

November 4, 2014

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 a few more weeks until Thanksgiving break. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed several new staff members to join Swift Creek's team. Asia Sharif-Clark is our new Kindergarten teacher and comes to us with experience as a technology facilitator, elementary teacher, and ESL teacher. The new teacher's assistant for Ms. Sharif-Clark's class is Molly Hoffman, who also has experience substituting. Both make a great team and are perfect additions to our Kindergarten team. Our new custodian is Keith Wooten and he also has made a wonderful addition to our staff, helping to keep our school clean and neat. Please welcome them all if you have the opportunity.

I am pleased to say that our 2014 Fun Run was a great success! Thanks to all of you, we met our \$20,000 goal! If you have money yet to collect, please send it in as soon as possible, as PTA will be putting all final names in the drawing for the prizes very soon! The Swift Creek staff extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to this event, knowing that without you, it never could have happened. Our students also thank you—as the money raised goes right back to items and events for them.

Speaking of events, we have several more exciting things for families to enjoy this month. This week, the PTA will host the annual Fall Festival, which is the sister event to our Parade of Pumpkins. No worries, we will still have your favorites—food (pizza, drinks, baked goods), games, a DJ, live music in the cafeteria, a craft activity and lantern walk, a costume contest, a book walk, and the traditional class pumpkin decorating contest! In fact, the only thing that has changed is the date and the name, and PTA has added more activities! **We hope to see you at Swift Creek on**



Upcoming Events

November 5

Report Cards sent home

November 6

Fall Festival from 6-8pm

November 7

Early Release – School Out at 1:15

November 10

RSVPs are due for the Literacy Night on Nov 18

November 11

Veteran's Day – No School

November 17-21

Fall Book Fair

November 18

- Literacy Night 5:30-7:00
- Family Night at the Book Fair 7:00pm

November 21

Kindergarten LetterLand Parade

November 27-30

Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

In This Issue

Thank You!

Kids Cook Mondays

Character Education Awards

November 6th at 6:00 pm! This is one of the favorite things of the year for students, staff, and families.

As a Title 1 school, we are committed to working jointly with you to prepare your children for a sound future. We love to collaborate with you to learn skills, curriculum, or information that will assist you in helping your child at home master what he or she needs to know for their grade level. On **November 18th, beginning at 5:30 pm, we invite you to Literacy Parent Involvement Night**, where you can visit each grade level with your students for a "Make it and Take it" related to literacy for that grade level. The "Make it and Take it" is the chance for you to work with your child and his or her teacher to make something that will be useful for you to use at home in increasing reading skills. Each grade level team will also have a technology/game room, where you can learn about any technology or games that will help to increase your child's reading skills. If you attend two sessions—either both for one grade level, or two from different grade levels, you can also join us for a free hot dog supper at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Our Book Fair is also open that evening at 7:00 pm, giving you the opportunity to purchase books if you choose. Every Swift Creek student attending will also receive a free book that evening. Students will also be celebrating all week with a door decorating contest—related to their favorite book of course--and a book character dress up day. Our Kindergarten LetterLand parade will also be this week—Friday, November 21st. This promises to be a fun, but informative collaboration, and we hope that you will be able to join us. **Because we need an accurate count of attendance for dinner, please take a moment to reflect on the invitation in your child's Tuesday folder and return the RSVP by Monday, November 10th.**

As always, thank you for all you do for your children and our school. It is a pleasure to be the principal of Swift Creek Elementary School.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

School Corner

Music Notes

We have enjoyed singing the song, "Tomorrow" and watching scenes from the musical "Annie." Classes have also been listening to the music of classical composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We have enjoyed learning about his life and music. Our November song is "God Bless the U.S.A" and our November composer is Ludwig Van Beethoven. We think it is amazing he composed such beautiful music when he was completely deaf in his later life!

Fifth grade students have begun guitar lessons and have learned how to hold and strum the instrument correctly. We are learning three and four string chords this quarter. Fourth graders have begun their recorder lessons and some classes have begun bringing their recorders home for practice. Please be sure to encourage your child to bring their recorder back to school on their music day!

Cougar Chorus is working hard on our Holiday concert songs and will be performing in December. The performance schedule for the school year has been set. I encourage you to come and support our students as they perform!



2014-2015 Performance Dates

Date	Time	Event
December 8	3:00pm	Cougar Chorus Concert Assembly
December 9	6:30pm	Cougar Chorus Holiday Concert (following the PTA meeting)
February 9	9:30am	2nd Grade Concert Assembly
February 10	6:30pm	2nd Grade Concert (following the PTA meeting)
March 3	12:20pm	1st Grade Concert
April 13	3:00pm	Cougar Chorus Concert Assembly
April 14	6:30pm	Cougar Chorus Spring Concert (following the PTA meeting)
April TBA		4th Grade Recorder Concert
May TBA		5th Grade Guitar Concert
May 21	10:15am	Kindergarten Concert

Please visit the music website for music room news and information at https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/swift-creek-music/home_ You can also follow the music room on Twitter @SwiftCreekMusic

Thank you for your support of music at Swift Creek!
Mrs. Huddle, Music Teacher

We Need Your Input on the Use of Technology in Our School

Swift Creek Elementary is partnering with Project Tomorrow SpeakUp, an online survey for teachers, parents, students and community supporters, to provide input around learning, and specifically the use of technology in our school. We want to hear from you so we can provide our students with the best instruction possible. Please take a few moments to go to our school's website, click on the Project Tomorrow SpeakUp button, and complete the survey. Students taking the survey will need a password, which is `wake2014`.

Follow Us On Twitter

Swift Creek Twitter account has been reactivated. Please follow us @SwiftCreekES for school updates!

Help Create Math Shoe Box Centers

Needed: Parents interested in making some Math ShoeBox Centers. This can be done at home or at school. I will supply all the materials. I also need shoeboxes for the centers - total of 30. Please contact Rhonda Bornman - rbornman@wcpss.net if you are interested in helping with this project.



Thank You to Our Classroom Sponsors

Thank You to the following families and businesses who have sponsored a class through the Business Partnership program. The funds that these generous donors gave will be used to purchase teaching materials for the classroom. Please patronize the businesses listed if you get a chance.

As you can see, several classes don't have sponsors yet. If you are interested in being a sponsor, email or call Susan Rhodes (srhodes@wcpss.net) for more information.

Grade Level	Classroom	Sponsor
K	Mrs. Haren	Donald Douglas Realtor/Broker, Coldwell Banker, HPW The Dexter Family
	Mrs. Harris	
	Ms. Lipe	
	Mrs. Robinson	
	Mrs. Tanner	
1 st	Mrs. Butler	The Pickurel Family
	Ms. Cillian	The Dexter Family
	Mrs. Phillips	Lucas Nesgoda's parents
	Mrs. Zardas	
2 nd	Mrs. Bernstein	Rockridge Realty, Clair Green, agent
	Mrs. Ellis	Element Analytical, PLLC, Rob McGraw
	Ms. Koster	
	Mrs. Sedaghat	Donald Douglas Realtor/Broker, Coldwell Banker, HPW
3 rd	Mrs. Barker	Pickurel Family
	Ms. Herrin	
	Ms. Smith	
	Ms. Wyrsh	
4 th	Ms. Beauchamp	Rockridge Realty, Clair Green, agent Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A. Ann-Margaret Alexander, Family Law Attorney Friends of Swift Creek
	Mrs. D'Amelio	
	Mrs. Fallon	
	Ms. Windsor	
5 th	Mrs. Coles	Brooks and Chandak Pediatric Dentistry
	Mrs. Jackson	Whitfield, Bryson, and Mason LLP, Dan Bryson
	Mr. Krauter	
	Mrs. Pearman	Simple Bliss Spa and Salon, Robin Berning, owner
Art PE Music	Ms. Cannon	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
	Mrs. Bratton	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
	Mrs. Huddle	David and Nehal Outlaw
Special Education	Mrs. Fountain	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
	Mrs. Willis	David and Nehal Outlaw
AIG Classes	Mrs. Green	D-P Planning Meetings and Events, Elizabeth Peeler

Fall Festival: November 6 from 6-8pm

Remember to bring the whole family to the Swift Creek Fall Festival on Thursday, November 6. There will be games, food, prizes, live music, and a DJ. The annual Parade of Pumpkins will be displayed down the hall next to the cafeteria. Plus, Ms. Cannon and her mom are also going to be face painting in the gym!

At 7:15, there will be a Book Walk, and at 7:30, there will be a costume contest. The night will end with a lantern walk around the school courtyard. Kids can make their lanterns before 7:30. Come join us! You won't want to miss it!

Literacy Night and Book Fair Family Night: Nov. 18

Remember to come join us for Literacy Night from 5:30-6:30 on November 18. For students, there will be a grade-level craft, and each student gets to take home one free book. November 18 is also the Family Night at the school book fair.

Note: There will be no PTA meeting on November 18.

Introducing Kids Cook Mondays

A Healthy Lifestyles initiative to encourage cooking with your kids!

Did you know studies have shown that one of the best ways to get your child to eat healthier foods—and actually enjoy them—is to have them help with meal preparation? By encouraging children to help prepare meals, you provide an opportunity to increase their interest and understanding of eating healthy, tasty food—valuable lessons as they grow into young adults!

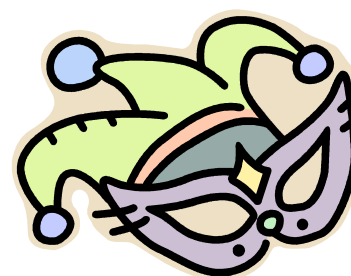
Benefits of preparing meals with your children:

- Kids feel a sense of pride and accomplishment by contributing to the family meal.
- Parents get to spend more quality time with their kids, preparing and eating together.
- The whole family tends to eat healthier foods, as it is easier to incorporate wholesome, nutritious ingredients at home than when eating take-out or other overly processed foods.
- Kids are more likely to sit down to a family meal when they help prepare it.
- Kids can practice their math and reading skills as they measure and read recipe directions.

Cooking with kids will take a little more time and patience, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Young children can help toss a salad, sprinkle cheese, mix a batter, stir a sauce, set the table... Older children can crack an egg, cut ingredients with a knife and even use the stove. Just be sure to keep it safe (with proper instruction and supervision) and make it fun!

Categories for Costume Contest

- Most creative costume
- Scariest costume
- Funniest costume
- Best book character
- Best overall





We are encouraging Swift Creek families to set Monday* nights as **Kids Cook Mondays**. Submit a 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 11/30/14 for the month of November to realfooddoc@gmail.com (up to 4 entries per family accepted).

* If Mondays don't work for your family, you can certainly do this any day of the week!

Remember: Small changes can add up to HUGE results! Happy, healthy living everyone!

Reflections Art Program: Thanks for your Entries

Thank you to all the students who participated in Reflections Art Program. Our students are unbelievably creative and artistic. Please stay tuned for more information regarding the winners for each category as soon as it becomes available.

Way To Go!!!

Congratulations to Mrs. Sedaghat's Class

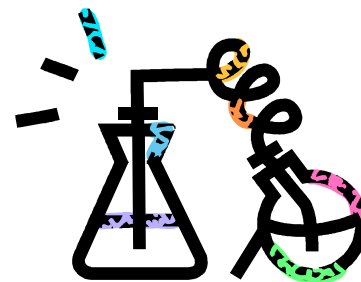
Mrs. Sedaghat's class turned in the most Box Tops (359), Labels for Education (44), and Coke Rewards (30) for the month of October. Great work!

Which class will collect the most in November? We can't wait to find out. Remember to clip during those holiday meals! Lots of cooking means lots of opportunities to get extra points.



Science Fair: January 22, 2015

Do you have an inquisitive son or daughter? Does your child love science and like to do experiments? If so, please hold the date because the Swift Creek Elementary School Science Fair will be held in the cafeteria on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Participation in the science fair is optional and open to students in grades 3-5.



Interested? For more information, including where to look for project ideas, please visit

<http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/science-fair.html>.

Questions? Have a science or engineering background and are interested in serving as a judge for this year's science fair? Please contact Jennifer Miller (jcmille4@att.net).

Interested in Helping with Early Release Luncheons for Our Awesome Staff?

The Hospitality Team is looking for more volunteers to help with our teacher luncheons. Volunteer as little or as much as you are able.

We have 3 more luncheons this year. We send out sign-up genius emails for each luncheon. Contact Megan Word (megw7788@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to our list of volunteers.

Fun Run Update: We Can't Thank You Enough!!

- ❖ Thank you to **Whole Foods** for donating the healthy banana snack at this year's Fun Run. The kids gobbled them up! Thanks to Lisa Barrangou, the chair of the Healthy Lifestyle Committee, for organizing this and for helping to emphasize to our students the importance of healthy snacks.
- ❖ Also, thank you to Dustin Miller of **C&C Fountain and Landscaping Art** for building and donating the water mister. We know it took a long time to create, but the smiles on the kids' faces were worth it! We look forward to using this again at future school events.
- ❖ Thank you to **Ruckus Pizza** for donating gift certificates for a free appetizer. Each student who participated in the Fun Run received one of these gift certificates.
- ❖ Thanks to these sponsors who donated the prizes for our grand prize raffle:
 - **Jellybeans Super Skate Center**
 - **Carolina Hurricanes**
 - **Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt**
 - **The Learning Express in Cary**
 - **NC State Men's Basketball**
 - **Tanas Hair Salon and Spa**
 - **Omega Sports**
 - **Starbucks**
 - **Polar Ice House in Cary**
 - **Harris Teeter in Tryon Village**

A Special Thank You to All of the Volunteers!

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to get the Fun Run up and running. Thanks to all the members of the Fun Run committee for covering every detail big and small – from creating the videos to counting the money to organizing the parent and high school volunteers. No job was too small.

Thanks to the grade parents who organized the volunteers for each class. The turnout was fantastic. Thanks to all of the parents who came out to help and to cheer on the students. Because of our teamwork, the Fun Run was a great success!

Character Education Awards: Respect

Starting in October, the PE, Art, and Music teachers will recognize a class who exhibits that month's character education trait in their classrooms. Here are the winners for October:

PE - Mrs. Sedaghat's Second Grade

Music - Mrs. Lipe's Kindergarten

Art- Ms. Cillian's First Grade

Congratulations to these students for being recognized for the Respect Character Education award in October.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Harris

Suhey Espinoza-Barron
Daniel McDonald
Jack Dusel
Zaniyah Santiago

Ms. Lipe

Bobbie-Verity Treece
Jeremy Jones
Arkoprabha Mukherjee
Kayla Tucker

Mrs. Haren

Samantha Mayhew
Hussain Abdul-Hakim
Natalie Zavala-Castandea
Genesis Arreaga

Mrs. Robinson

Mariam Elwazzan
Sequori Julien
Skylar Kirby Ngo

Mrs. Tanner

Kaleb Moore

First Grade

Mrs. Phillips

Ryan Bartley
Alize Brown
Audrey Smith
Joey Dickerson

Ms. Zardas

Scyreniti Dunn
Sydney Julien
Andrew Lammas
Alondra Villarreal Silva

Ms. Cillian

Owen Pinto
Caeden Mcinnis
Jordan Pegus
Drew Worthy

Mrs. Butler

Emelin Rodriguez Ventura
Mason Hassel
Annalee Tanner

Second Grade

Mrs. Ellis

Rahma Chajai
Ava Sheppard
Billy Morales-Hernandez

Mrs. Sedaghat

Addie Dewey
Napoleon Totten
Harmoni Cromwell-Ward
Kevin Tucker

Mrs. Koster

Andrea Flores-Garcia
Addison Watkins
Ayanna Smith
Matthew Fernandez

Mrs. Bernstein

Georgia Strickland
Sylvie Stegmann
Colby Erwin

Third Grade

Ms. Herrin

Carter Bass
Jessica Stanton
Geovanny Morales-Sanchez
Fayda-Hana Chajai

Ms. Smith

Chuck Lee, Jr.
Jakob Ellis
Brandon Raleigh
Isabelle Ho

Mrs. Barker

Mariam Khatib
Kevin Castro-Valadez
Noah Burkhalter
Mahasin Abdul-Hakim

Ms. Wyrsh

Ny'ema Williams
Eyasu Tadesse
Ava Hite
Jai Stephens

Fourth Grade

Ms. Beauchamp

Christian Collado
Emma Vatter
Kayla Hoang
Ko'Mauri Evans

Mrs. D'Amelio

Sam Benjamin
Andrew Miller
Ruqayyah Abdul-Hakim
Billiah Onyangore

Ms. Windsor

Nick Kaplan
Bryan Tafirenyika
Randy Villegas-Silva

Mrs. Fallon

Casey Baragona
Dagmawit Tadesse
Omarrean Whitehead
Morgan Persinger

Fifth Grade

Mr. Krauter

Andrew Clark
Matthew Watkins
Nashrin Uddin

Mrs. Coles

Aylana Soares
Imoni Miller
Elijah Harris
Makayla Pask

Mrs. Jackson

Jordan Schiappa
Margery Vasquez
James Flamenco
Veronika Elchaninova

Mrs. Pearman

Will Woodard
Kaitlin O'Rourke
Kyle Juttrua
Brady Bittner

For November, Character Education awards begin on November 6. This month's trait is courage. Look for those award winners in the December newsletter.