



# THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families –

Happy Spring to All! As the flowers begin to bloom and the weather begins to warm, spring fever is upon us with lacrosse, baseball, soccer, school plays, music competitions, fieldtrips and many other activities. Students will return from Spring Break and quickly jump back into their academics. Classes are busy preparing for CRCT tests which will be given the week of April 16th and EOCT tests the beginning of May. Please make sure your children are well rested so they will be prepared to do well on these important tests.

The PTA would like to congratulate Ms. Lynne Scott, NMS Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Carol Fanning, NMS Employee of the Year. Both of these women are examples of the outstanding and dedicated staff at Northwestern Middle School. If you see them when you are at school, be sure to wish them congratulations, and tell them how much you appreciate what they do for our children.

Dear Students and Parents,

Let me start by saying “WOW”. I just received the results for the Middle Grades Writing Assessment taken by all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in January. The scores were phenomenal! This year the test requirements had changed, and the students were no longer provided the option of narrative writing, but were instead given an expository or persuasive prompt on which they had to write.



This month, all students enjoyed a week of art appreciation and culture during the Winter Gallery. This week-long event had artists and their work on display at school. Thank you to Sally Caudle for coordinating this event. In addition, the PTA has many other activities being planned before the school year wraps up. Another Music Showcase is planned, the 7th graders will participate in a Health Fair, and we are in the process of trying to coordinate a High School Survival Day for 8th graders with input from Milton High School. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is being coordinated, and we will have the 8th Grade Dance!

We might add that for those of you who have watched and thought about being a part of these activities that PTA is a team effort. The only way we can continue sponsoring these events is for our families and friends to continue to give of themselves to make it happen. *Please consider being an active participant in our PTA and take on a volunteer*

*position for the next school year.* You, the school and the students will be glad you did. Every one of us brings something new and unique to the table that enriches the school and the PTA. Go ahead and take a walk on the wild side; volunteer for the position of your choice! For more information about open positions, please call one of us.

Finally, we invite each and every one of you to attend our General PTA Meeting on Tuesday, April 17th at 10:00 am, where we will be conducting the election of the 2007-2008 Executive PTA Board. Immediately following the meeting, the school administration will host a luncheon honoring everyone who has volunteered at Northwestern this school year. Please come and join us!

*Norma Khayat Lisa Romm*

Norma Khayat

Lisa Romm

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Their teachers worked hard in preparation for the test, and their efforts were rewarded. Your children performed remarkably well. This is a true testament to the efforts of all our teachers. It also speaks volumes to your involvement and interest in the success of your children. Your involvement and support allows your children to extend themselves without fearing failure.

Of course, we must give the real credit where it is due. We must recognize the students. Without their hard work, organization and high level of motivation, the test results would not be possible. I am so impressed with the students of Northwestern and their ability to recognize the importance of the tasks asked of them. They consistently demonstrate that they deserve our respect and praise. (continued on page 2)

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

(continued from page 1)

Please take the time to let them know that not only are we all proud of their efforts, but that they should be proud of themselves.

As for the results, there were three levels of performance. Students either "did not meet expectations", "met expectations", or "exceeded expectations". Northwestern has 94% of students that either "meet or exceed expectations". This was compared with 80% of the students in Fulton County and 67% of the students in the state who "met or exceeded" the expectations. Again I must congratulate everyone for a job well done. The students' success is truly a collaborative effort.

I want to thank all of the teachers and students for their efforts with our "Relay for Life" fundraising. Jr. Beta had set a lofty fundraising goal, but with the creative (and enjoyable) efforts of the grade levels, we may be able to hit that target. We've had pies thrown in the faces of faculty, an ongoing "American Idol" competition, an upcoming "dunk tank" event, as well as other challenges and competitions. I hope you have heard from the students about some of the events and continue to support this worthy cause.

I also want to recognize the efforts of our orchestra, chorus and band. These groups have just completed their performance evaluations and received glowing reviews. Each of the groups received extremely high marks for their pieces. I was fortunate enough to attend the performance evaluation of the orchestra and chorus and was truly impressed with their skill and composure. It can be somewhat unnerving to stare out at a crowd, knowing that three judges are listening to every note. Their composure speaks volumes to their level of preparation. Ms. Ellington, Ms. Busman, Ms. Naughton and Mr. Kapral have done tremendously well working with your children.

Have a great month.



Mr. Bruce Fraser, Principal

## NMS SCRAPBOOK



The PTA needs pictures of activities and events from the 2006-2007 school year at NMS for its end-of-year scrapbook. If you have photos from any PTA events, please email them to **Lisa Albright at albright.6@att.net** or leave them

in the PTA folder in the front office under Historian. Thanks so much for your help!

CCES, NMS & MHS present...

### The 8th Running of the Colt's Cup 5K & 1 Mile Run for the Ribbons

WHEN: Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 a.m.

It's FREE to run or walk!

Pick up your registration form at the school front office today! Or register on active.com.



Questions: coltscup@comcast.net

## 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.



**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).

## PTA VOLUNTEERS

### MAKE YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS COUNT!

We appreciate the many hours our volunteers spend each month to help make Northwestern Middle School the excellent school that it is. Your time is valuable! Make your volunteer hours count. *Please be sure to log in and out of the TRAXX system every time you volunteer.* Your at-home hours can be emailed to Mary Haney, VIPS Chair, at [pmhaney@mindspring.com](mailto:pmhaney@mindspring.com).

Thanks for your service!



*To all of our wonderful PTA volunteers:  
Please join us for an appreciation luncheon to thank you for all your efforts this year in making NMS a wonderful place to be!*

*Lunch will be served immediately following the PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center.*

*Please RSVP to [fanningc@fultonschools.org](mailto:fanningc@fultonschools.org) by April 10<sup>th</sup>.*

## Environmental Education Tip of the Month

Georgia Power has just launched its **Green Energy Program**. They are using the methane gas produced by the garbage in the landfill at the Seminole Road Landfill to power electric generators, producing power for residential and business customers. It only cost me \$4.50 plus tax (per 100-kilowatt-hour block) as a resident to sign up for the program. What a great way to produce electricity—by reducing the space taken up by dumping garbage. We're helping the environment in two ways at the same time. To sign up, call 1-800-735-7791 or log on to [georgiapower.com](http://georgiapower.com).

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

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### 2007 Legislative Session



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).

### SPLOST

On March 20, 2007, Fulton County voters agreed to renew the **SPLOST** (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) for the next five years to fund school construction.

### Fulton County Schools 2007-2008 Calendar

The Milton/Alpharetta cluster piloted the Early Release/Learning Matters days for teachers. This year the cluster had 5 early release days. The Fulton County School system adopted the Learning Matters/Early Release days for the entire school system for the 2007-2008 school year.

**Please mark your calendars for important dates:**

<b>August 13</b>	First Day of School
<b>Sept. 19</b>	Early Release Day (students dismissed early)
<b>Oct. 24</b>	Early Release Day (students dismissed early)
<b>Nov. 28</b>	Early Release Day (students dismissed early)
<b>Feb. 27</b>	Early Release Day (students dismissed early)
<b>March 26</b>	Early Release Day (students dismissed early)
<b>May 23</b>	Last Day of School

### 7th Grade Health Fair



Volunteers are needed for the 7th Grade Health Fair to be held **Wednesday, May 9 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.** We have 15 speakers participating in our Health Fair. We would like to place one volunteer with each speaker. Your responsibility would be to introduce the speaker and monitor their time. **Please contact Pam Tolbert at [fourtolberts@AOL.com](mailto:fourtolberts@AOL.com) or Patti Benton at [taterville@comcast.net](mailto:taterville@comcast.net) to volunteer.**

## WINTER GALLERY

Thank you to all those who participated in the Winter Gallery this year! We enjoyed a wonderful week of seeing "art in the making" by many talented artists. Demonstrations included Chinese brush painting, watercolor, oil painting, drawing and cartooning. Students and faculty also enjoyed a beautiful display of visual art exhibited in the media center. Winter Gallery is a PTA sponsored event and could not take place without the participation of so many talented artists! Thanks again to everyone who shared their talent this year and to our administration for supporting such a wonderful program.

### 8th Grade Dance Work Nights

The 8th Grade Dance Committee has been busy creating the set for the dance. *We need all "hands on deck" to finish the remaining projects.* 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. Weeknight work sessions are being held in the PTA trailer 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 spouse—the more the merrier! *Please help to make this a night to remember for our 8th Graders.*

The day of the dance, May 4th, we'll start decorating at 9:30am. We'll be working through out the day so you

## REFLECTIONS

### Reflections Winner Goes to State!

The Georgia PTA and the North Fulton Council of PTAs announced category winners at the council level. **Congratulations Lara Davis!** Lara won at the council level and will advance to State for her entry in Dance Choreography. A reception was held at the Atlanta History Center on March 25th to recognize the artistic creativity presented by the students. There will be 284 State winners and 24 of those will advance to Nationals. Way to go Lara Davis, and good luck at the State advancement level!!



can arrive anytime! Mark your calendars now to come and help.

For more information, contact Nancy Brophy ([npbrophy@bellsouth.net](mailto:npbrophy@bellsouth.net)) or Maria Vernon ([mariavernon@comcast.net](mailto:mariavernon@comcast.net)).



### We need you to "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 part with. 8th grade parents, it would be especially helpful if you could send in a strand of lights with your child. A container will be placed in the front office to receive your donations. *Thanks in advance for your help!*

## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

April 2-6, 2007	Spring Break—no school
April 16-20	CRCT Testing (ALL 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.)
April 26, 2007	Music Showcase—NMS Percussion Ensemble (8:15 a.m.)
May 2-3, 2007	EOCT testing (7th and 8th grades)
May 4, 2007	8th Grade Dance (7-10 p.m.)
May 5, 2007	Colt's Cup 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run (8:00 am)
May 9, 2007	7th Grade Health Fair (8:30-11:30 a.m.)
May 11, 2007	Staff Appreciation Day/Luncheon

