

# Sycamore Creek Elementary Mini Newsletter

November / December 2017



It's the time of year to sit back and reflect. Soon, the picturesque scenes of winter will be upon us. The warmth of fireplaces will mix with hot chocolate and cider. We may even have snow! We have much to be thankful for. We have supportive parents, a dedicated staff, and wonderful children.

The next several weeks will be filled with excitement as we approach the holidays. Students and staff have worked hard this year and everyone is looking forward to the break. Encourage your children to combine fun and school work as the holidays approach. Thursday, December 21, 2017 is an early release day and the last day of school before winter break, and Tuesday, January 2, 2018, is tracks 1, 2 and 3 students' first day back after break!

Speaking for the staff of Sycamore Creek Elementary, we hope everyone has a joyous and peaceful holiday season. We thank everyone for their support this school year and look forward to working with you in the new year.

**TEACHER AND TEACHER ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR:** The Sycamore Creek Elementary certified teachers voted for our 2017-2018 Teacher and Teacher Assistant of the Year. With so many outstanding teachers and assistants on our staff, it was a close race. We are excited to present Ms. Pam Hoke, Special Education Teacher as Sycamore Creek Elementary's Teacher of the Year and Ms. Alyssa Burdeau, Special Education Teacher Assistant as the Teacher Assistant of the Year. Way to go!



**LOST AND FOUND:** We have a mountain of clothes, lunch boxes, and hats in the Lost and Found. We will be donating anything that is not claimed before the holidays to a local charity. Lost and Found is located near the Croc Shop.

## TRANSPORTATION NEWS / INCLEMENT WEATHER DIRECTIONS:

**A.** With a few exceptions, bus behavior has been good this year. Please take a few minutes to reinforce expectations for behavior. The rules ask that students stay seated and talk quietly to students sharing their seat. We are committed to providing safe transportation to and from school each day.

**B.** It is the time of year when we must be concerned with inclement weather and what to do if it occurs. On days in question, the decision to hold school typically made before 10:00 PM. Once a decision is made, the local media is alerted so they can make the announcement. If the decision is to hold school as usual, there will be **NO** announcement. If the decision is to open school after a 2-hour delay, buses will run their regular routes on a 2-hour delay. For example, if your child normally boards the bus at 7:50 a.m., he or she will board the bus at 9:50 a.m. We will post a message on the school voice mail with the latest information.

**C.** When school is closed early due to inclement weather, radio and television will carry this announcement. Please try to limit your phone calls to the school so we can keep our lines open for emergency communications. Thanks!

**DAILY CHANGES FOR RIDERS / BUSES:** Please send your child's teacher a note in the morning when their afternoon transportation will be different than their normal mode of transportation. We are asking that parents/guardians who need to make an **emergency** change in how their child/children go home after school call the office **no later** than 1:30 p.m.

This gives us a chance to deliver messages to teachers in a timely manner. We appreciate your help with this matter.

**PARENT / GUARDIAN REMINDERS:** We have several reminders for our parents and guardians:

- Parents / guardians should always bring students to the office to sign in when they are tardy.
- Students should when they are going different way other



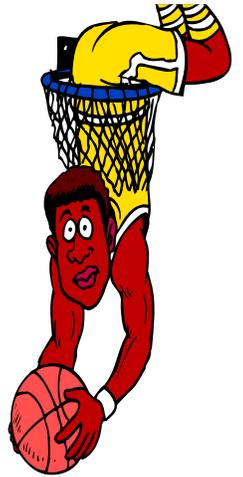
have a note home a than



normal.

- Anyone picking up a child should be on the student's locator card.
- The office will be asking for I.D. when a child is being picked up.

**GREETINGS FROM PE:** I know everyone is eagerly anticipating some quality time off with friends and family, as well as, making plans for those fitness resolutions for 2018. Just a quick update of what is going on in the gym. We are putting the finishing touches on completing fitness testing in grades 2-5. I will use the results from the assessment to select the participants for First In Fitness (FIF). FIF is a countywide fitness competition that takes place in the spring. I will be announcing the team and notifying students and parents at the end of December. I will also post the team and FIF information on my school website.



I am excited about moving into our Basketball unit in December with all grades. Please remember that tennis shoes should be worn, not only in Physical Education classes, but during Structured Play as well. Prepared Crocodiles should always have tennis shoes in their book bag if they don't wear them to school. - Mike Miller, Physical Education Teacher

**CROCODILE CHEER HOLIDAY PROGRAM:** Lauren Brand and Scott Gordon, guidance counselors, and Sycamore Creek Elementary are sponsoring a Holiday Program for children in need. A flyer detailing how you can help came home with your child during the month of November. Donations are due December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would still like to sponsor a child in need for the Holidays, please visit Sycamore Creek Elementary and take a look at our Crocodile Cheer Window which is located right inside the front door. If you cannot make it out to the school, but would like to sponsor a child, please send in a note with your child requesting that more information be sent home to you if any needs are left. If you have any questions in regards to the Crocodile Cheer program, please contact Lauren Brand [lbrand@wcpss.net](mailto:lbrand@wcpss.net) or Scott Gordon at [sgordon@wcpss.net](mailto:sgordon@wcpss.net).

**HOLIDAYS AND TOYS:** As mentioned to all students at the start of the year, toys, games, dolls, collector cards, and other items that can disrupt instruction should stay at home. We believe this policy bears mentioning again with the holidays upon us. The teachers and office staff do not have time to



investigate when toys become missing. This also applies to the before and after school programs. Please help us with this policy as we work hard to maintain a good learning atmosphere at Sycamore Creek Elementary.

**VOLUNTEERS:** We want to thank all of our volunteers for their support. A good school never has enough parent volunteers! Allow me to share a short parable.  
*This is a story about 4 people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.*  
- Author Unknown

**HOLIDAY KINDNESS:** It's hard to believe that it is the holiday season once again. A great lesson children can learn this time of year is that to give of oneself is the greatest gift of all. This could mean spending time with an elderly person who is lonely, or in school, making friends with a child who is new in school or helping a friend who is struggling with reading. Parents can help by being role models of giving. If your child sees you helping another person they are more likely to do the same. It doesn't matter what the kind act is, but that children learn the importance of giving and about being kind. When children learn to help one another, it improves their self-esteem and helps them to feel important. Children who feel good about themselves perform better in school. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

**CHARACTER CORNER:** The Character Trait selected to focus on in December is **Kindness**. The definition of **kindness** that is adopted by the Wake County Public School System is: "Being considerate, courteous, helpful and understanding of others; showing care, compassion, friendship and generosity; and treat others as you would like to be treated". Wow! That's a tall order but there isn't a parent around that would say it wasn't important for their child to always work on being kind. Certainly during the holiday season opportunities abound to illustrate the need for kindness and for our children to be generous with their time and good fortune.

**Kindness** at home includes:

- Not judging people for what they do or don't do (or how they look)
- Being nice to brothers, sisters and parents
- Not responding with anger when someone is unkind
- Saying nice things instead of put-downs
- Looking for a way to help out a family member having a bad day
- Parents need to model kindness

Family Project suggestion:

Leave your house with the sole purpose of doing an act of kindness



and if possible, do it anonymously.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

11/21: Early Release Day @ 12:30 PM  
11/22-11/24: Holiday  
11/27: Interim Week for Tracks 3 & 4  
12/1: Sycamore Creek Spelling Bee  
12/1: Track 1 tracks out  
12/4: Track 2 tracks in  
12/7: Chorus Informances  
12/13: School Tour @ 11:30 AM  
12/21: Last day before winter break  
12/21: Early Release Day @ 12:30 PM  
12/22-1/2: Winter Break

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

On the evening of November 7, 2017, the Wake County Board of Education appointed me the principal of Durant Road Middle School, effective November 20, 2017. While I am excited to accept this new challenge, I am deeply saddened to be leaving the Sycamore Creek family.

Ms. Vickie Perry, an experienced Wake County school leader, will serve as Sycamore Creek's interim principal effective November 20, 2017 while Seydrick Williams, Northwestern Area Superintendent, facilitates the hiring process for a new principal.

Sycamore Creek Elementary is an exceptional school, where innovative teachers, students, and parents collaborate to positively impact lifelong learning. I am incredibly proud to have had the privilege to serve among such a fine community of stakeholders, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to love your children - all of whom I believe contribute to ensuring us a beautiful and bright future.

I am forever indebted to the entire Sycamore Creek Community for the unwavering kindness, support, and trust that I have received throughout my tenure at this very special school.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Our Crocs Rock, always,  
Kristen J. Faircloth  
Principal