



THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families,

We hope you have settled into the routine of being back in school. On behalf of the PTA board and school staff, we would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through all of the changes in schedules, policies and procedures. Remember, we're all working towards the best for our students.

In that regard, if you have any questions or concerns about PTA, please know that you can call us or any other member of the board. Our phone numbers are listed in the newsletter each month. We are always looking for fresh ideas.

We want to thank everyone who has joined the PTA this year and made their contribution to the Enrichment Fund. We are very close to reaching our goal which will allow us to fund the PTA budget for this school year. And, if you have not yet joined and made a contribution, we invite you to join us and gener-

ously give to the Enrichment Fund. With your support, the PTA will be able to continue to sponsor programs, support the school's needs and provide additional funding for activities and items that would not otherwise be paid for by the school district.

We would like to thank our chair people— Susan Haden, Laura Dean and Lisa Blackwell— for all of their hard work in organizing this year's Information Day. It was nice to welcome both new and returning families back to school. And we can't forget our Membership and Enrichment chairs, Melody Oliver and Linda Martinez, for managing the membership drive. We would also like to thank our Hospitality chairs, Jeanne Jenkins and Dawn Feldman, for the wonderful breakfast that PTA hosted for the school staff on Friday, August 11th. The food was delicious, and it was a great way to 'welcome back' our amazing teachers and staff. Lastly, kudos to our

Spirit Wear chair Tracy Heider! We appreciate the great selection and her hard work.

Please mark your calendars for the NMS Curriculum Nights to be held on September 5th for 6th grade and September 7th for 7th and 8th grades. Both evenings will begin at 7:00 pm with a PTA general meeting in the gym where we will present the budget for a vote. Afterwards, parents will be able to meet their student's teachers and receive information about this school year. Come and meet the new PTA board, teachers and administrators!

We look forward to meeting everyone. Your ideas, support and participation are key to a successful year at Northwestern!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norma Khayat".

Norma Khayat
678-580-3462

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Romm".

Lisa Romm
770-346-7747

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Students and Parents,

The 2006-2007 academic year is officially in session. We are off to a great start at Northwestern, with many exciting things in place. We have introduced the middle school concept, with its teaching teams and advisory period, and have made adjustments to our morning and lunch routines so as to serve all students better. Now, that is not to say we did not experience a few first day "glitches"; however, these were minor and easily addressed with simple adjustments to our processes.

I would like to offer a reminder about our carpool procedures. Last year, we recognized the need to improve safety measures

in our carpool line. We implemented a crosswalk and had a crossing guard on duty to ensure that traffic had been stopped prior to students entering the parking lot. The same procedures are in place for this year. In order to maintain the flow of traffic and expedite the dismissal process, we ask that as you arrive at Northwestern, you find parking space and wait for your child. Stopping in the thru-lane delays others and encourages your child to cut between parked cars. We showed a video explaining the procedures to the students on the first day of class, and thus they are fully aware of the school's expectations. Please help them to follow this process.

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

With improvements in technology come new challenges. Today's cell phones and iPods are extraordinary and possess capabilities far beyond that which we could have imagined when we were in middle school. These items can now send and receive messages, and download entire videos. Because of their increased capabilities, both cell phones and iPods are not permitted in the school. If a child is using an MP3 player (iPod) or cell phone in the building, it will be confiscated and held in the office until Friday when the student's parent/guardian can pick up the item. Please reinforce this with your child.

With the return to school, comes the return of the dress code. Northwestern is acutely aware of the styles and fashions preferred by middle school-aged children. However, it is necessary to address any "extreme" in dress that would be disruptive to the educational process. We will not be concerned with flip flops or rips in the knees of pants. However, there are a number of things we must address. The following descriptions do not address every possible violation, but will give an idea as to the kinds of things we will not allow: Sagging (the wearing of over-sized pants which expose a student's undergarments) can not be permitted during the school day. For similar reasons, we need to attend to students who have rips in the backside of their pants. We will also deal with exposed midriffs, short-short clothing (skirts and shorts need to be mid thigh or longer), low cut or see through tops, and tank tops (straps need to be a minimum of 2 inches wide). If a student violates the dress code, he/she will be sent to the office where it will be documented, a parent/guardian notified and a change of clothes will be provided so as to minimize the loss of instructional time. After two referrals to the office for dress code violations, additional consequences will be assigned.

Finally, we are implementing a Saturday school. This consequence will be assigned to students who have reached a level on the Fulton County Discipline Cycle where their first out-of-school suspension would be assigned. By attending Saturday school, students can avoid the loss of instruction associ-

ated with out-of-school suspension. Details of this program are being finalized and more information will be forthcoming.

I do hope everyone had a great summer and had an opportunity to enjoy time with their families. We are very excited about this school year. It is because of your involvement and support of your child's education that we are able to implement our new initiatives. Our school's vision focuses on three main components: collaboration, respect and achievement. It is by focusing on the first two components that we are able to ensure student safety, keep students in class and concentrate on student achievement.

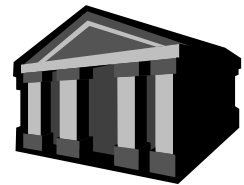
Sincerely,



Mr. Bruce R. Fraser, Principal

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SPLOST III



In 1997, and again in 2002, Fulton County voters overwhelmingly approved the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), the one-cent sales tax intended primarily to assist the school system with construction needs.

SPLOST also provides funds for critical needs such as technology upgrades and bus purchases, along with debt relief. Since first passed almost ten years ago, SPLOST has generated more than \$1 billion for Fulton students.

SPLOST renewal vote will take place in March 2007. You will be hearing a great deal more about SPLOST III in future newsletters.

Please look for important summary sheets (Pennies for Progress) describing all that our community has received due to SPLOST I and SPLOST II in the front office.



The Wildcat is the Parent Teacher Association's Newsletter for Northwestern Middle School. It is produced monthly by the Northwestern PTA. Issues are sent home with students and are available on-line at Northwestern's PTA Website: www.orgsites.com/ga/northwesternmspta. This newsletter is produced by Cassandra Hepburn for the PTA. If you have copy to submit, please send it via e-mail to nmswildcat@comcast.net. Northwestern Middle School's site is www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern.

REFLECTIONS

National PTA Reflections Theme Search 2008-2009



National PTA is looking for a theme for its Reflections Program for 2008-2009. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100 and his or her theme presented at the 2007 National PTA Convention. Forms to submit theme ideas are available in the front office. The deadline for theme submissions is September 26, 2006.

**2006-07 Reflections: "MY FAVORITE PLACE"
Deadline October 3, 2006**

Start your Reflections project now! Entries for the 2006-2007 Reflections Contest will be due October 3rd. Reflections is a National PTA sponsored Arts program. Projects can be entered in 6 categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Music, Literature, Dance, Choreography and Film/Video. Two winners will be selected in each grade, in each category, to represent Northwestern Middle School at the county competition. Judging will be based upon artistic use of this year's theme . . . "My Favorite Place". Packets including rules and entry forms are available in the front office. Parents interested in volunteering may contact Carolyn Lauterbach at lauterbach5@gmail.com or Beth Leigh at leighs6@bellsouth.net.



NORTHWESTERN NEEDS YOU!

The Northwestern PTA would like to thank all the people who volunteered to serve on the 2006-2007 PTA Board. **There is still one open board position—the 8th Grade Career Day Chair.** If you are a parent of an 8th Grader and would like to help make this event successful, please contact Joan Ginn at 770-751-0664 or joanginn@comcast.net.

The PTA would like to extend a **THANK YOU** big THANK YOU to Sara's Hallmark Shop for donating the raffle prizes for the 'Welcome Back' Staff Breakfast. We appreciate what you do for our school!

WILDCAT PRIDE

PRIDE: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE

Look out for our awesome new **PRIDE Program!** There will be drawings for great prizes every 9 weeks. Get your name on the **PRIDE Wall** to be eligible. Areas of Recognition for the PRIDE Program:

Principal's List – All A's

Honor Roll – A's B's and C's (3.0 average)

Perfect Attendance

Teacher Nominated Awards:

- * **Achievement:** All Time High (Students that have worked to pulled up their grade.)
- * **Arts and Athletics** (Students that have received recognition in the Arts or Athletics, not necessarily school related.)
- * **Altruism** (Students who have demonstrated an attitude of respect, helpfulness, good citizenship, etc.)
- **More details to come! Look for the WILDCAT PRIDE PAWS in the Wildcat Den (cafeteria).**



NMS Student Enrichment Fund & PTA Membership

Thank you to all who joined the PTA and contributed to the Student Enrichment Fund on Information Day. We are getting close to reaching our goal, but are still short. If you haven't already completed your PTA Membership/Enrichment Fund form, there is still time. Please send in your completed form and payment with your student. (*Additional forms will be available at the Curriculum Nights and are currently available in the school office.*)

The Enrichment Fund is used to support academic and cultural arts programs, as well as other PTA sponsored events. The Enrichment Fund is the only fundraiser our PTA sponsors – no wrapping paper, candy or other sales. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please consider becoming a member of the PTA. Our goal is to have each parent become a member. The cost is only \$6, and we encourage moms and dads to both join. You may join on the same form as Student Enrichment Fund.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked on Information Day.

MUSIC SHOWCASE



Our first Music Showcase of the school year is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st, 8:15-8:45 a.m. in the Core Atrium. It will feature the **Milton Pep Band!** What a great way to kick off the new school year and football season!

PTA VOLUNTEER HOURS

Each time you volunteer at Northwestern Middle School, it is important that you sign in and out in the Front Office. Please use the computer located behind the main desk area. Registering is easy—just follow the prompts and complete your information. Labels for nametags are located next to the computer. Please only use the Volunteer Time Log sheets if the computer is down. Your at-home hours can be emailed to **Mary Haney**, VIPS chairperson, at pmhaney@mindspring.com. Thanks for your service!

NMS SPIRIT WEAR



Show your Wildcat Spirit! There are several NMS Spirit Wear items still available for purchase, including lots of girls white & navy large T-shirts and some small/medium pajama pants, with limited quantities of other styles. If you are interested in purchasing Spirit Wear, you may inquire about items and availability by directly contacting Tracy Heider at 678-339-0950 or heid0004@comcast.net.

6TH GRADE FUN NIGHT



Northwestern PTA is hosting a night of fun for our incoming 6th grade class. It is scheduled for **Friday, September 22nd from 7-9 pm, at Big Air**—an indoor inflatable entertainment center on McFarland Road. Look for more details coming soon!

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

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|-----------------------|--|
| September 4, 2006 | Labor Day Holiday—No School |
| September 5, 2006 | General PTA Meeting/Curriculum Night—6th Grade (7-9 p.m.) |
| September 7, 2006 | General PTA Meeting/Curriculum Night—7th & 8th Grades (7-9 p.m.) |
| September 12, 2006 | PTA Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.) |
| September 18-22, 2006 | ITBS Testing—8th Grade |
| September 19, 2006 | Katie Reeves Community Meeting—Webb Bridge MS (9:30 a.m.) |
| September 21, 2006 | Milton Pep Band Music Showcase (8:15 a.m.) |
| September 22, 2006 | 6th Grade Fun Night at Big Air (7-9 p.m.) |
| September 28, 2006 | Early Release Day (12:30 p.m.) |
| October 9, 2006 | Teacher Planning/Conference Day—No School |
| October 10, 2006 | PTA Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.) |
| October 16-20, 2006 | Book Fair |
| October 16-27, 2006 | PastWords (8:30 a.m.) |
| October 19, 2006 | Music Showcase (8:15 a.m.) |
| October 25, 2006 | Early Release Day (12:30 p.m.) |

