

September 23, 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,

Our Swift Creek teachers are always looking for ways to improve their craft and make an impact on student achievement. Good teachers are masters at teaching the curriculum in a challenging manner, carefully balancing the need to remediate and extend skills in each of their lessons. One way that schools determine the academic needs of their students and plan for future instruction is to regularly assess student mastery of the curriculum. Teachers constantly assess—using classroom assignments, performance tasks, teacher-created tests, and grade level created common assessments to collect information about what their students know. In third through fifth grade, students also take EOGs, which are North Carolina's measure of performance for those grades and are administered at the end of the year. Third graders also take the beginning of grade test or BOG, which also will help measure their reading performance during this year. In Wake County, second through fifth graders take CASE 21 assessments throughout the year, which helps to predict how students might score on the EOG tests and assists teachers in planning for small groups. We are lucky to have a wealth of information at our fingertips to make sound instructional decisions for your child!

New to our teachers last year were the mCLASS assessments. All students in Kindergarten through Fifth grades were assessed with this universal screening the first three weeks of school and will be assessed again at the middle and end of the year. Students are assessed individually to determine levels of basic skills in literacy. Some of these tests include measures of early reading skills, fluency, and the test of reading comprehension. Students receive a composite score and scores on each subtest, which helps teachers diagnose individual needs and determine if more detailed data is needed to provide solid reading interventions. All



## Upcoming Events

### September 25

No School – Teacher Workday

### September 30

McTeacher's Night  
5pm-8pm  
McDonald's at CrossRoads

### October 14

PTA Meeting 7pm

### October 15/October 16 (Rain Date)

- Cougar Fun Run
- Turn in Your Sponsor Sheets!

### October 17

Early Release – School Out at 1:15

### October 22

Deadline for Fun Run donations!

## In This Issue

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**Please look for the Home Connect letter, which explains your child's performance on the first mCLASS assessment and will be sent home next week with progress reports (formerly called interims).**

of these efforts are ways to assist school staff in drilling down to the very basic skills that our students need to be successful readers and writers. mCLASS assessments are one of the measures that our state is using as we are held accountable to the Read to Achieve Legislation. The goal of that legislation is to ensure that all students are reading on or above grade level by the end of third grade. If a third grade student does not pass the EOG at the end of third grade, then the child must attend a summer reading camp. We will be providing more information about Read to Achieve in the coming days and will be inviting our third grade parents to an informational session soon. In the meantime, please look for the Home Connect letter, which explains your child's

performance on the first mCLASS assessment and will be sent home next week with progress reports (formerly called interims). This report will also give you suggestions on what you can do at home to support your child's reading development. If you have questions about this report, please contact your child's teacher.

As always, let us know how we can support you in this partnership.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

## **What's Happening in Our School District and with Wake County Schools?**

The first District 5 Board Advisory Council for the 2014-15 school year was held Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Middle Creek Elementary. Betsy McFarland, the BAC chair welcomed and facilitated the introduction of principals, school parent representatives, WCPSS administrators, as well as other central office staff. Dr. Jim Martin, the District 5 Board of Education Member shared there are two new principals in District 5 and 1 new school, the Vernon Malone College and Career Academy. Dr. Martin introduced Laura Evans, with the student assignment office, to share the draft WCPSS enrollment proposal. Ms. Evans shared that student assignment will be based on four pillars; achievement, proximity, stability and efficiency of operation. Over the next four years Wake County will open 17 new schools (11 elementary, 3 middle and 3 high schools) to accommodate the rapidly growing population. The Apex area and northern Wake County will see the most change with student assignment in 2015-16. Swift Creek Elementary students do

**The Apex area and northern Wake County will see the most change with student assignment in 2015-16. Swift Creek Elementary students do not appear to be significantly affected by student assignment changes next year.**

not appear to be significantly affected by student assignment changes next year. Parents are encouraged to review the proposal which is located at <http://www.wcpss.net/enrollment-proposal/> and provide comments. Comments may be submitted through the "MindMixer" which is located at <http://www.wcpss.net/enrollment-proposal/join-the-conversation.html>. The next District 5 BAC meeting will be held in the late fall. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Emily McGraw, the Swift Creek Elementary School representative at [emcgraw@hotmail.com](mailto:emcgraw@hotmail.com).

## School Corner

### Thank You: Landscaping Ground Day

Thank you to all parents, staff, and students who attended our Grounds Day on September 20th. We are so thrilled with the results of this work. Also, thank you to Kim Partin for organizing this fun event!

A BIG THANK YOU to Campbell Road Nursery for donating the gorgeous pansies!

### Fall Nomination Window for AIG Program Ends Friday

If you would like to nominate a child for AIG services, please submit your request in writing. You may send the note in your child's Tuesday folder or email Mrs. Green at [mgreen2@wcpss.net](mailto:mgreen2@wcpss.net). Please remember that AIG services are provided to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students only.

Students who are already identified for AIG services (moderate and strong) do not need to be nominated unless it is to add an additional area of service.

## We Need You!

### The Cougar Counter Needs Volunteers on Tuesdays!

The Cougar Counter is looking for volunteers to work on Tuesdays mornings from 8:30 to 9:30am. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Sue Fountain ([suefountain@nc.rr.com](mailto:suefountain@nc.rr.com)).

### Submissions for Reflections Program Due October 27

The theme for the 2014-2015 program is "The world would be a better place if...". Student submissions are due October 27. If you are interested in helping with this program, contact Ann-Margaret Alexander at [amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com](mailto:amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com).

## Fun Run Updates

### Did You Receive Your Fun Run Packet?

Hopefully, everyone received a Fun Run packet in last week's Tuesday folder. If not, packets are available from the PTA website, or you can contact Marie Dexter ([mdexter@nc.rr.com](mailto:mdexter@nc.rr.com)).

## Will There Be a Parade of Pumpkins (Fall Festival) This Year?

Traditionally, Swift Creek Elementary holds a Fall Festival in October/November. **This year's event is in jeopardy. In order for it to happen, we need 3 to 4 people to coordinate the event. If no one steps up by October 1, we will have to cancel this year's festival.**

In year's past, this event has included the Parade of Pumpkins (where each class decorates a pumpkin for judging), games, live music, and pizza. We have lots of ideas for this year, such as including a raffle and having more organized games in the school courtyard, but we need several people to step up and take charge.

You won't be doing this alone. You'll be working with a team of willing volunteers. We have lots of folks who are willing to contribute time, decorations, prizes, and so on. We just need leaders.

If you can help or want more information, please contact [swiftcreekespta@gmail.com](mailto:swiftcreekespta@gmail.com) or Marie Dexter at [mdexter@nc.rr.com](mailto:mdexter@nc.rr.com).



## You Can Now Make Donations Using Your Credit Card!

Please share this link with grandparents, aunts, uncles, third cousins twice removed, and friends around the globe: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/cougar-fun-run.html>  
With your help, we can EXCEED our \$20,000 fundraising goal. Remember every dollar benefits EVERY student at Swift Creek Elementary.

### Schedule for the Fun Run

Here are the run times for each grade.

- 9:20 – 10:05 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- 10:05 – 10:50 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 10:50 – 11:35 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 11:55 – 12:40 Kindergarten
- 1:10 – 1:55 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- 1:55 – 2:40 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

## Reminders!

### Volunteers Must Register

If you would like to volunteer, please make arrangements to sign up on a school computer to volunteer. All volunteers, both former and new, will need to register. Volunteers will need to use the school's designated computer to complete and submit their registration on the WCPSS Intranet site. Website registration is not possible for security reasons. Volunteers must undergo a criminal background check before being placed in a school.

### Free and Reduced Lunches

Students who received free or reduced lunch at the end of the 2013-2014 school year in a Wake County Public school will continue to receive that benefit until October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. **On October 9<sup>th</sup>, students whose parents have not re-applied and been approved must pay full price for meals.** WCPSS will continue to provide free breakfast for students who qualify for reduced price lunches. The applications were mailed to all parents during the summer. Contact the school if you need an application.

### Join the PTA Today!

Joining the Swift Creek PTA is easy! Simply complete the membership form and pay the \$6/person dues. Sign up today from the PTA website. (Simply click Membership in the menu bar.) Or use the Membership form that was sent home in your child's Tuesday folder. For each PTA membership, the school receives a portion of the proceeds, and you receive coupons to Chick-Fil-A, Ruckus, Red Robin, Sweet Frog, and eBounce.

For more information, contact Melinda Gelsinger ([gelsingers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gelsingers@bellsouth.net)) or Allison Smith ([bryanmickeysom@gmail.com](mailto:bryanmickeysom@gmail.com)).

## How to Stay Informed Between Newsletters

Visit us the PTA website at  
<http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com>.  
You can also like us on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekespta>.



## Going to the NC State Fair? Help Raise Money for the Creek

Buy your NC State Fair tickets using the link on the school's website. As a result of your online purchase, the school receives \$2 for every adult ticket and \$1 for every child ticket! All you have to do is enter **our school code (568)** at the time of purchase.

## Spanish Classes Start Oct 7

Registration is still open. There are forms in the office or you may register online at [www.explorelearningprograms.com](http://www.explorelearningprograms.com). Questions: email [info@explorelearningprograms.com](mailto:info@explorelearningprograms.com) or call 919-805-0918.

## Heathy Lifestyle Tips: Eat the Rainbow!

Getting a healthy diet on track can start with a few simple pointers, and the benefits for our children (and ourselves!) can go a long way. This week's healthy living tip is: ***Eat the Rainbow!***

Did you know that the different colors in fruits and veggies reflect the different phytonutrients they contain? The brighter and bolder the color, the higher the concentration of these extremely beneficial nutrients. Set a goal to eat fruits and veggies from every color of the rainbow. Some examples are below:

**Red:** strawberries, watermelon, tomatoes, cherries, cranberries, raspberries, radishes, red bell peppers.

**Orange:** oranges, cantaloupe, peaches, nectarines, apricots, mangoes, butternut squash, pumpkin, carrots.

**Yellow:** bananas, pineapple, yellow bell peppers, corn, apples, pears

**Green:** lettuce, spinach, kale, chard, collards, broccoli, asparagus, Brussels sprouts, avocados, cucumbers, green cabbage, edamame, green beans, sweet peas, zucchini, kiwi, green grapes.

**Blue/Purple:** blueberries, blackberries, purple grapes, plums, prunes, purple cabbage, eggplant, blue potatoes

In addition to mealtime, try incorporating some of these flavorful fruits and veggies into your child's snack, instead of offering packaged foods.

Remember: small changes can add up to HUGE results! Happy, healthy eating!



## Character Education Awards: Responsibility

Each month, the teachers and staff recognize a group of students for a particular character trait. For September, these students were recognized for their Responsibility. Congratulations to all of these students!

### Kindergarten

#### Mrs. Harris

Carl Ahiawodzi  
Ferdaous Mokhtari  
Jaxon Huddle

#### Ms. Lipe

Ferne Parker-Young  
Sophia Lu

London Reid

Aidan Hernandez

#### Mrs. Haren

Azir Jones  
Johnny Rutherford  
Kimberlin Soto-Fernandez  
Raeanna Morgan

#### Mrs. Robinson

Willa Frazier  
Tylan Reid  
Mohamed Hraish

### First Grade

#### Mrs. Phillips

Catherine Grace Harris  
Yulian Arias  
Morgan Davis  
Fillip Funak

#### Ms. Zardas

Brooklynn Falcone  
Edson Lopez-Benitez  
Nathan Lotz  
Jawa Yassin

#### Ms. Cillian

Hannah Moran Morales  
Mason Steele  
Laena Williamson

#### Mrs. Butler

Emelie Barrangou  
Annalee Tanner  
James Mason  
Jamie Drummond

### Second Grade

#### Mrs. Ellis

T'Niyah Guy  
Aleah Hamalainen  
Finn Pittman

#### Mrs. Sedaghat

Elijah Alston  
Claire Leidy  
Alex Douglas  
Sherlin Arreola-Romero

#### Ms. Koster

Soraya El Machiadi  
Matthew Van Tassel  
Hazel Kovalik  
Madison Byrd

#### Mrs. Bernstein

Abby Sanford  
Emerzon Argueta-Marquez  
Arissa Jones  
Iker Lopez

### Third Grade

#### Ms. Herrin

Aubrey Word  
Lachlan Polefka  
Nora Hall

#### Ms. Smith

Isabel Schmidt  
Anthony Rodriguez Lopez  
Zainab Aziz  
Kavon Manning

#### Mrs. Barker

Ashley Barkhau  
Ella Kaczmarek  
Carter Larsen  
David Vazquez-Granados

#### Ms. Wyrsh

Cindyann Abudeyeh  
Grace Richardson  
Skylar Hodges  
Christian Sanchez

### Fourth Grade

#### Ms. Beauchamp

Emma Vatter  
Kevin Arreola-Romero  
Kyle Dunn

#### Mrs. D'Amelio

Stephanie Cruz-Benitez  
Molly Koonce  
Rachel Thompson  
Cameron Reid

#### Ms. Windsor

Bella Drummond  
Jake Sanford  
Kieren Battle

#### Mrs. Fallon

Sunday Thomas  
Jordan Roland  
Sam Norman  
Charlotte Jacobson

### Fifth Grade

#### Mr. Krauter

Alex Garcia  
David Trottier  
Justia Justin

#### Mrs. Coles

Abigail Stuart  
Nate Hagan  
James Brooks

#### Mrs. Jackson

William Angell  
Alexandra Bowman  
Jonathan Brittain  
Jocelyn Castro-Valadez  
Auria Polefka

#### Ms. Pearman

Lisey Pillay  
Aztrid Tejada-Maya  
Eric Morgan  
Melis Yildiz

