

Sycamore Creek Croc Newsletter

August 2017



Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! Parents will receive a Croc Newsletter once every other month. It will contain important information about activities, events, and other happenings at our school.

We encourage your participation at Sycamore Creek Elementary. Having a quality school without parents working hand-in-hand with the staff is impossible. You can find many ways to participate at Sycamore Creek this year. A good place to begin is by joining the PTA. If you have not joined, we encourage you to do so. We are aiming for 100% membership of parents and staff. Please take a few minutes to read the information we send home, and do get involved . . . your involvement makes a difference!

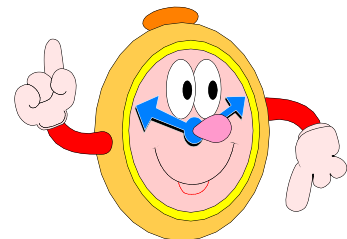
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: All quality schools have one thing in common . . . significant family involvement. We want to form a partnership with our families. Teachers perform better when they have support and advice from families. Children do better in school when they perceive what they are doing is important. Please call or meet with your teachers often. Discuss what is happening in the classroom, and investigate ways to reinforce learning at home.



AUTOMATED MESSAGE SERVICE: Wake County Public School System uses a service that automatically notifies parents when a student is absent. If your student is tardy you still may receive an absence message depending on what time your child arrived at school. As always, you will still need to write a note to your child's teacher when they return to school after an absence.

SCHOOL HOURS: Our instructional school hours are 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Except for the Early Arrival Program, we ask that students not arrive on campus until 8:00 a.m. We have no way of supervising students before this time. A good time for dropping off students is between 8:00 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. This allows students a chance to prepare for the day's activities.

This year, we will continue to focus on prompt and continuous attendance at school. Tardies and early checkouts have a very negative impact on a student's education. We ask that parents do everything possible to respect our hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Students need to be in their classroom by 8:30 a.m. If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment, we are asking that students be picked up by 2:30 p.m. This will ensure a much smoother dismissal.

To ensure the safety of all of our children, it is possible we will request to see some sort of identification when you come to eat lunch, volunteer in the classroom or pick up your child for an appointment. Safety is a top priority at Sycamore Creek. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

ATTENDANCE: Parents always have questions about what constitutes excused and unexcused absences. The Wake County Public School System recognizes the following reasons as excused absences:

- Illness or injury.
- Isolation ordered by the Health Dept. (Lice, pink eye, etc.)
- Death in the family.
- Medical, dental, or other health care appointment approved in advance.
- Religious observances.
- Participation in a **valid** educational opportunity, such as travel with prior approval. For an excused absence for educational reasons, the intent of the experience should have been educational from the outset and comparable to that which the student would have experienced in school. Family trips and vacations that were not designed, initially, to be educational will not be excused.



To be counted present, a student must be in attendance at least one-half of the school day.

WEEKLY EMAIL MESSAGE: You should be receiving a weekly email message from Ms. Faircloth on most Fridays. If you are not receiving this message, please notify the school by calling the main office at 841-4333 to ensure you receive all needed information.

STANDARD BASED GRADING: Sycamore Creek Elementary, along with all other Wake County Elementary schools, utilize the standards based report card for all grade levels. The report card was developed to align with laws and policies such as the NC Student Accountability Standards and the WCPSS Promotion Policy. The report card provides a consistent grading scale; work habits and conduct are separate; and teacher comments are specific. The report card has helped administrators and teachers improve assessment practices, guide instruction of the state standards, and provide more deliberate development of enrichment activities.



CLASS SIZES: We have approximately 1190 students enrolled. That number qualifies us for 55 teaching positions based on the state allotment formula. We have 56 regular education classroom teachers on staff at Sycamore Creek with the help of conversions.

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Sections</u>
· Kindergarten	9
· First grade	11
· Second grade	10
· Third grade	11
· Fourth grade	8
· Fifth grade	<u>7</u>
	56 regular education teachers



EARLY RELEASE: The following Fridays have been designated Early Release days for our students. The staff will participate in staff development on these days. Raleigh Parks and Rec, after school care will operate on an early schedule to accommodate students in their program. School will end and students will be dismissed at **12:30 p.m.** on Early Release Days. Students must be in attendance for half of the day on early release to be counted present. Please find the 2017-2018 Sycamore Creek Early Release Day Schedule below.

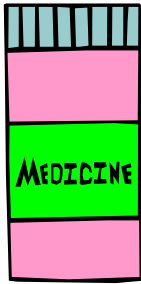
August 18, 2017	December 21, 2018
September 29, 2017	February 9, 2018
October 20, 2017	March 2, 2018
November 21, 2017	March 29, 2018

FIRE LANE: The curb along the main office is clearly marked as a fire lane. The Fire Marshall has indicated that parents may park in this area **if they remain in their vehicle**. Visitors to the office should park in our main parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation with this important matter.

CAR POOL TRAFFIC: Our car pool line circles the main parking lot. Parents will need a car pool number, so please get one from the office if you have not already done so. **With so many students at car pool, please follow car pool etiquette by waiting patiently in your car for your child/children.** We ask that parents refrain from walking their children into the school during arrival. We ask that you do not come inside and wait in the school at dismissal. Please pull up to the end of the sidewalk. The entire sidewalk area should be used for drop off and pick up. Please have your child ready to get out of the car once you stop. Students should exit and enter cars on the right side of the car. This will ensure their safety from passing vehicles. **Please do not talk or text on your cell phone while in car pool. It is important that slow, safe speed limits are observed!** We truly appreciate your help with this matter. Thank you!



WALKERS: We, at Sycamore Creek Elementary, care deeply for the educational success of our students. We care even more for the safety of our students while coming to school, during school, and departing from school. Leesville Road is a high traffic road. As a result, we are asking parents of walkers to meet their children at the walker's crosswalk and sign-out each child with staff members on duty. You should have a Walker Authorization Form on file in order for your child to walk to and from school which can be found on our website.



MEDICATIONS: Be advised that it is Wake County Public School System policy that students may not self-medicate. This means that **ANY** medication, prescription or otherwise, must be signed in at the main office. We must have a medical release form (form 1702) on file before we are allowed to give any medication to any child. If you keep part of a prescription at home and send a portion to school, the portion that comes to school must be in the **ORIGINAL** bottle from the pharmacy. The pharmacy will give you two labeled bottles if you request them. Any time a student takes medication, it will be recorded in our Medication Log. Please call the school if you have any questions about this policy.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS: At Sycamore Creek Elementary, the physical education program emphasizes skills development, personal fitness, success, and fun for all students. As parents, one of the most important ways to help ensure your child's success is to remind your child to dress for activity on the P.E. day. In particular, proper footwear is essential for safe, successful participation in class. A simple pair of sneakers or other soft-soled shoe with laces works great. We look forward to working with your child and hope that P.E. class will be one of the highlights of their week!



MULTI-TIERD SYSTEM SUPPORT: The Multi-Tiered System Support (MTSS) Team is one more tool we have available to help us meet the needs of all students. The MTSS Team is a regular education process. It is designed to maximize the development of effective strategies for both preventive and intervention purposes. A request for a meeting initiates a concerted effort of many interested and involved people to understand the students' full situation and proceed to explore possible ways to foster greater progress and success in school. The team meeting does not automatically imply any referral to any service or program. Staff members and parents can refer a student to the team when they have a concern about a student's academic, behavior, or social needs.



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION: We would love to have you volunteer at Sycamore Creek Elementary. In order to volunteer, you must register on-line at a Wake County School. You may access the volunteer registration in our media center during normal operation hours.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 8/7: Interim week for tracks 1 & 2
- 8/10: Track 4 Open House @ 5:30 PM
- 8/10: Ident-a-Kid for track 4
- 8/15: Fall Picture Day for tracks 1 & 2
- 8/18: Early Release Day @ 12:30 PM
- 8/18: Track 2 tracks out
- 8/21: Track 3 tracks in
- 8/28: Interim week for tracks 3 & 4
- 8/29: Fall picture day for tracks 3 and 4
- 9/4: Labor Day - No school for students or staff
- 9/8: Track 1 tracks out
- 9/11: Track 2 tracks in
- 9/22: Crocodile Mile for tracks 2 & 4
- 9/29: Early Release Day @ 12:30 PM
- 9/29: Track 4 tracks out
- 10/2: Track 1 tracks in

