



THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

MAY 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families –

At our last PTA Meeting, the new PTA Executive Board was elected. We have new people who will be taking charge of PTA activities. The outgoing board wishes the new officers luck in continuing the goals and activities that have been so important and integral to our school.

Looking back at the year, we are proud of our PTA and all that we have accomplished at our school. We have had high quality enrichment programs and field trips, book fairs and community service projects. We have published our monthly newsletters and school directory to stay connected with our families. PTA committees coordinated many important activities including Music Showcases, Past Words, Reflections, Winter Gallery and Cultural Arts. Students have enjoyed special events such as Wildcat

Days, 6th grade Fun Night, PRIDE recognition and more. And, still to come is the 7th grade Health Fair and 8th grade Dance!!

As the year ends, we want to thank the many wonderful volunteers who helped the PTA in it various programs, projects and events. Without the helping hands of our general membership and PTA Board, we would not have been as successful in our endeavors. Thank you for your dedication and hard work throughout the year. Our members truly followed the PTA mission of putting ‘Children First’.

Finally, we ask that you think about how you can be involved with the PTA next year with these four words: Commit, Connect, Challenge and Celebrate.

- **Commit** – yourselves to your

school and PTA. Remember you are working on behalf of the children,

- **Connect** – with those around you,
- **Challenge** – become involved; know the issues, then seek the solutions,
- **Celebrate** – your successes.

As the school year comes to a close, we hope you will reflect on this year and the impact it has had on our students. We hope that next year’s PTA will move forward and continue the good work that was begun this year on behalf of “Every child. Once voice.”

Have a safe and happy summer!

Norma Khayat

Lisa Romm

Dear Students and Parents,



Well, we are nearing the end of another year. It is simply astonishing how quickly a year passes. As you are aware, our school community is not only focused on maintaining Northwestern’s level of academic success, but is also continuously looking for ways to make our students’ middle school experience more rewarding and enjoyable.

This past year we began our advisory program as a way to meet our students’ developmental needs and create a sense of belonging or community. We learned a great deal about advisory programs, and already a committee of dedicated teach-

ers is in place to look at the successful aspects of the program and enhance the overall advisory experience. This program is just one example of the strides we take to make our school’s vision a reality.

Students completed the CRCT at the end of last month. It was apparent that the teachers and students were not only motivated to do well on the days of the test, but committed themselves to that goal well before the week of testing. I am very excited to receive the results, as I am confident that they will once again

demonstrate that the entire Northwestern community is dedicated to the success of our students. We certainly recognize and appreciate your efforts to support your children’s success.

The 8th grade students enjoyed the “South Georgia Trip” immediately prior to spring break. The trip was a huge success. The students represented us well, with one of the hotel managers commenting that the behavior in the hotel was the best he had ever seen. The students and chaperones enjoyed the venues

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PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

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and experienced Georgia's history while being courteous and respectful of the sites and people they met.

With school winding down, the opportunity exists to reflect on the past year, celebrating the highs while acknowledging and learning from the lows. Fortunately, NMS had another great year with the successes far outweighing the areas of concern. This is a direct result of the teachers' efforts, the students' motivation and your involvement. I have said it many times, but it bears repeating: NMS is successful because of everyone, and we will continue to improve and experience success as long as we continue to work together and tackle issues as a community.

Thanks for a great year.



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!

8TH GRADE DANCE

Invitations for the 8th grade dance have been sent home with the students. Ask your child to show it to you – it looks terrific. The required permission slip, picture order form and requests for snack donations form accompanied your student's invitation. Pay special attention to these forms: No student will be allowed to attend the dance without a permission slip. Pictures must be paid for ahead of time, and the food committee is counting on your donations.



The 8th Grade Dance Committee will be decorating for the event on Friday, May 4th. We'll begin decorating at 9:30am. We'll be working through out the day so you can arrive anytime! Mark your calendars so that you can help us make this a wonderful event for our children.

Many Thanks!

The dance co-chairs would like to thank their committee for all of their hard work over the past few months: Mark Reed, Lisa Romm, Sally Caudle, Christine Lockett, Linda Deloso, Barbara Percival, Joan Ginn, Susan Hanna, Timi Jones, Trudy Burt and Michelle Sherman. Without these people, the 8th grade dance would not have been possible.

Set Your Alarm Clocks!

Saturday May 5th

8:00 a.m.

Colt's Cup 5k &
1 Mile Run for the Ribbons



Race day registration opens at 7:00 a.m.

Northwestern Middle School



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.

PTA VOLUNTEERS

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!!!

Please remember to log onto TRAXX when volunteering your time at our school. If you have at home volunteer hours that need to be logged in for you, please e-mail your hours to Mary Haney at pmhaney@mindspring.com



Box Tops for Education

Remember to turn in those Box Tops for Education coupons that you've been saving before the end of the school year, and please keep cutting them out through the summer. We have collected over \$600 in the last two years. That's over 6000 Box Tops coupons! But we can do BETTER. It's FREE MONEY, and it benefits our Outreach Programs. Keep on clipping and visit www.boxtops4education.com for more info.

THANKS!

Environmental Education Tip of the Month

Does your church know about Georgia Interfaith Power and Light's programs that help people of all faiths be stewards of the earth? My church is working with this group to purchase compact fluorescent bulbs for low income families in Roswell. Georgia Interfaith Power and Light along with Georgia Power will match our donations of \$2 per bulb. As you know from last month's tip, compact fluorescent bulbs use much less energy thereby saving the resources needed to make electricity as well as reducing green house gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. Visit their website: www.gipl.org for more information.

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

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Local School Advisory Council Elections

Our LSAC (Local School Advisory Council) Board will hold elections from May 1st – 7th for the 2007-2008 school year. Northwestern has one open parent position for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. The parents that serve on the Local School Advisory Council are elected for a two-year term. To serve on LSAC as a parent you must have a child enrolled at Northwestern Middle School during the same time period as your term.



LSAC is a group that consists of NMS administrators, faculty, support staff, parents and community representatives. The councils provide a two-way communication to improve school performance. LSAC also examines issues important to the success and safety of students at NMS, identifying opportunities for improvement and suggestions for resolutions to concerns. Currently, the committee meets every second Tuesday of each month.

The list of nominees will be posted on Northwestern's website at www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/ and in the front office. **Please take time to come in the front office and cast your vote from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, May 1 - May 7.**

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:

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

TAG TALK

Periodically, legislative issues relating to TAG funding, programs, etc. are discussed at Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted and TAG Advisory Committee meetings. If you would like to be informed of any of these issues, please contact the NMS TAG PTA representative, Chris Remensnyder at remenfam@earthlink.net

NMS celebrated National Gifted Students' Day on Friday April 27 with breakfast treats for the school staff. Thank you to Bagel Boys and Starbucks at Crabapple and on Haynes Bridge Rd. for their donations. Thanks also to the following parent volunteers who supplied refreshments—Katie Campbell, Sally Caudle, Cheryl Rand, Lisa Stammer, Stacey Thompson, Susan Neenan, Cindy Hardy, Renee Welborn, Lisa Pietrangelo and to Mary Weber for assisting with the event.

RETIREMENT PARTY for CCES Teachers:

Mrs. Gowin & Ms. Harward

When: May 18, 2007

Where: 13270 Owens Way Alpharetta, GA 30004

Time: 3 – 6 pm

No RSVP required

Questions: Linda Jones, jones89@bellsouth.net

REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Program is a cultural arts program sponsored by the National PTA. It encourages students to use their critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as their creative talents as they interpret an annual theme.



National PTA Reflections Program Theme for 2007:
“I Can Make a Difference By...”

Student work may be submitted in six general categories:

- ❖ Musical Composition ❖ Dance Choreography
- ❖ Film/Video Production ❖ Literature
- ❖ Visual Arts ❖ Photography

Look for informational packets in the fall, but start thinking about ideas on how to express your thoughts and creativity to earn recognition. For more information on the Reflections Program, visit www.georgiapta.org.

Don't leave school without it!

NMS Students: Be sure to check the Lost & Found area before the end of the year. We have quite the collection including several winter jackets. Thanks!

Laurie Bezila, NMS Clinic

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

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 8, 2007	PTA Transition Board Meeting & Luncheon
May 9, 2007	Teacher of the Year Breakfast
May 9, 2007	7th Grade Health Fair (8:30-11:30 a.m.)
May 11, 2007	Staff Appreciation Day/Luncheon
May 15, 2007	Katie Reeves Community Meeting (9:30 am) Alpharetta ES
May 17, 2007	Music Showcase (8:15 a.m.) Core Atrium
May 25, 2007	Last day of school

