

September 9, 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,

I hope everyone is settling in to this wonderful school year—week two was as amazing as our first one! I want you to know that is so nice to see the happy smiles of our students and watch them working so hard! School is just never the same without our students, staff, and families; and I am so glad to have you all in the building again.

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. 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 also plan to create a Twitter account for our school so that we can highlight the awesome things going on around the creek. More information will be available soon.

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

We will also continue using the School Info App to help parents stay connected. Download the Swift Creek School Info App from the App Store or on Google play. Be sure to opt-in to receive push notifications so you can be aware of any new additions to the App. You can download this App to smart phones or other



## Upcoming Events

### September 9 – TONIGHT!!!

- PTA Meeting 6pm
- Open House 7pm

### September 12

- School Picture Day
- Auditions for Drama Club 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders  
4:00-5:15pm  
Gymnasium

### September 20

Fall Landscaping Day  
9am-12pm  
At Swift Creek

### 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

## In This Issue

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devices. At Swift Creek, we specifically want to use the App to notify parents of when buses depart our campus each day. The App includes some school information, but is not meant to replace the school website. Please visit the school's website for more complete information.

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.

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 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m.*** This will open the lines of communication with this year's teacher and set a strong tone for your child.

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

Sincerely, Kelly Bradshaw

## School Corner

### Music Notes from Mrs. Huddle

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 Johann Sebastian Bach, a famous Baroque composer. We are enjoying his music and even singing along with some of his tunes.

Cougar Chorus will begin weekly rehearsals on Sept 24. A letter for all interested 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be going home this week. Please contact Mrs. Huddle with any questions.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be invited to join chorus for the Spring semester. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades will be presenting grade level concerts. Concert performance dates will be announced soon.

## Don't Forget!!!

### Sign In at the Office

Each time you visit our campus, remember to sign in at the front office. It is for the safety of all of our students.

### 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.

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/> for all things musical at SCE.

### **On with the Show – Auditions for Drama Club**

Drama Club will be holding auditions for fourth and fifth grade students Friday, September 12, 2014 from 4:00-5:15 in the gymnasium. This year we will be performing only dramatic performances of fractured fairy tales, no musical. Practices will be held Fridays after school from 4:00-5:15 in the gymnasium. All students who choose to participate will have a speaking part. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 9:00-12:00 in the gymnasium. The students will perform before the school, date and time to be determined, and for families after the March PTA meeting. Please check your calendar and schedules. We want everyone to participate, but it takes a determined effort to make it to practices and performances.

### **Fall Nomination Window for Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program: Aug 25-Sept 26**

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.

### **A Special Thank You for the Early Release Luncheon on Sept 5**

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

The Hospitality team would also like to thank everyone involved. The next early release is October 17, and we'll provide power snacks for our hardworking staff!

### **A Little Birdie (Mrs. Ramsey) Told Me . . .**

Want some quick links to good reviews for books, software, games? How about some information about tips for helping your child become a better reader? Want to see pictures of events at school? Ever wonder things like "How long is the world's longest mustache?" Follow me on Twitter @ma\_ramsey and you'll find out these answers and more! It's a quick and easy way for me to send

### **PTA Membership Has Its Benefits!**

Joining the Swift Creek PTA is easy! Simply complete the membership form and pay the \$6/person dues.

You can sign up in person at the Sept 9<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting and Open House. Or you can sign up today from the PTA website. (Simply click Membership in the menu bar.)

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. The school wins, and you win!

Also, the class with the most memberships will win a special prize.

So why wait? Join today!

If you have any questions, contact Melinda Gelsinger ([gelsingers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gelsingers@bellsouth.net)) or Allison Smith ([bryanmickeysmom@gmail.com](mailto:bryanmickeysmom@gmail.com)).

out information and links to great resources- you can access it when you want to, and better yet? It's free and won't clog your inbox!

## Join in the Fun!

### The Cougar Counter is Now Open

The Cougar Counter will be opened on Tuesdays (when possible) and Thursdays before school. The Cougar Counter is for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders and sells small items, such as smelly erasers.

### Submissions for Reflections Program Due October 27

The Reflections Art Program encourages creativity and lifelong learning while offering recognition for artistic endeavors. The theme for the 2014-2015 program is "The world would be a better place if...". Student submissions are due October 27. More information will be sent home soon in your child's Tuesday folder.

If you are interested in helping with this program, contact Ann-Margaret Alexander at [amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com](mailto:amalexander@alexanderdoylelaw.com). The time commitment should be small and will end by December 1, 2014.

### McTeacher's Night: Tuesday, Sept 30 from 5-8pm

Want your teacher or Ms. Bradshaw to serve you dinner while raising money for our school? Then join us at the McDonalds at 1830 Walnut Street (CrossRoad Plaza) from 5-8pm on Tuesday, Sept 30. A portion of all sales (drive thru and dine in) go directly to Swift Creek! See you there!

### 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.

### Register for Spanish Classes: Start Oct 7

Explore Learning Programs will be offering after school Spanish classes starting October 7 for 10 weeks. Register online at [www.explorelearningprograms.com](http://www.explorelearningprograms.com) or use the form that came home in your child's Tuesday Folder. Any questions? E-mail [info@explorelearningprograms.com](mailto:info@explorelearningprograms.com).

## Why Is the Fun Run So Important?

The Cougar Fun Run is our school's only fundraising activity. On one day, all of the students at Swift Creek run around the track for 20 minutes. The students get friends, family, neighbors, community members to sponsor them. Donations can be a flat fee or a number of dollars and cents per lap.

**The money from this fundraising event benefits every\* student at Swift Creek Elementary.**

The theme for this year's run is "Swift Creek is Out of This World." The Fun Run is scheduled for October 15. (Rain date is October 16).

Our goal is to raise \$20,000! And we can do it, but not without your help.

**Next week in your child's Tuesday folder, you will receive a packet with more details about the Fun Run and a sponsor sheet.** Please review that information carefully, and if you have any questions, let us know!



