

September 29, 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,

How can it be that we have the first month of school behind us? Time flies when you are having fun around the Creek.

Please mark your calendars for the Swift Creek PTA annual Fun Run on October 6th! There are two rain dates and those are scheduled for October 8th and October 12th. Our PTA team has worked hard to get this event planned and the theme this year is "We're Wild about Swift Creek!" **This is the PTA's only fundraiser—and the goal is \$20,000. So far, we have raised \$1,642.00 of the \$20,000!** If you are new to the school, the event is a fun, healthy way to raise money for the PTA, and this money in turn goes back to all the students at Swift Creek—for items such as cultural arts, funding for classrooms, Reflections, the Winter and Spring Flings, and the Fifth Grade Celebration. Students gather pledges for laps run and have a blast with their classmates during their time slot running as many laps as they can. (An event schedule for each grade level is included in this newsletter.) If you are able, please consider helping your child with the pledges and collections. This year, every child who raises any money at all will receive a prize and will be entered in the grand prize drawing! This promises to be another exciting event for our students and community and volunteers are still needed, so let PTA know if you can assist.

Schools use a variety of data to measure student progress and inform instruction. You may have seen the recent achievement data that was released by DPI. One type of data from last spring's EOGs includes the proficiency data. Proficiency data is the percent of students who scored proficiently on the tests. These numbers include both the percent of students scoring proficient—3, 4, or 5 and the percent of students scoring proficient and meeting the college and career ready standard—4 or 5.



The FUN RUN is next Tuesday!

Our fundraising goal is \$20,000, but so far we've raised only \$1,642.00. You can turn in your donations today or make a donation online at <http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net> and click the Donate button

The schedule for the day of the Fun Run in on the last page of this newsletter (in your October Checklist). You can sign up to volunteer at <http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>.

Even if you can't volunteer, you are welcome to come out and cheer on our students!



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Another type of data that the state compiles is the performance of various subgroups against AMO targets, or Annual Measurable Objectives. The state sets these targets for our various subgroups each year in each subject area, and each year the target increases.

- In reading, the Hispanic subgroup, African American subgroup, Total Student subgroup, Economically Disadvantaged subgroup, and Limited English Proficient subgroup did not meet their College and Career Ready targets. A few of these subgroups were very close to their targets.
- In math, only the African American and Hispanic subgroup did not meet the College and Career ready targets.

Here is a chart that summarizes Swift Creek's College and Career Ready data from the 2014-2015 school year.

	% College and Career Ready
Grade 3 Reading	52%
Grade 3 Math	54%
Grade 4 Reading	52%
Grade 4 Math	60%
Grade 5 Reading	52%
Grade 5 Math	68%
Grade 5 Science	62%
All EOG Tests	57%

This tells us that we need to pay special attention to the type of instruction we are providing to those students to help them be more successful.

A final type of data that was released recently is our growth data, measured by EVAAS. This type of data tells us if students make a year's worth of growth from one school year to the next. **Our school's designation this year was "Meets Expected Growth" with an overall composite of -1.24. This was an improvement from last school year, where we were designated as not meeting expected growth.**

Our desire is that every student learns, grows in skills and knowledge, and continues to increase in proficiency. This data indicates that we have work to do by helping our students grow in both reading and math. **This year, these efforts are a combined approach to ensure that we are "Setting the Standard of Excellence for All."**

- We are addressing our effectiveness as educators by focusing on identifying the academic vocabulary that students need to be successful in reading. Our teachers are excited about this journey and spent the last teacher workday collaborating on reviewing standards and choosing the most critical words to teach this year.
- We are continuing to use a push in model with our interventionists and regular education teachers to help students access the Common Core more effectively.
- We are strengthening our PLTs to focus our attention on data, appropriate instruction, and timely interventions.
- We created a master schedule to protect instructional time and maintain our commitment to the recommended allotments for each subject area and have embedded an hour and a half a week for the PLT collaboration.
- In addition, we will be taking a team through the county-wide multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) training this year.

We ask that you continue to partner with us by ensuring that your child does his or her homework and reads nightly. If you have not already, please take a look at the grade level compacts to help you with resources to help your child. We also hope that you will seek to collaborate with the teacher when you have concerns.

If you have further questions about the data or about how we are providing sound instruction for your child, please let us know.

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

News from Wake County Public Schools: District 5 Council

The first District 5 BAC meeting of 2015 was held Monday, September 14th at Middle Creek High School.

Dr. Jim Martin, WCPSS District 5 Board Member welcomed the principals and parent representatives and shared the primary responsibilities of the Board of Education. The primary responsibilities of the Wake County Board of Education are to establish a vision and set policies for the school system. Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) staff are then tasked to develop rules and procedures which adhere to the established policies. Dr. Martin reminded those in attendance that ANYONE can speak to the School Board. The Wake County School Board meetings are always open to the public and occur usually twice per month. In order to address the School Board, individuals should register in advance and can speak for up to three minutes. The following website has information about the School Board meetings and a link to register to speak at a meeting: <http://www.wcpss.net/domain/2754>

Laura Evans, Director for Student Assignment shared with the BAC proposed assignment plans for the 2016-17 school year. Wake County currently has 155,184 enrolled students and anticipates 3,000 more in growth annually. Next year, one new middle and four new elementary schools will open. **It appears that Swift Creek Elementary assignments should NOT be affected by these school openings. Please see the following website for more information regarding student assignment: <http://wcpss.net/newenrollmentplan>**

WCPSS staff has recommended making Athens Drive High School a magnet school. The School Board will consider this recommendation during upcoming meetings. Swift Creek parents should be aware of this possible magnet change since Swift Creek Elementary is one of many schools which "feeds" Athens Drive High School. The next District 5 Board Advisory Council will be November 2nd. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Emily McGraw, the Swift Creek Elementary representative at emcgraw@hotmail.com

Music Notes

Our October song is "Do-Re-Mi" from the musical "The Sound of Music". We will be watching scenes from the movie musical. Our October composer is Franz Joseph Haydn who lived from 1736-1809. He is known as "the father of the symphony". Be sure to ask your child about his "Surprise Symphony"!

Thank you to the Vaughn and Johns families for sponsoring our music classroom. I look forward to purchasing some new instruments and materials for our students to enjoy and learn from!

Please follow the music room on Twitter @SwiftCreekMusic and check out the music website:
<https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/swift-creek-music/home>.

Musically, Mrs. Huddle

Register to Volunteer!

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.

Middle School Options: Leadership Academies

Attention 5th grade parents!

Are you looking for a middle school option other than your base school? Does your child have the potential to be a great leader? Would your child blossom in a smaller setting? Do you like the sound of your child receiving FREE college classes starting in 11th grade?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, I would encourage you to check out our Leadership Academies! WCPSS offers a Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy and a Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy. These schools educate grades 6-12 and are early college programs. It is very important to note that these are application schools and have early deadlines (December 2016). If you are interested, please visit their websites and sign up for a tour/information session.

I (Mrs. Chadwick) am the parent of a 10th grader at the Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy, so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! Lastly, there are also several magnet school options that you can look into. To access the Magnet Programs site, visit www.wcpss.net/magnet.

Mark Your Calendars

Our grade level concerts have been added to the school calendar. All performances will be in the gym.

- Second grade classes will perform on February 9th after the 6:30pm PTA meeting.
- First grade classes will perform March 9th at 12:00pm.
- Kindergarten classes will perform May 12th at 11:00am.

Women's Academy:

www.wcpss.net/wywla

Men's Academy:

www.wcpss.net/wakeyoungmean



PE Days: Dress Appropriately

Physical Education (PE) is a class in which the students learn through moving. They are actively involved in skill and fitness based activities and games. Therefore, it is important that the students are dressed appropriately in play clothes, socks, and sneakers in order to participate safely and effectively. Most students have PE once per week. Please help your children remember which day is their PE day so they can participate and maximize their learning. Thank you, Mrs. Bratton



Applications for Free and Reduced Lunches

Students who received free or reduced lunch at the end of the 2014-2015 school year in a Wake County Public school will continue to receive that benefit until October 5th, 2015. **On October 6th, 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, but contact the school if you need an application.

Writer in Residence for Fourth Graders

The fourth grade will enjoy having writer-in-residence, Michael Beadle, all week long (September 28-October 2)! Mr. Beadle will work with all fourth graders on writing poetry using rhymes, rhythms, and imagery.

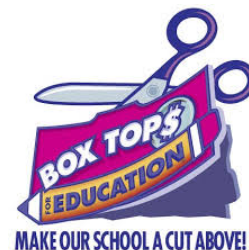
This residency is supported, in part, by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Additional support is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

The PTA at Swift Creek is proud to provide this cultural arts opportunity to our students!

Let's Play! New Playground Equipment for the Classrooms

Over the past month, the PTA has delivered a rubber ball, a basketball, sidewalk chalk, and a mesh bag for carrying this equipment to all 26 classrooms at Swift Creek. Later this month, they will also be receiving a new soccer ball.

These purchases are possible because of your Fun Run donations and your participation in our Painless Fundraising programs. We collect Box Tops, Labels for Education (which are on many Campbell's products), Tyson's chicken labels, and Coke bottle tops. Turn in these items to your teacher or the front office today! You can also help by linking your Harris Teeter VIC cards, Lowes Rewards Food cards, and Kroger cards to Swift Creek Elementary. If you have questions about these programs, please contact Marie Dexter at mariedexter@gmail.com.



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 went home in your Tuesday folder on September 15, 2015.

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. You can sign up in person at the September Open House or look for flier in an upcoming Tuesday Folder.

For each PTA membership, the school receives a portion of the proceeds. Also, you will receive coupons for a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich as well as other local restaurants, 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.

Spanish Classes: October 7 – December 16

Registration is now open for after school Spanish classes from Explore Learning Programs. These classes will be on Wednesdays from October 7-December 16 from 4-5pm. The classes are held at Swift Creek, so no worries about transportation. Register online at

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

All art must be turned in by **October 26, 2015 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

www.explorelearningprograms.com. Questions? Email info@explorelearningprograms.com or 919-805-0918.

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 Tina Chadwick (cchadwick@wcpss.net or 919-233-4325) for more information.

Grade Level	Classroom	Sponsor
K	Mrs. Harris Ms. Lipe Mrs. Robinson Mrs. Tanner Mrs. Sharif-Clark	The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Dexter Family Element Analytical, PLLC Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A. The Klotz Family
1 st	Mrs. Butler Ms. Cillian Mrs. Phillips Mrs. Zardas	The Pickerel Family Donald Douglas, Realtor-Coldwell Banker HPW The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava
2 nd	Ms. Millichap Mrs. Roh Ms. Sedaghat Mrs. Woods	The Outlaw Family Kennan's Auto Repair Inc. Lucas Nesgoda's Family
3 rd	Ms. Burchardi Ms. Herrin Ms. Smith Ms. Wyrsh	Donald Douglas, Realtor-Coldwell Banker HPW The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava
4 th	Ms. Beauchamp Mrs. D'Amelio Mrs. Fallon Ms. Windsor	The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava Friends of Swift Creek
5 th	Mrs. Coles Mr. Krauter Ms. Mazuchowski Mrs. Sandersen	Ann-Margaret Alexander, Alexander & Doyle, PA The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
Art	Ms. Cannon	EcoStyle Transportation The Pickurel Family
PE	Mrs. Bratton	The Ellison Family, In Honor of Elli & Ava The Pickurel Family
Music	Mrs. Huddle	The Family of Chad & Sela Vaughn

Media	Mrs. Ramsey	Rockridge Realty
Special Education	Mrs. Fountain Mrs. Willis	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A. Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
AIG	Mrs. Green	Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
ESL	Mrs. Burkhalter	Royal Parking
Intervention	Mrs. Bernstein Mrs. Bornman	Rockridge Realty Law Office of John T. Benjamin Jr., P.A.
Speech	Mrs. Torello	Royal Parking
Guidance	Mrs. Chadwick	The Dexter Family

The Cougar Counter Is Now Open

The Cougar Counter went missing over the summer, but thanks to the perseverance of committee chair, Sue Fountain, the counter reopened last Thursday. At the Cougar Counter, 1st-5th graders can purchase school supplies, such as pencils and erasers. The counter is open before school (8:45-9:15) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sue Fountain at suefountain@nc.rr.com.

Help with the Early Release Luncheon: October 16

The Early Release Teacher Luncheon is on October 16. We are planning a "State Fair" theme and having Danny's BBQ catered for the teachers. We will be needing parents to help out by donating side items and desserts. Please email Elizabeth at Elizabeth.Worthy@me.com if you are interested in donating a food items or want to help the Hospitality Committee.

Buy State Fair Tickets and Help Swift Creek

If you normally purchase NC State Fair Tickets, **please** consider using the link on the SCE website to make an online purchase. The school will receive \$2 for every adult ticket and \$1 for every child ticket purchased! All you have to do is make an advance, online purchase and enter our school code at the time of purchase. **Our code is 568!**

BETWEEN 16-20
**NOTHING
COULD BE
FINER**

Earn Swift Creek
Money
by attending the State Fair!

Use code 568

Visit <http://www.etix.com/ticket/p/8459598?cobrand-ncstatefair15-wakecounty>

Character Education Awards: Responsibility

Congratulations to these students for being recognized for the Responsibility Character Education award. To recognize their achievement, each student will receive a 50-cent coupon to the Cougar Counter from the Swift Creek PTA.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Harris

Ava D'Amelio
Eleanor Brockelsby
Owen Eudy
Dallas Bowers

Ms. Lipe

Addison Green
Kia Lari-Clark
Liam Boyd
Mia Olivares-Delgado

Mrs. Sharif-Clark

Macy Pope
Graeden Prasad
Malak Ouhman
Brooklyn Wade

Mrs. Robinson

Giuliana Spence
Youxun Wu
Ethan Phillips

Mrs. Tanner

Evan Meyers
Justin Awad
Henry Lopez-Carranza

First Grade

Mrs. Phillips

Sophia Lu
Brandon Mata-Damian
Mariam Elwazzan

Ms. Zardas

Sam Mayhew
Presley Smith
Jack Dusel

Ms. Cillian

Taylor Douglas
Raeanna Morgan
Ayden Wilson

Mrs. Butler

Matthew Ragsdale
Semaj Reaves
Greydis Argueta - Marquez

Second Grade

Mrs. Roh

Caeden McInnis
Lupita Lagunas-Rayo
Andrew Lamm

Mrs. Sedaghat

Emerson Myers
Audrey Smith
Cooper Bass
Citali Torres Lopez
Lincoln Fountain

Miss Millichap

Sebastian Mazur
Sophia Dexter
Mason Hassel

Mrs. Woods

Alize Brown
Alondra Villarreal-Silva
Nathan Lotz

Third Grade

Ms. Herrin

De'Sean Williams
Shreya Ganapthy
Ava Sheppard

Ms. Smith

Georgia Strickland
Napolean Totten
Jackie Dean

Ms. Burchardi

Alexander Douglas
Addision Watkins

Ms. Wyrsh

LaNeyah Watson
Susan McGraw
Billy Morales

Fourth Grade

Ms. Beauchamp

Jaxon W
Colby R
D'Anthony H
Mrs. D'Amelio
Nora Hall
Ella Kaczmarek
Anthony Rodriguez-Lopez

Ms. Windsor

Tyreonna Morse
Carter Bass
Joshua Hall
Christian Sanchez Madrid

Mrs. Fallon

Walid Aitboulahri
Jacob Pickurel
Charlotte Holcombe
Thomas Goembel

Fifth Grade

Mr. Krauter

Yaire Olayo-Zuniga
Spencer Moore
Ellison Sheppard

Mrs. Coles

Gianna Goss
Abdullah Janabi
Audrey Nolan
David George

Ms. Sanderson

Ms. Mazuchowski

Caleb Hall
Morgan Persinger
Allison Prasad

Your September Checklist

- **Sept 28 – Oct 2: 4th Graders** – Writer in Residence program brought to you by the Swift Creek PTA

Your October Checklist

- **October 2:** Deadline for contact info to be included in the directory. If you need a form, contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com or [919-816-8632](tel:919-816-8632).
- **October 6:** Cougar Fun Run. All grades participate in this fun event. Volunteers are still needed. To volunteer, see swiftcreekes.wcps.net. (Rain dates October 8 & 12.)

Share Your Pictures!

Whether you are taking pictures at the Fun Run, the Book Fair, Winter Fling, or just around the classroom, the Yearbook committee wants your pictures for this year's book.

Please send your pictures to yearbookpics.sce@gmail.com.

2015 Fun Run Schedule

		Red	Orange	Blue	Yellow	Green
9:25 - 10:10	K	Harris	Lipe	Robinson	Tanner	Sharif-Clark
10:10 - 10:55	1 st	Cillian	Phillips	Butler	Zardas	---
10:55 - 11:40	2 nd	Roh	Millichap	Woods	Sedaghat	---
11:40 - 12:40		B	R	E	A	K
12:40 - 1:25	5 th	Coles	Mazuchowski	Sandersen	Krauter	---
1:25 - 2:10	4 th	D'Amelio	Fallon	Windsor	Beauchamp	---
2:10 - 2:55	3 rd	Burchardi	Herrin	Smith	Wyrsh	---

- **October 13:**
 - School Picture Day! Wear your biggest smiles!
 - At 6:30pm, PTA meeting in the media center. Everyone is welcome!
- **October 16:**
 - Early Release Day. School dismisses at 1:15.
 - All Fun Run donations must be turned in for prize eligibility.
- **October 26 3rd-5th graders:** Deadline for Reflections entries. Turn in your projects to your teacher or the front office.
- **October 28:** Teacher Workday. No school.