

October 20, 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 well. Fall has arrived and I am glad for the sunshine and cooler temperatures. It is the perfect time of year to be outside, enjoying the world around us. It is also always a perfect time for you to visit our wonderful school—we have a lot going on and we welcome you!

I am pleased to say that our 2015 Fun Run, Wild about Swift Creek, was a great success! Thanks to all of you, the PTA has raised approximately \$15,000. We are so close to the goal of \$20,000! If you have money yet to collect, please send it in as soon as possible, as the PTA will be preparing for the grand prize drawings next week. The PTA did extend the deadline for the money collection that will deem students and teams eligible for prizes—it is now due on October 23rd. 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. We are “wild” about you all—we truly have the best parents and volunteers in Wake County! Our students also thank you—as the money raised goes right back to items and events for them.

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 5th 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 and/or take something that will be useful for you to use at home in increasing reading skills. Each grade level team will have an additional room of literacy based activities as well. If you



DEADLINE EXTENDED!!!

We are still about \$5000 short of our fundraising goal. The PTA has extended the deadline for Fun Run donations to Friday, October 23. **Students who turn in donations through October 23 will be eligible for prizes.**

This money provides these programs at Swift Creek:

- Cultural Arts programs. The next program is Nov 18 by Silver Trout Arts. For more information, see <http://www.timmyabellmusic.com/silvertrout/>.
- Teacher Assistance for classroom supplies and Teacher Appreciation
- Agendas for 3rd – 5th graders. These are purchased by the PTA.
- Playground equipment for each classroom
- And so much more!!!

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Become a Registered Volunteer

attend two sessions—either both for one grade level, or two from different grade levels, you can also join us for a free hotdog supper at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Our Fall 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 Book Fair visits and fun and Literacy Night is a great way to end the week! We will also be offering a Read to Achieve session for 3rd grade parents at 5:00 pm to assist them in learning more about the legislation. Our Kindergarten LetterLand parade will also be the same week—Friday, November 6th. 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 Thursday, October 29th.**

School staff recently met with our Family and Engagement Committee (a team of parents and staff) to plan our Parent Engagement Nights (Literacy and Math) and to revisit our Parent Involvement Policy. The team made a few changes to the policy. A copy of the policy has been sent home with a feedback cover sheet in today's Tuesday folder. Please take a moment to provide us with feedback on the policy—as it represents our commitment to you as families. If you approve of it, just indicate that on the form as well. We value your input and appreciate your support.

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

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

Thank You for the Early Release Luncheon

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank all those who donated food for the Early Release Luncheon on October 16. It was a great success. Please email Elizabeth at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com if you are interested in donating food for the next Early Release Luncheon or to help plan future events for the teachers.

Science Fair is January 14, 2016

Attention budding scientists! Please save the date as the Swift Creek Elementary Science Fair will be held on Thursday, January 14th, 2016. Participation is optional for anyone in grades 3-5. There are several exciting changes in store for this year's science fair. No more complicated forms! Also, students may enter demonstrations in addition to experimental projects this year. Questions? Need more information? Look for Jen Miller to visit your classroom soon or email her at jcmille4@gmail.com.

Interested in Volunteering? Register Today!

Each year you need to register to be a volunteer in Wake County Schools. If you haven't done so for this year, please come by the library to sign up. The process is short. You'll need your Social Security Number (SSN) and Driver's License number, as well as the addresses where you've lived for the past 10 years if you've lived outside of NC. When? M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

After November 1, registration is Mondays only!

Counselor's Corner – News from Mrs. Chadwick

Thank You Classroom Sponsors

We'd like to send out a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our Business Sponsors for your incredibly generous donations to our classrooms!!! Through your generosity, we have REACHED OUR GOAL of having every single classroom in the school sponsored!!!! Your donations allow our teachers to purchase non-consumable resources for their classrooms that they may not otherwise have been able to purchase. These materials will directly benefit your children! Thank you, once again, to all of our sponsors!!!



National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. We do not tolerate bullying in our school and fully believe every child has the right to come to school and learn in a respectful and accepting environment! For more information on bullying, please visit www.stopbullying.gov.



4th and 5th grade classes will be learning all about bullying in this month's guidance lessons. **October 21st is National Unity Day.** Students and staff should all wear **ORANGE** on this day to show that we are united against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance & inclusion! Please visit www.pacer.org/bullying for more information on National Unity Day.

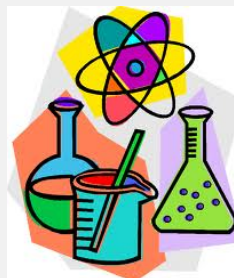
Swift Creek Service Club or SC²

As you may already know, Swift Creek has previously run a Student Council for selected members in both 4th and 5th grades. Members included one elected boy and one elected girl from each class. I am excited to announce that this year, we are going to shift the focus of this group from Student Council, to our new Swift Creek Service Club, or SC²! Most, if not all, of the activities Student Council participated in were service oriented. By making the shift from an elected position to a club, we will be more inclusive, therefore allowing participation from all 5th grade students who are passionate about serving others.

Applications for the Swift Creek Service Club went home with 5th grade students on Tuesday, October 13th and are due back to Mrs. Chadwick by Friday, October 23rd.

5th Grade Parents: Magnet Fair

We hope your 5th grader told you about our visit from Ms. Love from the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy. This is just one choice school that the Wake County Public School System offers to families. You should receive a flyer about the upcoming Magnet Fair soon, but if you are interested in looking at a middle school other than your base school, please visit www.wcps.net/magnet. If you would like to explore your options further, there will be a **Magnet Fair held at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School on Saturday, November 7th from 9:00am-12:00pm.**



Reflections Art Program: 3rd – 5th Grades

Let your imagination fly and unleash your inner artist! Write a poem or story, take a picture or create a piece of visual art and tell us what the theme, "Let Your Imagination Fly" means to you!

Students may enter as many pieces as they would like in one or all art categories. Students will need a Student Entry Form for EVERY piece they submit for judging. The Rules and Procedures have been simplified this year. Make sure to read all the Rules, and fill out the Student Entry Form completely including signatures, title, artist statement, and art questions. **These Rules and Forms are available from the PTA website.

Our school's winning pieces will advance to the county level, county winners will advance to state, and state winners will advance to nationals. Our school will host a Reflections Celebration later in the year and all participating students, regardless of placement, will be invited to attend and be recognized. Our PTA and school staff are excited to see the wonderful creations our super talented students submit this year!!!

Join the PTA Today!

Joining the Swift Creek PTA is quick and easy. For each PTA membership, the school receives a portion of the proceeds. Also, you will receive coupons from Chick-Fil-A, Red Robin, and Sweet Frogs (while supplies last), so the membership pays for itself!

Plus, you will receive a copy of the school directory, which will be available later this fall. This directory is available only to members of the PTA.

If you have questions, please contact Melinda Gelsinger at gelsingers@bellsouth.net.

**This year's Reflections theme is:
"Let Your Imagination Fly..."**

All art must be turned in by **October 27** to your teacher or to the office.

This program recognizes outstanding student works in several art areas: **Literature, Photography and Visual Arts for 3rd – 5th grades.**

The program also has a **Special Artist Division** as an option for students with disabilities. Please see rules or contact Ann-Margaret Alexander.

If you have any questions email Ann-Margaret Alexander at: amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com



PTA REFLECTIONS

Making Healthy Choices from Healthy Lifestyles Committee

Healthy Snacking

It's tempting to reach for prepackaged cookies or crackers at snack time, but you may be surprised to find that your child may truly enjoy a piece of fresh fruit instead. Our students ravenously consumed our healthy snack of bananas after our Fun Run last week, and many were asking for more! **Thank you to Whole Foods (Raleigh) for their generous donation of over 500 bananas**, which helped to refuel our kids and put a smile on their faces after that big run!



Walking Wednesdays Start October 21!

Now that the Fun Run has come and gone, we are ready to bring back Walking Wednesdays! Our first Walking Wednesday is tomorrow (Oct 21) so please send your children to school with comfortable walking shoes. This is an optional program that provides your child an opportunity to get active and moving! Students will walk/run laps on the track at recess and earn walking tokens. Students proudly hang these tokens on their backpacks, and **(new this year)** may elect to trade in earned walking tokens at the end of the year for prizes that support physical activity. Please see the flyer in your Tuesday folder for more info. Contact Healthy Lifestyles with any questions: realfooddoc@gmail.com



Cooking with Kids

It's time to get cooking! 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. Start cooking up meals with your child and enter our monthly Cooking With Kids raffle. Send in a series of photos along with a detailed description of the meal your child helped to prepare, and they will be entered into a random drawing. The selected student will be featured on our PTA bulletin board, in the next newsletter, and receive a \$20 gift card to a local grocery store. **Deadline this month is October 31.** Please see the flyer in your Tuesday folder for more info. Submit your entries to realfooddoc@gmail.com.

Your October Checklist

- **October 19 – 23:** Cafeteria Worker Appreciation week.
- **October 21:**
 - October 21st is National Unity Day. Wear **ORANGE** on this day to show that we are united against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance & inclusion!
 - Walking Wednesdays return. Please send your child to school in comfortable shoes so he can participate in this fun program during recess.
- **October 21-23 9:10am:** Character Education awards in the media center. This month's character is Respect. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.
- **October 23:** End of first quarter.
 - Deadline for turning in Fun Run donations! We are \$5000 short of our \$20,000.
 - 5th graders: Deadline for Swift Creek Service Club application forms.
- **October 26:** Teacher Workday. No school.
- **October 27 3rd-5th graders:** Deadline for Reflections entries. Turn in your projects to your teacher or the front office.
- **October 29:** RSVP if you want to attend the free hotdog dinner at Literary Parent Involvement Night on Nov 5. You must RSVP to receive dinner.
- **October 30:** Report cards sent home.
- **October 31:** Deadline for this month's Cooking with Kids contest. Send your description and pictures to realfooddoc@gmail.com.

Your November Checklist

- **Nov 2 -6:** Fall Book Fair. Volunteers are needed.
- **Nov 6:** The Kindergartners' LetterLand parade!
- **Nov 7 9:00-12:00:** Wake County Magnet Fair at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High school.
- **Nov 10 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Nov 11:** Holiday. No school.

Nov 5: Literacy Parent Involvement Night and Family Night at the Book Fair

- **5:00pm for 3rd grade parents:** Read to Achieve seminar.
- **5:30-6:30pm:** Literacy sessions in the classrooms. Visit each grade level with your students for a "Make it and Take it" activity. The "Make it and Take it" is something that will be helpful in increasing reading skills at home. Each grade level will have an additional room of literacy-based activities as well.
- **6:30pm:** Attend a free hotdog dinner if you attended both sessions for Literacy Night and RSVP'ed by Thursday, October 29.
- **6:30-8:00pm:** Book Fair is open. Purchases made during the Book Fair help us buy books for our school library.

Do you love to do photo layouts? Are you interested in design?

The Yearbook committee needs you. We need someone to design the yearbook next school year. Starting in January, you can shadow current designer, Mary Anne Etheridge, so you'll be ready for next year. Please contact maetheridge@yahoo.com