



THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year. We hope everyone enjoyed their holidays!

The students, staff and PTA are already hard at work on many projects and activities for the second semester. Please check inside this issue for information on upcoming events, including Winter Gallery. This exciting event enhances art appreciation for our students by showcasing different art mediums and artists.

Although hard to believe, it's time to prepare for the next school year. A

nominating committee must now be formed to begin the selection process for next year's NMS PTA board. If you or anyone you know is interested in being on the nominating committee or PTA board, please let one of us know. Research has shown that children learn more and have better lives when parents, school staff, students and community work together. PTA brings all these groups together to benefit our children. Please consider getting involved with our Northwestern Middle School PTA!

SAVE THE DATE: The nominating committee will be voted on at the General Meeting on February 13th at 10:00

am in the portable located behind the main office. We will also be voting on revisions to the PTA budget. Please mark your calendars, and come to this important meeting.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the General Meeting. Your ideas, support and participation are key to a successful PTA!

Norma Khayat

Lisa Romm

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Dear Students and Parents,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope every family had a chance to enjoy the holiday break, recharge the academic batteries and gear up for the challenges ahead. It is amazing that we have already completed our first semester. It has been a great year thus far, and we are looking forward to a tremendous second semester.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank every member of the Northwestern family for their contributions to the school. It seems that every time the school needs something, our community comes through. Cer-

tainly the various fundraisers we have (the coat drive, peanut butter drive, the Giving Tree, and now the Relay for Life) are successful because of your support, but it goes further than that. It is truly apparent when we need volunteers for Wildcat Days, in the front office, the copy room or when a teacher invites you in for a culminating activity (as was demonstrated by the turnout for Ms. McElroy's poetry readings). It is this level of support, this interest in your child's success, that makes Northwestern a special place. In recognition of your support, Northwestern's PTA has received the Golden Apple Award which recognizes your volun-

teer efforts. We must thank our PTA and Northwestern families for this honor.

I would like to clarify something about which there seems to be some confusion. I know that every family wants for their children to be at school consistently and on time. There are times, however, when an absence is necessary. Please ensure that if your child misses a day of school and the absence qualifies as "excused", we receive a note to that effect within three days of your child's return. If you have questions as to which absences can be excused, please refer to your child's handbook.

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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If you know of an upcoming absence that you would like for me to consider approving, I must receive a signed request explaining the reason for the absence prior to the days of absence. I am not permitted to address absences after the fact. I am always more than willing to discuss any unavoidable absences, but I am only in a position to work with those absences on the front end.

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving information about our student perception surveys which will be completed in class. At the request of a parent, we explored the value of this kind of feedback and believe that the teachers can learn a great deal from the students' perception of class. These anonymous surveys will afford the students a chance to give honest feedback about their classes and learning. The teachers look for trends and insights that will assist with instructional improvement. Please discuss the importance of honest feedback with your children so that we can maximize the validity of the results.

As always, I appreciate all that you do and am available should any questions or concerns arise.



Mr. Bruce Fraser, Principal

Environmental Education Tip of the Month

Are you thinking about applying pre-emergent on your lawn soon? Why not try an environmentally friendly product like "Wow Supreme" from www.GardensAlive.com? It is the only pre-emergent weed control product able to meet all of the testing requirements of the Federal EPA. **It's made from corn so it's safe for your children & your pets.** Aren't they worth trying something new?

*We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors;
we borrow it from our children.*

8TH GRADE DANCE

Light Up Our Lives!

The 8th Grade Dance Committee needs your help: We need 100's of small white (Christmas type) lights and extension cords as part of our decorations! We will take any used strands or cords you are willing to donate. (8th grade parents—it would be especially helpful if you could send in lights with your child.) A container will be placed in the front office for your donations.



Also, we are ready to start putting together the set for the dance. 8th grade parent volunteers are needed to assemble and decorate the pieces to be used as decorations for the evening. You don't need any special talents in order to help—just a willingness to work. Beginning Monday, February 5th, weeknight work sessions will be held in the PTA trailer starting at 7:00pm. Sessions will take place each Monday and Wednesday evening until the job is done. Tell your friends, ask your neighbors and recruit your spouses. The more the merrier!! **Please help make this a night to remember for our 8th Graders!**

For more information about how you can help out, contact Nancy Brophy (npbrophy@bellsouth.net) or Maria Vernon (mariavernon@comcast.net).

Box Tops for Education

Don't delay—send in those Box Tops today!

They do have expiration dates on them and we cannot submit them after their expiration dates. So if you've been collecting for a while, go ahead and send them on in. Also, there is a special promotion right now until February 15, 2007. Buy any 12 participating Box Tops for Education products at Publix, and get 100 Bonus Box Tops via a mail-in offer. You can also win a \$200 Publix Gift Card. (See entry form for details at Publix stores.) Log on to www.boxtops4education.com to see a list of participating products.



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 Cassondra 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.

TAG TALK

Devon Gearhart, 6th grade, completed filming of the psychological thriller, *Funny Games* in November, 2006. He plays a lead role as the son of Naomi Watts and Tim Roth. The movie is scheduled to be released in Summer-2007 by Warner Brothers Studio. Devon is an accomplished actor with such film credits as *Dog Days of Summer*, *Canvas*, *Little Men*, *Bobby Jones: The Stroke of Genius*, *Warm Springs* and *The Brooke Ellison Story*. He also is an accomplished television actor with credits for appearance on the television show, *Weeds*. We can all look forward to watching Devon accept an Academy Award for Best Actor in the near future.

Desktop Stores: Sixth Grade Math 7 students became small business owners, creating and marketing products that were sold to other students on the last day of the semester. The students had fun while experiencing math concepts connected with owning a business, including supply and demand, profit and loss, cost per unit, etc. Managing all of their financial records, students will conclude their project with a final analysis of their profit or loss.

Mrs. Gillespie's 6th grade TAG Social Studies classes engaged in a service project to support sustainable agriculture in Latin American countries. Students worked to raise more than \$1,700 to donate to The Heifer Project, a charitable organization that promotes sustainability world-wide. Monies raised by the students will purchase sheep, llamas, chicks, ducks, and pigs for families in Guatemala.

6th grade TAG students Abhijit Jayakumar and Jonathan Jemson will be competing in the Fulton County Technology Fair on January 27th at Centennial High School. Abhijit is registered in the Intra/Internet category and Jonathan will be competing in the Multimedia category.

Mrs. McElroy's TAG 7th grade language arts classes had a successful "Crabapple Café" right before the break. The parents brought coffee and goodies and the students read their original poetry. All classes had standing room only audiences with appearances from Mr. Fraser, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Bethel-Carson.

Lastly, congratulations to Mrs. Williams' TAG student **Ashley West** for winning **Reflections** for Fulton County for Film Production!

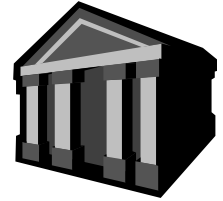
The Giving Tree was a big success this holiday season—over \$11,000 was collected and used for assisting families in need! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause. Your generosity is appreciated!



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

IMPORTANT UPCOMING VOTE!

On March 20, 2007, Fulton citizens will vote on whether to continue the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for an additional five years. SPLOST is a one-cent tax on every dollar spent in Fulton County. The money is used by the school system to fund new schools, provide technology upgrades, purchase equipment and buses, and provide property tax relief. Fulton first approved SPLOST in 1997, with a renewal approved in 2002. Since it began 10 years ago, the penny tax has funded 29 new schools in Fulton County and 18 school additions.



SPLOST III, if approved, would fund 14 new schools and classroom additions at 11 schools. All existing buildings would receive infrastructure improvements, renovations or modifications.

In the coming weeks you will hear much more about SPLOST, including specific improvements proposed for our school. Please pay attention to this information so you can make an informed decision on March 20.

Please visit the Fulton County Schools website at www.fultonschools.org and click on the Pennies for Progress for more information about SPLOST.

Voter Registration & Absentee Voting

To vote in the special election on March 20, 2007, you will need to be registered to vote by February 19, 2007. For more information, visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.ga.us or contact the Fulton County Board of Elections & Voter Registration office at 404-730-7072.

If you will be unable to vote in the March 20th special election you may request an absentee ballot or vote early, a week prior to the vote. For more information on absentee ballots and voting early, visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.ga.us or contact the Fulton County Board of Elections and Voter Registration office at 404-730-7072.

2007 Georgia Legislative Session

The Georgia Legislative session started on January 8, 2007. Milton County, education, and transportation are on the agenda for the north Fulton delegation. Please take the time to keep up to date on the Georgia Legislative session by visiting the Georgia PTA www.georgiapta.org and clicking on Capitol Watch or you can visit the Georgia General Assembly website at www.legis.state.ga.us.

WINTER GALLERY

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS: NMS PTA will be sponsoring the "Winter Gallery" during the week of March 5-9, 2007. Various pieces of art will be on exhibit in the Media Center and throughout the school. We will also feature "Artists in Residence" demonstrating different art forms in the Core Atrium during the week for the students to experience art in the making! We are looking for fine art for our display (paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, etc.) from students, parents, staff or local artists. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be willing to share their art for the week, please contact Sally Caudle at 770-475-8832 or frugalframer@comcast.net. Thanks in advance for your support.

NMS SPIRIT WEAR

Show your Wildcat Spirit! There are many NMS Spirit Wear items still available for purchase. There is 1 large gray hoodie sweatshirts left for \$20; gray T-shirts are \$10; girls navy & white T-shirts are \$12; and flannel pajama pants are \$20. If you are interested in purchasing Spirit Wear, you may inquire about items and availability by contacting **Tracy Heider** at 678-339-0950 or heid0004@comcast.net.



REFLECTIONS

There will be a Reflections Reception on Friday, February 9th from 8-8:45 am in the Media Center. All participants are invited to attend this celebration as well as pick up their entries. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Beth Leigh at Leighs6@bellsouth.net.



ATTENTION ALL NEW & RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

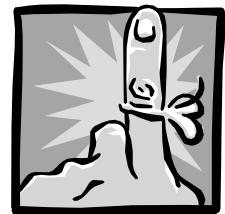
Are you a new volunteer at Northwestern? If so, please take a moment to register on the TRAXX computer located in the Front Office. Just click on the "Volunteer" link on the screen and follow the prompts. Returning volunteers, please remember it's important that you continue to use the TRAXX system every time you work.

Make your volunteer hours count! Log in and out of TRAXX every time you volunteer. (Your at-home hours can be emailed to Mary Haney at pmhaney@mindspring.com.)

Thanks for your service!

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

February 12, 2007	Valentine's Day Dance—6th Grade (after school)
February 13, 2007	Katie Reeves Community Meeting—New Prospect ES (9:30 a.m.)
February 13, 2007	Valentine's Day Dance—7 & 8th Grades (after school)
February 13, 2007	General PTA & Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
February 14, 2007	Music Showcase—Milton Steel Drum Band (8:15 a.m.)
February 19, 2007	President's Day Holiday—No School
March 1, 2007	Early Release Day (12:30 p.m.)
March 5-9, 2007	Winter Gallery
March 12, 2007	Teacher work Day—No School
March 13, 2007	Katie Reeves Community Meeting—Crabapple Crossing ES (9:30 a.m.)
March 15, 2007	Music Showcase—Northwestern 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra (8:15 a.m.)



Northwestern Online Resources

Links available at www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern

Click on “**Media Center**” on the left menu bar.

Shortcuts in Student Applications Folder-Media Center Folder



World Book Online

ID from home – wildcats5 password - wildcats



Student Resource Center

Password from school and home - wildcats

*Contains full-text articles from popular reference books, magazine and newspaper articles, and multi-media materials.



Grolier Online

Password from home

ID – fultonsd Password – home

*You will find Grolier’s Multimedia Encyclopedia, New Book of Knowledge, and Encyclopedia Americana. Includes links to periodicals and websites. Includes dictionaries and atlases.



GALILEO

kids.galileo.usg.edu OR www.galileo.usg.edu

Go to K-12

Look at the Middle Search Plus, SIRS Researcher, SIRS Discoverer, MAS Ultra, and Master File Premier Data Bases.

Password from home – raceway (changes quarterly)