



THE WILDCAT

Northwestern
PTA
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MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear NMS Families –

The games are afoot! The kids are back in school, the after school activities have begun and time is flying by....Even with all this in our lives, the parents of Northwestern have once again risen to the occasion and paid tribute to the Northwestern PTA by getting us off to a great start and helping us reach our enrichment goal in record time! Our student enrichment goal of \$19,000 will be well used for many academic programs and we invite you to view a detailed list of all the programs sponsored by NMS PTA at our website: <http://www.orgsites.com/ga/northwesternmspta/>.

If you have not yet had a chance to join PTA or give to our Enrichment Fund please consider doing so during Open House. It's not too late! Our Membership Chairs Linda Martinez and Melody Oliver will be available to help you.

Now that we have funded all of our ongoing programs, we are aiming for additional funds to fulfill the Northwestern wish list (see page 5). We have met with Principal Fraser and are also meeting with the grade level chairs to determine what, if any, needs that they may have. Already, we have been asked to provide the school with lamp post banners to complement the Milton flags across the street.

Later in the year, in conjunction with NMS, the PTA will help plan and implement a school fundraiser with the goal of completing the wish list and giving back to the school in any way we can. If you

have been looking for a way to get involved, especially if you have event planning experience, please contact me soon.

Just around the corner is Open house on Sept. 5th for 6th graders and Sept. 6th for the 7th and 8th graders. Both evenings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a general PTA meeting and raffle. After the meeting, parents will have a brief presentation by Principal Fraser and then meet with teachers in their classrooms.

The first few weeks of school are always a busy time and many volunteers are needed to make a smooth transition into the new school year. The board would like to thank all of our Information Day volunteers and especially our chairs Laura Dean and Lisa Blackwell for helping organize this annual event. For the staff "Welcome Back Breakfast" Jeanne Jenkins, Dawn Feldman and Sandy Rasque, once again a great breakfast was served to our wonderful staff, Thanks ladies! To our Membership chairs/recruiters Linda Martinez and Melody Oliver, you are a big part of helping us reach our membership goals. Last but not least to Holy Ruck our spirit wear chair, who braved the information day heat trying to sell a great selection of summer and WINTER spirit wear! It wasn't easy selling winter wear in the overheated halls of Northwestern! Please look for Holly at the Open House and let's hope for cooler weather.

The board and I are grateful to all the parents who support the PTA and we're always available to answer your questions or listen to new ideas. My number is listed in the newsletter and at [http://](http://www.orgsites.com/ga/northwesternmspta/)

www.orgsites.com/ga/northwesternmspta/ where all board member information is available.

Norma Khayat

PTA President 678-580-3462

OPEN PTA POSITIONS

Want to participate in the PTA but don't know what to do? Consider signing up for one of the three open board member positions. It's a great way to get involved in the school while contributing to your community and your child's education. The open positions are:

- Music Showcase Chair—schedule 20 minute music performances four times a year
- Communication / Email Chair—data entry and maintenance of email server site
- Fundraiser Chair—organize a single NWMS fundraiser event during the spring

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Students and Parents,

Another year is under way. Our first week of school went very smoothly. There are always a number of small things which must be addressed, but overall, this was a very smooth beginning to the school year. It is great to have the students back in the building. It gets very quiet over the summer and everyone loves to have kids in the halls once again. I was able to visit almost every classroom during the week and from the first to the last, students were engaged and involved with instruction.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Jr. Beta students who came to the school during the summer to help with a variety of tasks. From painting signs for information day to organizing textbooks, they were an invaluable resource and contributed greatly to our successful first week.

Northwestern reworked our vision statement two years ago, which provides the foundation for that which we believe. Our vision reads, "By working together, individuals at Northwestern will be respected and motivated to achieve". This simple statement is comprised of powerful components, but none is more powerful than the concept of respect. Our Advisory program (Pride Time), our student recognition program (PRIDE awards), and our day to day interactions with students and stakeholders are all based on a foundation of respect. You will see the components of our vision around the school, on your car magnets, on your child's agenda and on our NMS apparel. With a universal base of respect, we will have the opportunity to be collaborative and student motivation and achievement will skyrocket.

For those of you who were able to attend

information day, you may have noticed that with the provision of maps and shortened directions, we made strides in simplifying the process you were to follow. You may have also noticed that our estimate as to the number of "cashiers" required to serve you was "slightly" off. Lines began to spread quickly across the gym and out into the hall. We pulled in all available personnel, opened up an additional 12 cashier locations, and the lines quickly diminished. The fact that so many showed up at the very beginning of information day clearly demonstrated the value placed on your child's education and truly highlights one of the key reasons that Northwestern is successful. I will continue to recognize and highlight the importance of your role, as we work together on your child's success

We had our first PTA meeting of the year and the turnout was remarkable. We have a number of great things planned for the year, so please help support the PTA with your time and ideas. We were looking at a number of ideas for which we may need your help or insight. We have a broadcast studio that is in need of upgrading. We are looking at the possibility of installing some kind of "canopy" in the carpool area which would provide shelter for students awaiting pickup in inclement weather. We would also like to acquire a golf cart which could be used to transport students requiring assistance during evacuation drills, or Wildcat Days. If you have any ideas or suggestions, feel free to touch base with the PTA or school.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we dealt with the issues surrounding our portable classrooms. Our community was so helpful and really rallied behind the school. Our state representative, city

councilwoman, mayor, LSAC and PTA leaders, area superintendent, superintendent, board member and our parents all worked very hard making calls and meeting on weekends to complete the process needed to have our portables available prior to the first day of school. I really do not think it would have happened if it were not for the efforts of everyone.

I do need to make mention of a change in the upcoming calendar. We had originally scheduled our student picture day for the 13th of September, but have had to change that date to the 17th. This information will be shared in a variety of ways, so as to ensure everyone is aware of the change.

Summer is now behind us, things are flowing smoothly and I have high expectations for all of our students. We have many great things in store for your children this year and expect they will truly treasure their time at Northwestern. If we are willing to make a commitment to the children in the building and work together to ensure that the support is in place for their success, our expectations will become reality. Welcome back!

Yours truly,

Bruce R. Fraser, Principal



SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit Wear will be available at Open Houses. Bring your check-book and show your Wildcat Spirit!



WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

The historian committee needs your help!



We need your help for the 2007-2008 PTA scrapbook which will be on display next year. Please contact

Paula Roland if you are willing to take pictures at any of this year's PTA events. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, if you have pictures you can pass on to me (after PTA events). Please email them to proland37@comcast.net.

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

September 3, 2007	Labor Day Holiday		
September 5, 2007	General PTA Meeting/Open House—6th Grade		7:00-9:00 pm
September 6, 2007	General PTA Meeting/Open House—7th & 8th Grade		7:00-9:00 pm
September 11, 2007	PTA Board Meeting	PTA Room	10:00 am
September 17, 2007	Student Picture Day		
September 18, 2007	Katie Reeves Community Meeting	Alpharetta Elementary School	9:30am
September 19, 2007	Early Release Day		
September 20, 2007	Music Showcase*	Atrium	8:15 am
September 24-28, 2007	ITBS Testing— 8th Grade		
September 28, 2007	6th Grade Fun Night	Big Air Inflatable Party Zone	7:00-9:00 pm
October 6, 2007	Spruce Up our Campus Day	NMS grounds	8:00am-1:00pm
October 9, 2007	Wildcat Days*—6th Grade	School	8:30am-3:30pm
October 10, 2007	Wildcat Days*—7th Grade	School	8:30am-3:30pm
October 11, 2007	Wildcat Days*—8th Grade	School	8:30am-3:30pm
October 12, 2007	Teacher Conference / No School		
October 16, 2007	Katie Reeves Meeting	Webb Bridge Middle School	9:30am
October 16, 2007	PTA Board Meeting	PTA Room	10:00 am
October 15-19, 2007	Book Fair	Media Center	TBD
October 15-26	Past Words*	Media Center	TBD
October 18, 2007	Music Showcase*	Core Atrium	8:15am-8:40am
October 24, 2007	Early Release Day		

* For those of you new to NMS:

Wildcat Days are like field days. Students make t-shirts and participate in sports and contests.

Past Words is a school program where volunteers come and read famous literature. Last year, Principal Fraser dressed up like Abraham Lincoln and read the Gettysburg Address!

Music Showcase is a PTA program where musical groups and bands are play for twenty minutes while the children arrive.



NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL 6th GRADE FUN NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007, 7-9 PM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Get to know your classmates at...

BIG AIR INDOOR INFLATABLE PARTY ZONE
1125 Alpha Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30004

COST: \$10.00 per student (includes admission, 2 hours of play, pizza & beverage). Bring your energy and get ready for fun.

Advisory teachers will be distributing registration material to 6th grade students on August 31.

If you have questions, or would like to volunteer as one of our adult chaperones, please contact: Nancy Fogerty, 770-751-9744, fogertyn@bellsouth.net



MOTIVATE YOUR CHILD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school often comes as a shock to the system, and it's the wise parent who is prepared and ready to guide their kid through the transition from the relative stability and security of grade school to the somewhat chaotic environment found in many of our middle schools. The problem is often due to kids lacking organizational skills, not being particularly interested in managing their time efficiently and perhaps not caring about their grades as much as they should. In response parents tend to become concerned, generally reacting by nagging about homework completion and staying on track, grounding for slacking off, or just plain giving up on the kid.

To help these children, especially those hitting the middle school wall, I've developed a program consisting of study skill training and organizational techniques that I teach to just about any kid who I can get my hands on! In addition, I offer behavior management guidelines to their folks to use in order to motivate their children to work my program. I've found that both parts are necessary for children to achieve good grades in middle school — your daughter can learn brilliant organizational skills but unless she's motivated to use them on a consistent basis, she probably won't. Plain and simple.

(Continued on page 5)

NWS Wish List

- Awning to cover the children as they arrive and leave the school.
- Broadcast equipment for PA announcements , assemblies etc.
- Supplemental materials to support curriculum
- Pride Time materials
- Golf cart to transport children with needs (disabilities, crutches etc.) during fire drills, Wildcat days etc.

The PTA is actively working to raise funds for these items. If you have access to a person or business that may be able to donate or provide us these items at reduced cost, please contact Norma Khayat at 678-580-3462.



Motivate (Continued from page 4)

Interested in setting the stage for academic achievement? Okay, let's get going! There are five steps to getting and staying organized.

1. Set up a daily assignment sheet
2. Review the assignment sheet at the locker
3. Complete homework and study for tests in a timely manner
4. Check that all work has been completed
5. Organize the book bag for the next day

Excerpt from Dr Ruth Peters article for the Today show, Aug 2004

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

We plan to have our Fall Clean up day on October 6th from 9:00-12:00. Block your calendars to help us make Northwestern Middle School a clean and safe place for our children. For further information please contact :



Lauri Enyart
 leyart@bellsouth.net or
 Katherine Esposito
 kespointl@aol.com.

NMS STUDENT ENRICHMENT FUND AND PTA

Thank you to all who joined the PTA and contributed to the Student Enrichment Fund on Information Day. 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. You may also print a form from the Northwestern Website: www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern click on the PTA logo)

The Enrichment Fund is used to support academic and cultural arts programs, as well as other PTA sponsored events. Contributions to the Enrichment Fund are tax deductible. It is never too late to donate to the Enrichment Fund. Also, please check to see if your employer has a matching gift program. We would be happy to help you with this.

Please consider becoming a member *(Continued to the right)*

of the PTA. Our goal is to have each parent become a member. The cost is \$6 and we encourage moms and dads to both join.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the PTA Membership Tables on Information Day.

Linda Martinez: martinezlinda@bellsouth.net

Melody Oliver: 2melodysue@gmail.com

HELP WANTED!

Wanted: General and Office/Administrative Volunteers. You can be added to the list by contacting Ruth Lawandales, at lawandales@mindspring.com.

LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (LSAC) ELECTIONS

Northwestern Middle School's Local School Council will be holding elections for the two open parent positions for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. Elections will be held on September 5th and September 6th during Northwestern's Open House nights. Council members are elected for a two-year term.

The Northwestern LSAC nominations were due August 13, 2007. The school received applications from four parents to serve on LSAC. Each parent candidate will have their application form on display at the front office. To serve on LSAC as a parent or guardian you must have a student enrolled at Northwestern Middle School for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years, excluding parents or guardians who are also employees of the school.

Northwestern's LSAC usually meet once a month, dates and times will be confirmed during the school year. The Local Council is made up of 2 parents, 2 parents that are 'business persons', 2 teachers, and the school principal. The two current parent members are Amy Corn and Sally Hildebrant.

The establishment of local school councils is intended to help bring parents and the community together with teachers and school administrators to create a better understanding of and

mutual respect for each other's concerns, and share ideas for school improvement.

School Councils provide advice, recommendations, and assistance to the school principal on matters relating to student achievement and school improvement.

The members of the school council are accountable to the constituents they serve and shall:

1. Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
2. Regularly participate in school council meetings
3. Participate in information and training programs
4. Act as a link between the school council and the community
5. Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community
6. Work to improve student achievement and performance

If you have any questions you can contact Karen Evans, Principal's Secretary, at 770-667-2870, ext. 125.

"WITH A UNIVERSAL BASE OF RESPECT, WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE COLLABORATIVE AND STUDENT MOTIVATION AND ACHIEVEMENT WILL SKYROCKET."

PRINCIPAL FRASER

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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 Jane Ames 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.