

September 8, 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,

As your principal, I feel fortunate to be a part of this wonderful learning environment every day. Our teachers do such a phenomenal job connecting with our students and pushing them to be the best they can be. It is so rewarding to watch the smiles and excitement in the classrooms, in the cafeteria, on the playground, and in every nook and cranny of the building. When all kindergarteners arrived officially this week, I was reminded of the kindness and sweet spirits of our students. I have watched them coax students from the car, take the hands of those a bit unsure, and coach them on how to walk down the hall on the second tile. It truly brought tears to my eyes thinking about how lucky I am to be a part of this school. I hope you will find this year to be as special as those moments that I witness each day.

On Friday, September 11th, we welcome our students' grandparents to Swift Creek for lunch with their grandchildren. Grandparents have the option of bringing lunch or buying lunch from the cafeteria. This event will be held during regularly scheduled lunch times so please check the times prior to arrival. Remembering my own special grandparents, I know how much this time means for our kids. I can't wait to meet these special members of your families. A flyer was sent home last week with details and guests should RSVP. We look forward to welcoming our special guests!

Good communication between the home and school environment is the one of the keys to your child's academic success. As your principal, I am committed to maintaining good communication with parents through a variety of means.

- We will continue to send the biweekly or monthly PTA newsletter, adding pertinent information as the year unfolds.



Open House TONIGHT!!!

Join us in the gym at 6:15.

A brief PTA meeting will be followed by a report from Ms. Bradshaw. Then sessions in your child's classroom.

Be sure to join the PTA and check out the PTA fair while you are at the Creek!

McTeacher's Night

Thursday, Sept 24 5-8pm at the McDonald's in Crossroads.

Proceeds from all sales (dine in and drive thru) go directly to Swift Creek! Come join the fun!



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- I will also send a weekly voice message as needed, usually on Thursday or Friday evenings with information on the upcoming week or news that needs to be shared with parents as a group.
- Periodically throughout the year, I will also send letters to parents as needed.
- This year, I will also use our Twitter account to highlight the awesome things going on around the Creek. Follow us at @SwiftCreekES for updates and news.
- Our website is also a great place to find important information. Here you will find links to our handbooks, useful forms, staff contact information, student and parent resources, and transportation information. On our website, you can also check the Twitter feed from our special Twitter account (@SCESbuses) to know when buses depart our campus each

day. On our website, there is also Title 1 and School Improvement documents, calendars, and a link to the PTA website. I also upload a copy of the voicemail each week in case you miss my call! Check us out at <http://swiftcreekes.wcpss.net>.

Our Swift Creek teachers are also dedicated to good communication through weekly Tuesday folders and newsletters, conferences, "go folders", websites, Twitter, Edmodo, and other means. Please reach out to your teachers if you have questions or concerns.

I ask you to make a personal goal this year to communicate frequently with the school and to model for your child how much you care about his or her education. ***A great way to begin this year is to attend the first PTA meeting and Open House on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:15 p.m.*** This will open the lines of communication with this your teacher and set a strong tone for your child.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions! Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

If you are on campus for any reason, be sure to sign in the office. Always enter and exit through the front entrance. All other doors on campus are locked for the safety of students and staff.

Music Notes

We are off to a ROARING start in music! Each month all classes will be learning and singing our "Song of the Month" and studying and listening to music by our "Composer of the Month". This month our songs are "School Days" and "The Star Spangled Banner", our Country's National Anthem. The younger grades are learning how to stand at attention and be respectful during the song. The upper grades are learning the historical background of this patriotic song. Our composer this month is Antonio Vivaldi, a famous Baroque composer. We have been having fun with his piece, "The Four Seasons".

Cougar Chorus will begin weekly rehearsals on September 30th. We are excited to be partnering with the Drama Club to present two different musicals this year! A letter for all interested fourth and fifth grade students will be going home this week. Please contact me with any questions.

Third Grade students will be invited to join chorus for the Spring Semester. Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades will be presenting grade level concerts. Concert performance dates will be announced soon.

I am looking forward to an exciting musical year! Please check out the Swift Creek Music website at <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/swift-creek-music/> and follow our classroom on Twitter - @SwiftCreekMusic - to stay in the know!

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.

Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program: Fall Nomination Window Ends Sept 18

Note: This is for 4th or 5th graders only! 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.

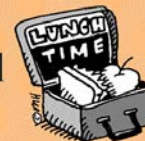
Students who are already identified for AIG services (moderate and strong) do not need to be nominated unless it is to add an additional area of service. Please remember that one calendar year must exist between testing (if your child was tested for AIG last year).

16 Classrooms Still Need Sponsors

We are excited that 19 out of 35 classrooms have sponsors through our Business Partners program and we are very THANKFUL for the generous donations made thus far! Our goal is to get all 35 classrooms sponsored. If you know someone with a business or your family would like to sponsor a class, please contact Mrs. Chadwick at cchadwick@wcpss.net. The donation is a one-time, tax deductible, \$150 donation and it goes to a classroom for the teacher to spend on non-consumable items or activities or project they are going to do with the children.

Thank you once again! Mrs. Chadwick, school counselor

When does my child eat lunch?



5th Grade: 11:00
3rd Grade: 11:30
4th Grade: 12:00
2nd Grade: 12:30
1st Grade: 1:00
Kindergarten: 1:30

Explore Language Programs will be offering Spanish classes after school this fall. Keep an eye out for registration information!

[SIGN UP](#)

Cougar Fun Run

Fun Run packets went home in this week's Tuesday folders. The Cougar Fun Run is our school's only fundraising activity. On October 6, all students at Swift Creek will run around the track for 20 minutes. Students get friends, family, neighbors, and community members to sponsor them. Donations can be a flat fee or a pledge per lap.

The theme for this year's run is "We're WILD about Swift Creek." Our goal is to raise \$20,000. We can do it, but we need your help!

Please review the information in the packet, and if you have questions, let us know! Contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com.

If you know someone who would like to make a donation online (credit card or Paypal accepted), they can go to the PTA website at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com> and click on the Fun Run donate button.

Be Amazed by Science

Do you have an inquisitive son or daughter? Does your child love science and like to do experiments? If so, please consider participating in the *new and improved* Swift Creek Elementary School Science Fair. No more complicated forms! Demonstrations welcome! Cool prizes for all participants! Participation in the science fair is optional and open to students in grades 3-5. Stay tuned for more information....Questions? Interested in helping? Please contact Jennifer Miller (jcmille4@gmail.com).

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.



Do You Want to Volunteer in Your Child's Class? Don't Forget to 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.



About the Swift Creek School Directory

Be on the lookout in next week's Tuesday folder for School Directory forms. The directories are distributed to PTA members and are a helpful tool for contacting classmates, parents, PTA Officers/Committee chairs, and Swift Creek staff. *If you'd like a copy, please join the PTA for only \$6.00.*

We are also looking for volunteers who can help create the directory. This is a great work from home opportunity. If interested, contact Kim Partin at kimpartin@nc.rr.com.

Thanks for the Yummy Snacks!

Thank you to all families who donated yummy snacks and dishes for our Early Release meeting last week. The staff really appreciates your generosity—it always gives us something to look forward to on these busy and productive days! – Ms. Bradshaw

If you are interested in being involved in the Hospitality Committee, please email Elizabeth Worthy at Elizabeth.worthy@me.com. We are looking for volunteers who can send in homemade or store bought goodies for teacher luncheons and various other events during the year.

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!**

Your September Checklist

TONIGHT!! 6:15-8:05pm:

Open House – starting in the gym and followed by sessions in your child’s classroom.



- Sept 10 for 3rd graders only:** Beginning-of-grade (BOG) testing.
- Sept 18 for 4th and 5th graders only:** The Fall nomination window for Academically and Intellectually Gifted program closes today! Submit your request in writing to Mrs. Green at mgreen2@wcpss.net.
- Sept 23:** Teacher Work Day. No school.
- Sept 24 5-8pm:** McTeacher’s Night at the McDonald’s on Walnut Street (near Crossroads Plaza). Take a night off from cooking and join us! A portion of all sales (dine in and drive thru) goes directly to Swift Creek!
- Sept 28 – Oct 2 –** Custodian Appreciation Week. Please take time to recognize and thank Julius Richburg, Meilian

Sowell, and Jeffrey Day for their hard work keeping Swift Creek beautiful and clean.



**Custodian
Appreciation
Week**

Sept 28-Oct 2

Your October Checklist

- October 6:** Cougar Fun Run. All grades participate in this fun event. Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event. Look for more information from your teacher or grade parent.
- October 8 & 12:** Rain dates for the Fun Run.
- October 13 6:30pm:** PTA meeting in the media center.
- October 16:** All Fun Run donations must be turned in for prize eligibility.
- October 28:** Teacher Workday. No school.

Cougar Fun Run: October 6



¿hablas español? We are looking for individuals translate the newsletter into Spanish. If you can help, contact Marie Dexter at mariec Dexter@gmail.com. Thanks! Spanish copies of the newsletter are available from <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/current-year-2015-20162.html>.