

October 3, 2017

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

Hello Swift Creek families! I want to thank you for the tremendous response to our WatchDOGS Kick-Off on Tuesday night. 26 families were represented! We are so excited to welcome dads, grandads, and lots of men who want to make a difference in students' lives starting next week.

Here Comes the Bus!

WCPSS traditional calendar families can use the bus tracking app Here Comes the Bus. The app translates GPS data into an easy to use, customizable map that works on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

This is a much more reliable way to track your child's bus rather than calling the school or posting when the busses leave campus on our Twitter feed. **For that reason, we will be discontinuing the Twitter bus posts.**

To access it go to www.wcpss.net/herecomesthebus.

The school code is 67500.



Built for a Bright Future

#thefutureisbright

Join us Saturday from 11am-3pm for Swift Creek's 85th Anniversary Celebration!!!

We'll have food, music, crafts, and games. See many old Swifty friends and make some new ones!

Activities will be going on all day. Here are some of our stage shows:

- 11:30-12:00: Martial Arts demo
- 12:30-1:00 Nate Hagan
- 1:30-2:00 Abby White
- 2:30-3:00 Presentation of new school logo, new school song, Cougar Chorus Concert
- 3:00 Good-byes and Cha Cha Slide

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P2 (The Positivity Project) Corner:

During the month of October, students will be learning about these character strengths.

October 1-7, 9-13



Perspective

You appreciate that people see things in different ways. You have the ability to understand the world from multiple points of view.

October 16-20



Teamwork/Citizenship

You work well as a member of a group or team. You are loyal and sacrifice your individual desires for the greater good.

October 23-27



Creativity

You come up with new and original ways to think about and do things.

October 30-Nov 3



Bravery

You act with mental, moral, or physical strength even when you know things are difficult or scary.

News from Wake County Schools

Every quarter, Dr. Jim Martin, the school board representative for District 5, holds a meeting to discuss issues facing our schools. This quarter, he discussed changes to enrollment and the new class size legislation. If you have any questions about these notes or would like to attend these meetings as Swift Creek's parent representative, please contact Marie Dexter at mariedexter@gmail.com.

The average growth for Wake County schools is 2700 new students per year. Because of this growth and the class size restrictions that are going into effect for the 2018-19 school year, several changes have been made to the enrollment process.

What Does this Mean for You?

The time period for applying to applications schools is being consolidated. There is no longer a separate period for selecting your calendar option school.

- In January, you can apply to magnet schools and your year-round calendar option.
- In February during the transfer request period, you can request to be transferred from a year round school to a traditional school.
- There is no hardship period in May. No appeals will be carried over into the summer.

- If you do not get the school that you want, you can appeal but this appeal will be resolved before the summer.

Changes to Grandfathering

Starting in the 2018-19 school year, for both Elementary and Middle School Students, students in the last grade level (5th or 8th) do not have to change schools if they are reassigned. They are grandfathered in at their current school. If siblings also attend the same school, they are grandfathered in for ONE year (or essentially until the older child graduates from the current school). The following school year, the sibling will be required to go to the newly assigned school.

The school board is still working on the grandfathering issue for high school students.

Information Sessions

For more information about the enrollment proposal for the 2018-19 school year, you can attend one of these information sessions:

- October 6 6:30pm at Holly Grove Middle School
- October 9 6:30pm at Garner High School

Or visit wcpss.net/enrollmentproposal

Class Size Legislation

According to the legislation passed by the NC Legislature last year, there will be new restrictions on class sizes for the 2018-19 school year. The table shows the class sizes for this year and for next year.

Grade Level	2017-18	2018-19
Kindergarten	20	18
1 st	20	16
2 nd	20	17
3 rd	20	17
4 th	26+	26+
5 th	26+	26+

To meet these numbers, Wake County will need an additional 9500 seats or 559 classrooms when school starts in July 2018. Wherever possible, schools will be reclaiming space and converting it into classrooms. A variety of options are available to principals and schools to best fit their needs. Some examples of options include removing specials teachers from their rooms and having "art on a cart." Other options include reclaiming office space to use as classrooms. The administration at Swift Creek is exploring best option for our students.

HOWEVER, none of these options are the best for any Wake County student long term. The county has no funding to build the additional classrooms or to hire the additional teachers needed. When these teachers are hired, it means less resources for our middle and high schools.

You can help by contacting your legislator and advocating for the reinstatement of House Bill 13 for the next school year. We will be discussing this issue at our Oct 10 PTA meeting, so please join us.

Second Grade: Strawberry Garden!

Second grade is preparing the garden to plant strawberries to be harvested in the spring, just like the real North Carolina strawberry farmers.

First they solved a math problem to figure out how many plants we would need. Then they designed a garden for the 40 plants, keeping in mind that each plant needs to have 1 foot of space and we need to be able to reach each plant to harvest the fruits.

Mr. Brian Killius donated and delivered the fresh, nutritious soil. All the second graders moved the soil to the garden plot using the measurements Ms. Steinberg's class had marked. Ms. Miller's class added compost from the school compost pile acknowledging that weeds turn back into nutrients when they rot. Mrs. Sedaghat's class added more soil and the really cool soaker hose. Finally, Mrs. Hoover's class covered the garden with black plastic. The plastic will help prevent weeds from growing and keep warmth and water in the soil.

We are now waiting for the strawberries to arrive from the farms at NC State. Thanks to our parents who volunteered to help us. What a team we are together! We'll keep you posted as to our farming progress.

Watch DOGS

Did you miss the Watch DOGS meeting last week? Watch D.O.G.S. stands for Dads of Great Students. This is a program that focuses on education and safety in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures for a two-fold purpose:

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, cousins are asked to spend at least one day at their student's school volunteering. They will support the school through: monitoring the school property, working in small groups, reading, using flashcards, helping with homework, refereeing games, listening ears, or whatever else needs to be done to PLANT SEEDS OF SUCCESS in the lives of the students. They can actively engage with not only their student(s) but the entire student body. All volunteers must be registered with Wake County Public Schools. For more information about this program, contact David Outlaw at drdavidoutlaw@gmail.com.

Thank you, Brian Killius and First Line StormWater Solutions, for your donation of soil to the strawberry garden.



Here is a typical day for a Watch DOG

- 9:00 am- Check in: photo
- 9:20-10- Kindergarten- with/to the children
- 10:00-10:40- 1st grade- literacy activities with students
- 10:40-11- media center- shelving etc
- 11-1 playground/cafeteria
- 1-1:40- 3rd grade- activities with students
- 1:40-2:20- 2nd grade
- 2:20-3- 5th grade
- 3:3-40- 4th grade
- 3:40- sign out.

Schedule for the Fun Run on Thursday, October 19

So far, we've raised on \$1640 towards this year's goal of \$17,000. Please turn in your Fun Run donations as soon as possible. The deadline for donations is Friday, October 27.

Below the schedule for the big day! We need lots of volunteers to help with the event. If you are interested, contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com or sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/FunRun85>

2017 Fun Run Schedule

Thursday, October 19, 2017

(Rain date: 10/24/17)

		Red	Orange	Blue	Yellow
9:25 – 10:10	5 th	Coles	---	<u>Sandersen</u>	<u>Krauter</u>
10:10 – 10:55	4 th	<u>D'Amelio</u>	Williams	Fallon	Beauchamp
10:55 – 11:40	3 rd	Perry	Wright	Delgado	Michaud
11:40 – 12:40	BREAK				
12:40 – 1:25	1 st	Cillian	Phillips	Pearson	<u>Zardas</u>
1:25 – 2:10	2 nd	Miller	Hoover	Steinberg	<u>Sedaghat</u>
2:10 – 2:55	K	Wiggins	Lipe	Robinson	Hanna

Join the PTA!

Parent support is the backbone for student success. Show your support for our school and teaching staff by joining the Swift Creek PTA today! Membership is \$6 per person. Joining does not obligate you to attend any PTA meetings, but it does help us with our various programs, such as the Science Fair, providing staff assistance, Reflections, and school clubs (like Drama Club and Cougar Chorus.

Simply complete the membership form at <http://tinyurl.com/scesPTA1718> and send the form along with \$6 to the school today! For more information, contact our Membership Chair, Melinda Gelsing, at gelsingers@bellsouth.net.

Cultural Arts Performance: Donna Washington, Storyteller



Swift Creek would like to welcome Donna Washington, storyteller, for our first cultural arts performance of the year! She will perform a collection of her stories on Wednesday, November 1.

Donna Washington is a professional author, storyteller, and multicultural folklorist who has been sharing stories for more than 30 years. Her amazing vocal pyrotechnics and dynamic physicality make her stories come alive and enthrall and delight audiences from four to one hundred and four. She offers a range of multicultural folktales, personal narratives and stories of her own creation. She is a multiple-award winning artist with nine CDs and author of four children's books. dlwstoryteller.com.

This program is supported in part, by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Did You Know?

You can order healthy snacks (for celebrations such as birthdays) through the cafeteria! And yes, they have cookies and cupcakes on the list!

For more information and form to complete, see <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/healthy-lifestyles.html>



Join the READvolution!

Beginning Monday, October 2nd through January 12, 2018, in partnership between WCPSS and the Carolina Hurricanes, Wake County elementary school students are being challenged to read for 20 minutes a day. Students who meet or exceed this goal will be given a voucher for a free Hurricanes game! For every book finished, students will hang a hockey puck in the school, and as a school, if we read 2,020 books, Swift Creek could get to visit PNC Arena to meet the Hurricanes and watch a practice!

This is a great opportunity for our students and our school. Help support Swift Creek and literacy by participating! Keep an eye on Tuesday folders for details and updates. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Wils at swils@wcpss.net.



Help in the Library!

If you love Swift Creek, books, and organizing, you're needed! Mrs. Wils need volunteers to help around the media center including shelving, organizing shelves, and helping students.

Help with the Yearbook

Mrs. Wils needs parents who are willing to help with photography and occasionally volunteering during the production of this year's Yearbook!

MUSIC NEWS!!!

We have had a great start to our school year. Students are engaged in various music making experiences depending on their grade level. Please make plans to attend the 85th Anniversary. This will be our first Swift Creek Chorus performance of the year and the unveiling of the Swift Creek School Song. The 85th Anniversary is on October 7th from 11-3.



#ParentsLovePE

SHOUT OUT TIME ... Thank you Thank you Thank you to the many parents who came out to physical education class last week! I hope you had a fun time and enjoyed the activities and exercise with your child! Look out for pictures on the facebook page and other media outlets. #ParentsLovePE @fitforlifescs -- From Ms. Graves

International Walk to School Day, Wed, Oct 4

Are you ready to start your day with some healthy activity? WALK TO SCHOOL is a great way to start our day with some movement to better focus our brain in the classroom!

When: Wednesday October 4th

Where: Food Lion Parking Lot at 8:30 AM

We will walk to school from Food Lion - there will be volunteers and staff present if you are unable to walk with your child!

Please join the fun, schools all over the country are participating in INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!



Art Room News

What is a W.O.W!?

All of our artists in the Swift Creek art room jumped right into art making, using their choice of media and technique to practice Art Studio Habits of Mind. Art Studio Habits of Mind are practices in which artists engage that allow them to learn, grow and have success as an artist. They are also habits that can create success in many other walks of life! These habits include:

- Develop Craft- try new techniques, apply materials purposefully, choose materials with intention
- Stretch and Explore- take risks, learn from mistakes, teach others, use new materials
- Engage and Persist- stay focused, challenge oneself, embrace artmaking problems
- Observe- spend time looking closely at one's subject matter or environment
- Envision- use imagination, practice many ideas and processes before starting a final work
- Express- convey a mood, idea, or place that is part of oneself or one's experience
- Understand the Art World- discover other artists from the past, present, and diverse places and cultures
- Reflect- self-evaluate and think about one's artistic process

Each class period, students are given one piece of paper and the choice of one station where they can practice these artistic behaviors as they engage with the materials and process at their station. Students are encouraged to envision how they can use the knowledge gained from these explorations to create a final work, which we call a "W.O.W." or **Wonderful, Original, Work of Art**.

[W.O.Ws](#) will be coming home soon with the opportunity for you to order products printed with your child's work and support our school through our Original Works fundraiser. Products ordered make great keepsakes and will be back in time to give as gifts for the winter holidays. (The deadline for orders is November 1. For more information about this program, contact Natasha Kirby at nykirby@yahoo.com.)



Reflections: Within Reach -- ENTRIES DUE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27



PTA REFLECTIONS

The theme for this year's Reflections program is "Within Reach". At Swift Creek, this program is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. You can submit works of art in these categories: Visual Art, Literature, Photography, Music Composition, Filmmaking, and Dance. For more information, contact our Reflections chair, Julie Nolan, at jmpnolan@gmail.com or Carrie Haver at carriehaver@nc.rr.com.

Counselor's Corner – News from Mrs. Chadwick

Did you know October is National Bullying Prevention Month?

Throughout the month of October, the Student Support Services staff will give weekly announcements about bullying education, awareness, and prevention.

As a culminating activity, we will hold SCES's first annual Mix It Up Day on Monday, October 30th. Mix It Up Day is an event held during lunchtime in which students "mix up" who they sit with and take time to get to know students other than the people in their class and friend groups.

For more information about Bullying Prevention and Mix It Up Day, please visit www.stopbullying.gov and <https://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>.

Helping Houston

We would like to thank every student and family that contributed to our Helping Houston Service Project.

We collected over \$500 and many, many beautiful cards to send to Elmore Elementary School in Houston!

The staff at SCES is so proud to see our students showing how much they care for others and recognizing that Other People Matter!



Thank you to SC2!

A special Thanks to the Swift Creek Service Club for their helping in running the Helping Houston service project along with Mrs. Chadwick, School Counselor. This year's service club members include:

Laura Capps	Cherise Githinji	Daniela Morales	Tatyanna Roland
Harmoni Cromwell-Ward	Amanda Kearns	Meredith Myers	Abby Sandford
Alex Douglas	Devon Kress	Zoe Pacio	Madison Settles
Kaydence Ekwuribe	Amy Layer	Brandon Perez-Beltran	Ava Sheppard
Soraya Elmachiadi	Claire Leidy	Jacob Prillaman	Chay Smith
Silas Encarnacion	Alexis Mayhew	Katie Ragsdale	Georgia Strickland
Matthew Fernandez	Susan McGraw	Sonia Rojas	Whit Stuart

AIG Nomination Window, Odyssey of the Mind

For more information, contact Suzanna Krutsch, AIG teacher, at skrutsch@wcpss.net.

- **Thursday, 10/5/17:** AIG nominations can be accepted at any time. However, to be considered for fall testing, students must be nominated by 10/5/2017. Please submit to skrutsch@wcpss.net.
- **Monday, 10/9/17,** room 501 at 5:30: Odyssey of the Mind interest meeting. Come and find out what Odyssey of the Mind is all about. We would like to start a team this year. (Students are welcome to attend.)
- **Thursday, 10/12/17,** room 501 at 5:30: Parent meeting for parents of students who are already identified for the AIG program. (Students are welcome to attend.)
- **Thursday, 10/19/17,** room 501 at 5:30: Third grade parent meeting for those interested in the AIG identification process. (Students are welcome to attend.)

Buy State Fair Tickets Online and Support Swift Creek!

Are you going to the NC State Fair? Did you know part of your ticket sales can go to Swift Creek?

\$2 of every adult ticket and \$1 of every child ticket goes directly to Swift Creek!

1. Go to <http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/1949>
2. Click link that includes: **Wake County School Offer**. You MUST use this link.



[Wake County Schools Offer - 2017](#)

[N.C. State Fair Gate Admission -](#)

[Good Any One Day](#)

RALEIGH, NC

UNITED STATES

[+ MORE INFORMATION](#)

Get Tickets

\$3.00 - \$8.00

3. During check out, enter 568 (our school code) in the Membership field and click Submit. (You have to do this only once.)

Your Shopping Cart

[CONTINUE SHOPPING](#) | [ADD MORE TICKETS](#)

09:55 Please complete your purchase by the time shown or your tickets and items in your cart will be released for others to purchase.

PERFORMANCE	VENUE	SEAT	PRICE	MEMBERSHIP
Wake County Schools Offer - 2017 N.C. State Fair Gate Admission - Good Any One Day Adult - WCPSS REMOVE	2017 North Carolina State Fair: Admission, Ridebooks & Grandstand events	General Admission	\$8.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="submit" value="Submit"/>
Wake County Schools Offer - 2017 N.C. State Fair Gate Admission - Good Any One Day Child - WCPSS REMOVE	2017 North Carolina State Fair: Admission, Ridebooks & Grandstand events	General Admission	\$3.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="submit" value="Submit"/>

Your Shopping Cart

[CONTINUE SHOPPING](#) | [ADD MORE TICKETS](#)

09:25 Please complete your purchase by the time shown or your tickets and items in your cart will be released for others to purchase.

PERFORMANCE	VENUE	SEAT	PRICE	MEMBERSHIP
Wake County Schools Offer - 2017 N.C. State Fair Gate Admission - Good Any One Day Adult - WCPSS REMOVE	2017 North Carolina State Fair: Admission, Ridebooks & Grandstand events	General Admission	\$8.00	WCPSS WCPSS Member ID: 568 Remove Membership
Wake County Schools Offer - 2017 N.C. State Fair Gate Admission - Good Any One Day Child - WCPSS REMOVE	2017 North Carolina State Fair: Admission, Ridebooks & Grandstand events	General Admission	\$3.00	WCPSS WCPSS Member ID: 568 Remove Membership

4. Finish your check out!

Thank You to our Sponsors!

Many thanks to these businesses for sponsoring our 85th anniversary party.



Your October Calendar

- ❑ **Oct 3:** Picture Day!
- ❑ **Oct 4 8:30am:** Walk or Bike to School Day! Join Ms. Graves, staff, and other Swift families in the Food Lion parking lot to walk or bike to school!
- ❑ **Oct 5:** Deadline for AIG nominations to be considered for fall testing period. For more information, contact Suzanna Krutsch, at skrutsch@wcpss.net.
- ❑ **Oct 6 6:30pm:** Holly Grove Middle School – public information session about the school enrollment proposal for 2017-18 school year.
- ❑ **Oct 7 11-3:** Swift Creek's 85th Anniversary Celebration. There will be food, music, crafts, and games. Plus the unveiling of our new school logo. You won't want to miss this!
- ❑ **Oct 9 5:30pm** in room 501: Interest meeting for Odyssey of the Mind. Come and find out what Odyssey of the Mind is all about. We would like to start a team this year. (Students are welcome to attend.) For more information, contact Suzanna Krutsch at skrutsch@wcpss.net.

6:30pm: Garner High school. – public information session about the school enrollment proposal for 2017-18 school year.

- ❑ **Oct 10 6:30pm:** PTA Meeting in the media center
- ❑ **Oct 12 5:30pm room 501:** Parent meeting for parents of students who are already identified for the AIG program. (Students are welcome to attend.)
- ❑ **Oct 19:** Fun Run! Come out and cheer on our Swifties!

5:30pm in room 501: Third grade parent meeting for those interested in the AIG identification process. (Students are welcome to attend.) For more information, contact Suzanna Krutsch at skrutsch@wcpss.net.

- ❑ **Oct 20:** College Spirit Day!
- ❑ **Oct 24:** Rain date for the Fun Run!
- ❑ **Oct 27:** Deadline for Reflection entries; Deadline for Fun Run donations.
- ❑ **Oct 30:** Mix It Up Day! Students "mix up" who they sit with and take time to get to know students other than the people in their class and friend groups.
- ❑ **Oct 31:** Teacher Work Day!

Your November Calendar

- ❑ **Nov 1:** Cultural Arts Performance for the school. Donna Washington, storyteller
- ❑ **Nov 3:** School Spirit Day!
- ❑ **Nov 10:** No school in observance of Veteran's Day
- ❑ **Nov 13-17:** Book Fair! Family Night on Nov 16.
- ❑ **Nov 13-17:** Cultural Arts workshop for 4th grade. Writer-in-residence, Michael Beadle, will be with the kids all week!

October 2-6: SCES Spirit Week

Help us prepare for the big anniversary party by participating in these spirit days:

- **Monday, Oct 2** – Our Future's so Bright – wear sunglasses and/or hat
- **Tuesday, Oct 3** – Teamwork makes the dream work – dress like a twin with someone else
- **Wednesday, Oct 4** – Future Day – Dress for your Future Career!
- **Thursday, Oct 5** – Time Travel Day – Choose a decade to travel back to
- **Friday, Oct 6** – Spirit Day – Wear your purple and white!