was pleased to see our teachers, parents, and students working together for the purpose of learning about reading. We hope the activities will assist you as you help your children with reading this school year. We counted that over 271 people ate dinner—which was an increase from last year. **The book fair had over \$9800 in sales, and 50% (\$4,917) of these earnings will go back into books for our media center.** Thank you to our committee of parents and staff who helped to plan the event and provide input. As a Title 1 school, we are committed to working jointly with you to prepare your children for a sound future and I feel this was a great evening that showcases that belief.

As always, thank you for all you do for your children and our school.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Wake County School Board Advisory Council (District 5)

The second District 5 BAC meeting of 2015-2016 was held Monday November 2nd at West Lake Middle School.

The primary focus of this past BAC meeting was to share information about school report cards. Brad McMillian and Melanie Rhodes shared background information regarding state school report cards, school improvement plans and

WCPSS school profiles.

Historical reports (2012-2013 and older) are located at: <http://www.ncreportcards.org/src/>

The 2013-2014 report is located at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/src/>. The 2014-2015 grades should be published within the next few weeks.

Dr. James Martin reminded attendees that designating one grade for each school does not always demonstrate a full picture.

The next District 5 Board Advisory Council Meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, 2016. Please contact Emily McGraw (emcgraw@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

Music Notes

Our November song is "America". Our composer is Fanny Mendelssohn. She was born in 1805 in Germany and was a talented pianist and composer.

Please check the music website at <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/swift-creek-music/home> and follow [@SwiftCreekMusic](https://twitter.com/SwiftCreekMusic) on Twitter to stay informed of your child's musical learning.

We Need You in the Media Center!!!

The Media Center is looking for some help. If you are interested in helping with circulation, making displays, or helping maintain the library please contact Mary Alice Ramsey mwramsey@wcpss.net. Pair your time with am or pm carpool, lunch with your student, or any time you wish! We can use people all throughout the day. Training provided!

Did You Get Your PTA Membership Card?

All PTA members should have received their membership cards along with coupons from Sweet Frog, Red Robin, Ruckus Pizza, and Chick-Fil-A. Remember to show your PTA membership card at Sweet Frog through the school year to receive the discount on your entire purchase.

Thank you to everyone that joined Swift Creek PTA this year. Our total is 243 members! If you have any questions, please email Melinda Gelsing at gelsingers@bellsouth.net.

Fourth grade students have started playing recorders and will be bringing them home for practice soon. Please encourage your recorder player to bring their instrument back to school on music day!



Book Fair Update

Thanks to many helpful parents, and the ever amazing Mrs. Ramsey, Swift Creek Elementary held a successful fall book fair. Lots of fun prizes were given away.

- In every 1st-5th grade class one child won a \$5 gift certificate to spend at the book fair and one child won a free poster.
- We had 3 teachers win gift cards to Target and we had one class per grade win a large box of Nilla wafers.
- Also, EVERY child in the school received a free new book to take home.

Literacy night brought in the crowds for great classroom activities, free dinner in the cafeteria as well as lots of shoppers at the book fair. Our biggest winners of that night were the two winners of the raffle baskets: Hannah Moran Morales and Claire Leidy.

The Book Fair Committee would like to thank the local businesses at Tryon Village for their generous donations over book fair week: Starbucks, Roly Poly and Harris Teeter.

Cooking with Kids – October Winner!

Congratulations to our Cooking With Kids winner for the month of October—Thomas Goembel! Thomas prepared one of his favorite meals, Sushi Rolls! As the winner of our monthly random drawing, Thomas received a \$20 gift card from our sponsor, Harris Teeter (Tryon Village), where he can purchase more ingredients to make another family meal! Check out our PTA bulletin board where Thomas and his sushi meal are featured.



The next deadline for Cooking With Kids submissions is November 30. Remember, it's easy to get your children to help with family meals. Tossing a salad, sprinkling cheese, mixing a batter, and setting the table are activities that even our youngest students can participate in. If you haven't started already, Thanksgiving is a great time to start Cooking With Kids! Submit your meal descriptions and accompanying photos to realfooddoc@gmail.com. That next gift card could be yours!

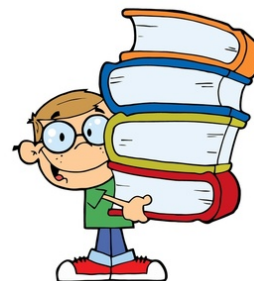
Update on Walking Wednesdays

Walking Wednesdays is up and running! **Third grade is currently in the lead for most laps, followed closely behind by 1st and 4th grades.**

Remember to send your student in with comfortable walking/running shoes on Wednesdays. Our students love this activity! Whether they walk 1 lap or run 15 laps (that's 3 miles!), our students are getting active, burning energy, and coming back to class more settled to learn. If you want your child to be more active, encourage them to participate.



Book Fair Sales totaled \$9,835. This earned Mrs. Ramsey \$4,917 in Scholastic dollars to spend on new books for the media center.



If you haven't seen them already, walking tokens should be coming home with your child soon (1 token earned for every 10 laps (2 miles))!

Reflections Art Program: Congratulations Participants and Winners!

Thank you to all the students who participated in the PTA Reflections program! The artwork was judged by three different judges with no connection to Swift Creek Elementary School. It was a double-blind judging in that neither the student names nor the judges' names are provided to each other.

The winner of the Literature Category is Susan O'Quinn McGraw.

In the Photography category:

- 1st Place - Avery Lotz
- 2nd Place - Emma Alexander
- 3rd Place - Lauren Prillaman

In the Visual Arts Category:

- 1st Place - Audrey Nolan
- 2nd Place - Samuel Huddle
- 3rd Place (tie) - Emma Vatter and Charlotte Jacobson

All of the students whose artwork placed in 1st, 2nd or 3rd will have his/her artwork forwarded to the county competition. If he/she wins at the county competition, then the artwork will compete in the state and nationwide competition.

As soon as we can receive the medals for participation, we will arrange for the students to be recognized. The Reflections Committee will contact the students as soon as more information is available. Congratulations to all our participants and winners!



PTA REFLECTIONS

The names of this year's Reflections participants are listed below:

Literature

Susan O'Quinn McGraw

Photography

Avery Lotz
Emma Alexander
Lauren Prillaman

Visual Arts

Audrey Nolan
Samuel Huddle
Emma Vatter
Charlotte Jacobson
T'Niyah Guy
Ava Sheppard
Zoe Pacio
Jahche' Vanholten
Kevin Nolan
Austin Deaton
Mackenzie Dixon
Ania Pruchnik
Ayden Leonard
Brenden Reaves

Character Education Awards: Respect and Courage

This month, we celebrate these students for demonstrating Respect and Courage.

| Kindergarten | 1 st Grade | 2 nd Grade | 3 rd Grade | 4 th Grade | 5 th Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <u>Mrs. Harris</u> Alan B. Alex B. Betsy P. Janiya W. Brayan M.Y. Kamren F. Ben R. | <u>Mrs. Phillips</u> Willa F. Nyzair C. Estefania O. Tylan R. Kayla T. Annika F. | <u>Mrs. Roh</u> Ryan B. Ella S. Gabriela (Gabby) S. Mason S. Jonathan M. D. Laena W. | <u>Ms. Herrin</u> Michael H. Rahma C. Tatyanna R. Charli R. Aleah H. <u>Ms. Smith</u> Sylvie S. Abigail S. Lucas R. Mateo H. Iker F-L. | <u>Ms. Beauchamp</u> Ashley B. Christian P. Mason P. Omar Y. Ayden L. Kavon M. | <u>Mr. Krauter</u> Emma G. Jacob S. Rachel T. Omarrean W. Avery L. Sydney H. |
| <u>Ms. Lipe</u> Patrick B. Sammy F. Olivia S. Fabian T. Ada F. Emanuel M. Avaneesh K. Rylei M. | <u>Ms. Zardas</u> Yonas H. Alysson E. G. Arlin T. L. Daniel B. Ziya L. | <u>Mrs. Sedaghat</u> Lili G. Edson L. Fernanda F. Max S. | <u>Mrs. Burchardi</u> Kevin T. Adeline D. Shania M. Brayden A. | <u>Mrs. D'Amelio</u> Brandon H. Noah b. Gakiya H. Basher F. Trey T. Jada R. Aubrey D. | <u>Mrs. Coles</u> Charlotte J. Chase W. Cordell S. Alvaro V. O. |
| <u>Mrs. Sharif-Clark</u> Caleb K. Madalyn S. Valerie A. Jacqueline L. R. Rayhana A. H. Valeria F. G. Meizi G. | <u>Ms. Cillian</u> Skylar K. N. Ava L. Jaxon H. Bryan M. D. Johnny R. Mariah B. | <u>Miss Millichap</u> Justin P. Drew W. Hannah M. Morgan D. Anyia T. Kaden I. | <u>Ms. Wyrsh</u> Kevin N. Charissa T. Madison B. Victoria M. Emerzon A-M. Tyrus H. Brandon P-B. | <u>Ms. Windsor</u> Jai S. Austin D. Fayda Hana C. Christian S.M. Carter B. Ethan D. Sebastian N. Evelyn C. | <u>Ms. Mazuchowski</u> Adam F. Edward G. R. Yamileht V.S. |
| <u>Mrs. Robinson</u> Marcus H. Gwen R. Aya A. Brooklynn A. Adam B. Evelyn C. V. | <u>Mrs. Butler</u> Anna P. Demitri M. Natalie Z. C. | <u>Mrs. Woods</u> Emilie B. Eliana B. Eneida G. O. | | <u>Mrs. Fallon</u> Badr Y. Eliceo H. Kaliya H. Eyasu T. Alyssa B. Donovan I. Essence P. | <u>Mrs. Sandersen</u> Stephanie C. B. Jaylen H. Grant E. Luke J. |
| <u>Mrs. Tanner</u> Evan M. Justin A. Christopher M. Dashawn W. Mariah B. Keegan R. | | | | | |

Your November Checklist

- Nov 18:** Cultural Arts program for all students. Silver Trout Arts will be doing a music, storytelling, puppet show for all grade levels. These programs are sponsored by the PTA and are possible because of your Fun Run donations!
- Nov 18-20:** Character Education awards.
- Nov 20:** Spirit Wear orders are due!
- Nov 25 - 27:** Thanksgiving Holiday. No school.
- Nov 30:**
 - o Box Top Collection day! Please send in your Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Coke reward bottle caps. The Box Top Fairy will be making her rounds today and collecting these items from each class. Which class win the prize as the November Super Snippers?
 - o Deadline for Cooking with Kids contest. Submit your meal descriptions and accompanying photos to realfooddoc@gmail.com.

Your December Checklist

- Dec 15-17:** Character Education awards.
- Dec 15 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the gym. Followed by a drama/chorus performance that you won't want to miss!
- Dec 18 1:15pm:** Early Release. School dismisses at 1:15pm.
- Dec 21- Jan 1:** Winter Break.

Your January Checklist

- Jan 4:** Return to school. Class starts promptly at 9:15am.
- Jan 14:** Swift Creek Science Fair!

Spirit Wear Orders due Nov 20

Spirit Wear Order forms went home in last week's Tuesday folders. Orders are now being taken for long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts. The order forms and money are due this Friday, Nov. 20th.

All orders will be delivered before the winter break. If you would like to surprise your child with a gift for the holidays, just write that on the order form, along with a phone number where we can reach you. This order only happens once a year, so be sure to submit your order before the cold weather gets here!

