



# THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families,

As you sit and contemplate whether or not to face the cool March breezes, please consider getting involved with the Northwestern PTA by taking a board position in the 2007-2008 school years. We have many positions available and need your participation to help with the many wonderful PTA sponsored events. For more information, please look for the article from our nominating committee with contact information and available board positions.

February has come and gone, but it is not forgotten with the impressive music showcase chaired by Marie Hudson. The Milton Steel band performed on February 15<sup>th</sup> and the students couldn't ask for a better start to their day than watching the band perform in the atrium!

Your current PTA board has many additional events planned throughout the rest of this school year. March activities in-

clude our annual Winter Gallery which will be held the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>. Sally Caudle is once again hard at work organizing the artists and their wonderful pieces of work to display in the media center. There will also be artists actually working on various projects throughout the week that the students will be able to observe.

In addition, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health fair is just around the corner. The committee is currently looking for volunteers to help with this informative day. Please let us know if you can help out, and we'll pass your name along to the committee chairs. Also, the PTA will be honoring our Teacher of the Year and all staff at an appreciation breakfast later in the month.

Finally, our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the PTA portable located behind the front office. Please join us to hear more about the activities planned for the remainder

of the year. Come and find out how you can become a part of your child's school and PTA. We ask that you become more involved, that you join a committee, that you offer us your expertise, your ideas and your time to build a better PTA and NMS community.

We close our article this month with this quote: "One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, or how much money I had in the bank, but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in a child's life."

*Author unknown*

We look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

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

Norma Khayat

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

Lisa Romm



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Students and Parents,

First, I would like to congratulate the 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams for their successful seasons. The teams performed very well, going undefeated for the season. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams are now preparing for their season which begins at the end of this month. Feel free to drop in on a game and show your support for our Wildcats.

Did you realize that boys and girls hear

differently? Did you realize that the majority of all drowning victims are male or that after female chimps fight, they hold grudges for years? All of these facts are related to the differences that exist between genders. By understanding and accepting these differences, new lines of communication can be opened. In the book, "Why Gender Matters", Dr. Sax explores many of the differences innate to gender. I would like to invite all parents to the NMS gym at 7:00 p.m. on

Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> for a session, conducted by Ms. Hopps and me, that will touch upon the research based findings of Dr. Sax as well as information from conferences and workshops. This will be a truly enlightening evening. I respectfully request you do not bring your children to this event as we will be sharing some research findings that may not be suitable for them in a forum of this type. I look forward to the evening.

Northwestern sent out a letter with your child's progress report that outlined an adjustment to our cell phone policy. I would like to take the opportunity to (continued on page 2)

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

(continued from page 1)

share that information again. A recent incident brought to light the fact that despite being aligned with Fulton County Policy, there was a degree of inconsistency with the issuance of consequences for first time violations. Since consistency is necessary for the enforcement of any expectation, any future first time violations of the cell phone policy will result in confiscation of the phone and a day of detention (rather than ISS). This change has been communicated to teachers as well as students. The confiscated phones will be held for you to pick up at your convenience. We appreciate your support of this.

Did you know that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with 2 consecutive semester grade averages of 88 or higher with conduct grades of "1" or "2" are eligible to join Jr. Beta? Northwestern's Jr. Beta Club promotes the ideals of character, service and leadership. This year, the students and their sponsors have been working hard to raise money for the "Relay for Life" event. If your child is interested in participating in this outstanding organization, all they need do is pick up and complete an application. Please contact Ms. Cherry, Ms. Mayo or Ms. Johnson for more details.

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



Mr. Bruce Fraser, Principal

## NMS SPIRIT WEAR

Show your Wildcat Spirit! There are many T-shirts for sale that are great for gym class and are the "style" for wearing to school. Both male and female styles are available. 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](mailto:heid0004@comcast.net).



## PRIDE

### Personal Responsibility in Developing Excellence

We have had a great year with the new **PRIDE Program**. The program was developed to recognize both students and the faculty for pursuing excellence. We have 3 main events that have been held each 9 week: **PRIDE AWARDS** and **PRIDE WALL** signing, recognition breakfasts for Honor Roll students, and Teacher appreciation breakfasts/awards.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS:** Teachers have attended 2 Coffee's ( with lots of great food and friends), and several prize drawings and awards have been held for the teachers to thank them for their ongoing effort and to recognize their excellence in the classroom.

**PRIDE WALL:** Over 160 students have been recognized to date for developing excellence by their teachers. Students have been nominated in one of three categories:

**Arts and Athletics** - nominated for an achievement for any athletic or artistic endeavor in or outside of school.

**All Time High** - Any student that has worked hard to bring up a grade or who has preformed at an all time high.

**Altruism-** Nominated for displaying great citizenship or helping others.

The **PRIDE PAWS** are filling up with students signatures and they look **GREAT!**

Check out the names who have been recognized by their teachers!

**HONOR ROLL:** Finally, last week we held the 2nd set of Honor Roll Breakfasts with 3 mornings of Cinnamon Rolls and juice for those students receiving all A grades or all A and one B grade. We had a great turn out and look forward to recognizing more students this next 9 weeks!

**KEEP WORKING ON DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE !**

PRIDE Committee



**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](http://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](mailto:nmswildcat@comcast.net). Northwestern Middle School's site is [www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern](http://www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern).

## TAG TALK

Abhijit Jayakumar won the Technology Fair in the Intra/Internet Category.

During the week of January 22, the annual science fair was held in Northwestern's media center. The fair consisted of 42 projects representing the best work of our 8th grade advanced level students on a research-based project. Everyone who participated in this endeavor deserves credit for a job well done since the task of producing a project of this magnitude is challenging at times.

With all judging completed, we would like to announce that the winners of the NMS science fair this year are Rachel Palumbo w/ Soccer Science, Emelie Coleman w/ From Hip to Toe, Mavis Wolf w/ School: A Germanphobe's Nightmare, Elizabeth Dinh w/ What's easiest for you to remember? and Briana Mendes w/ Let's Break Down Carbs.

The winners of the science fair at NMS will compete in the Fulton County's Regional Fair held on February 21 at Staff Development Center downtown. At the regional/county fair students will be interviewed about their projects as part of the judging process. CONGRATULATIONS to these students, and best of luck at the regional/county fair!!!

Please find a list of Summer Camp Opportunities for Gifted Children in the Guidance Office in the Summer Programs 2007 folder. Contact Chris Remensnyder, PTA TAG representative, with any questions at 678-297-9851 or [remenfam@earthlink.net](mailto:remenfam@earthlink.net).

## 2007-08 NMS PTA

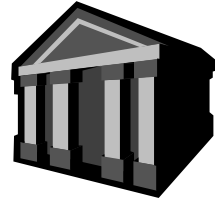
Northwestern Middle School is seeking new members for its 2007-2008 PTA Board of Directors. There are many positions open, and getting involved in PTA is a great way to get connected at NMS! If you are interested, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:

**Sara Burks** - 770-663-3867  
[saraburks@bellsouth.net](mailto:saraburks@bellsouth.net)

**Mary Haney** - 770-442-5308  
[pmhaney@mindspring.com](mailto:pmhaney@mindspring.com)

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The Georgia Legislative session is in full swing. Please take the time to keep up to date on the Georgia Legislative session by visiting the Georgia PTA website at [www.georgiapta.org](http://www.georgiapta.org) and clicking on Capitol Watch, or you can visit the Georgia General Assembly website at [www.legis.state.ga.us](http://www.legis.state.ga.us).



Please review the information about the **Fulton County Schools Budget Calendar** and the upcoming **SPLOST III** vote on pages 5, 6 & 7 of this newsletter.

### Environmental Education Tip of the Month

This is the time of year when we think about taxes and investments. Why not improve the quality of life for your children by investing in "Clean Energy"? Many socially responsible mutual funds include clean energy companies in their mix. To find such funds check out lists such as The Social Investment Forum, Clean Edge, WilderShares' WilderHill Clean Energy Index or look for a socially responsible financial planner by looking on the National Green Pages website. Your children's children will thank you.

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

**Pamela Holliday** - 770-360-9734  
[pjholliday@comcast.net](mailto:pjholliday@comcast.net)

**Leigh Ann Maloney** - 770-664-1132  
[lam63@comcast.net](mailto:lam63@comcast.net)

**Maureen Profita** - 770-442-1553  
[rmdoprl@aol.com](mailto:rmdoprl@aol.com)

**Susan Susor** - 678-366-5993  
[ssbunny@aol.com](mailto:ssbunny@aol.com)

**Northwestern**  
**PTA**  
*everychild. onevoice.*

## WINTER GALLERY

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! For more information, please contact Sally Caudle at 770-475-8832 or frugalframer@comcast.net.

### 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.

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

## REFLECTIONS

### Reflections Wrap Up 2006 – 2007

We are excited to announce that Northwestern has two students that won on the North Fulton Council level. Their winning entries have been sent to the state level for judging! Lara Davis won for her entry in Dance Choreography and Ashley West won for her entry in Film/Video Production. Congratulations to both of these 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for their outstanding Reflections 2006-2007 submissions!

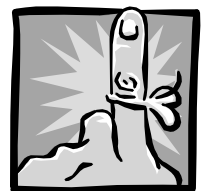


A huge thank you goes out to all the students for their wonderful and creative efforts. Northwestern was well represented with over 100 entries this year. Way to go! We appreciate those that attended the Reflections reception held in the Media Center the morning of Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. The students enjoyed light refreshments and were able to view all the creative entries.

The Reflections Theme for the 2007-2008 school year will be “I can make a difference by . . .”. This should give all of our talented and budding artists time to begin planning for next year’s contest!

## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

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 13, 2007	PTA Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
April 2-6, 2007	Spring Break—no school
April 16-20	CRCT Testing (6th & 8th Grades)
April 17, 2007	Katie Reeves Community Meeting—Lake Windward Elementary School (9:30 a.m.)
April 17, 2007	General PTA Meeting/Board Meeting/Elections/Volunteer Luncheon (10:00 a.m.)



## Upcoming Vote to RENEW SPLOST

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. This is a continuation of an existing 1% tax – it represents *no increase* of any kind. The money is used to fund the school system's capital improvements. 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.

### Why SPLOST Renewal?

- 600 portable classrooms currently in use
- 10,000 new students in the past 3 years
- 20,000 additional students by 2011
- Technology upgrades
- Renovations and modifications at existing schools
- Safety and security

### Why SPLOST as a funding source?

- Property owners get relief from being primary source of funding
- Pay as you go
- No incurred interest
- Lower property taxes
- Proven to be a successful funding option
- 40 % of money comes from outside Fulton County
- RENEWAL not a new tax

### What's in the 5-year SPLOST III plan?

- 14 new schools
- 11 major school additions
- Renovations at existing schools
- Technology upgrades
- Bond debt reduction
- School buses and support vehicles
- Land acquisition

For specific details about SPLOST, please visit Fulton County Schools website at [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org) , and click on the 'Pennies for Progress' button.

## SPLOST III RENEWAL VOTE IS MARCH 20, 2007

If you are unable to vote at your polling location on March 20, 2007, please arrange for **ABSENTEE VOTING!** It is simple to cast your vote! Don't forget to include your college students!

A ballot will be mailed to your home after you follow these simple steps. Please allow enough time to have the actual ballot sent to your home.

### How to get and Absentee Ballot Application

Go to [www.sos.state.ga.us](http://www.sos.state.ga.us)

Under the Elections section – click on voter information

Click on Absentee Voting

Download the application

Complete the form and

Fax to: 404-730-8839

**OR**

Mail to

Fulton County Voter Registration and Elections

Attn: Absentee Ballot

141 Pryor Street SW, Suite 4085

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-730-7072

**Remember:** This is only the application for your ballot – you must allow enough time to receive and return your ballot. Absentee ballots must be returned by 7:00 pm on March 20, 2007.

**Advance Voting (In Person):** Voters may cast their ballot in person, Monday through Friday, during the week before the election 8:30 am — 4:30 pm. For the SPLOST Election March 20, 2007, the Advance Voting would be March 12-16, 2007. Those who vote in person during this period are not required to provide a reason for voting absentee, but must provide an acceptable form of Photo Identification

### **Locations for voting in person during the absentee and advance voting periods are as follows:**

Fulton County Govt. Center, 141 Pryor Street, SW Suite 4064, Atlanta, GA., phone 404-730-7072

North Fulton Service Center, 7741 Roswell Road, Room 209, Sandy Spring, GA., phone 770-551-7675

South Fulton Service Center, 5600 Stonewall Tell Road, Room 105, College Park, GA., phone 770-306-3050

For polling locations and more information visit the Georgia Secretary of State website at [www.sos.state.ga.us](http://www.sos.state.ga.us). You can also find more information at the Fulton County Government website at [www.myfultoncountyga.us](http://www.myfultoncountyga.us).

## Fulton County School System Budget Calendar

The following schedule of activities will guide budget development in the Fulton County School System for the school year 2007-08. The public is welcome at all meetings. Opportunities for public comment are provided only at the Public Hearings and before Pre-Board and Board meetings.

Public Hearings	Roundtables and Workshops	Board Meetings
<p><b>Public Hearing #1</b> Tuesday, March 27 6:30 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p> <p><b>Public Hearing #2</b> Friday, May 11 5 p.m. Administrative Center</p> <p><b>Salary Schedule Hearing</b> <i>(if required)</i> Thursday, June 7 5 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p> <p><b>Public Hearing #1 on Millage Rates</b> <i>(if required*)</i> Monday, June 18 10 a.m. Administrative Center</p> <p><b>Public Hearing #2 on Millage Rates</b> <i>(if required*)</i> Monday, June 18 6 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p> <p><b>Public Hearing #3 on Millage Rates</b> <i>(if required*)</i> Monday, June 25 6 p.m. Administrative Center</p> <p><i>*Public hearings on the proposed millage rate are required if millage is not fully rolled back. If a full rollback is proposed, meetings will not be held.</i></p>	<p><b>Board Roundtable</b> Tuesday, March 27 5 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p> <p><b>Budget Work Session #1</b> Friday, May 11 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Administrative Center</p> <p><b>Board Roundtable/ Budget Work Session #2</b> Tuesday, May 22 5 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p>	<p><b>Pre-Board Meeting</b> Tuesday, June 5 4:30 p.m. Dunwoody Springs ES</p> <p><b>Board Meeting (Final Budget Adoption)</b> Thursday, June 14 6:30 p.m. Hamilton E. Holmes ES</p> <p><b>Called Meeting to Adopt Millage Rates **</b> Monday, July 2 Location and Time TBA</p> <p><b>**Scheduled dates for adoption of Budget and Millage Rates are contingent on the availability of tax digest information from tax officials.</b></p>