



THE WILDCAT

Northwestern
PTA
everychild. onevoice.

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER, 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Here it is once again, the fall season with its many colors and cool breezes, just in time to help show off our new Northwestern flags. The board is so proud of being apart of this exciting purchase and along with Principal Fraser and the rest of the administration we are grateful to our parents for all that you do to help make our visions come true.

With the budget being approved we are now ready to distribute our enrichment funds as we do every year to the school, this year we have increased our \$9,000.00 to \$12,000.00 and are pleased to hear that it will be used to help pay for the cost of agendas, text books, and additional teacher training. As mentioned at the open house we hope additional funds will continue to come in to enable us to give each grade level \$500.00 to help update their workstation rooms and more!

August and September have come and gone and now we find ourselves preparing for the next big project, the "Northwestern Funworks Family Fun Night", scheduled for Saturday, November 10th and will include dinner, enter-

tainment, and prizes. In addition, the music department will be selling baked goods for dessert to help raise money for their trip to Disneyworld. If you or someone you know would like to help plan and/or implement this great event please contact me or Principal Fraser ASAP! This is a great opportunity to work directly with some of the school staff and administration.

September proved to be a rewarding month for Northwestern PTA with the installments of the wildcat flags, the prospect of a golf cart being donated, and a Northwestern family looking into the possibility of getting some updated equipment for our broadcast studio, we are fortunate indeed! Your support in helping us reach our Enrichment goal and then some ...have made the past month an exciting time for us. With that, the future months should be equally rewarding. Many activities are planned for October and to kick things off we will have our annual "Clean Up Our Campus Day" on October 6th, please stop by with your child/children and help us clean up the grounds while instilling a sense of pride every student should feel when coming

onto the school grounds. After that we have our Wildcat Days, Book Fair and Past words program which helps inspire the literary mind. You can find all the dates and details for the above events on various pages of this newsletter.

As always, if you are interested in getting involved with the PTA we invite you to attend a meeting and see how we all come together to make the Northwestern PTA such a valuable part of our school and students future.

Yours in leadership,

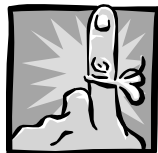


Norma Khayat

PTA President 678-580-3462

NWMS is a Golden Apple Award Winner!

Awards are provided to schools with the highest number of volunteer hours as provided by TRAXX data. Congratulations to all the great volunteers at Northwestern Middle School!



Save the Date!
Saturday, November 10th

Northwestern Funworks Family Fun Night

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I want to thank everyone for your support of the school and the value you obviously place on your child's education. We are a month into the year, and it is already apparent, through your actions, that we share in the vision of collaboration, motivation and respect. Last week we had our open houses, and based on the tremendous turnout, your interest in Northwestern was obvious. Time is certainly limited on these evenings, but it was great to have the opportunity to share a little about those things that provide the foundation for Northwestern's success.

During the open houses you had an opportunity to vote for your local school advisory council members. The votes have been tallied and I am very pleased to announce the newest parent and teacher representatives to join Ms. Hildebrandt, Ms. Corn and me as we work together to address and solve issues facing the school. Mr. Bill Bailey was selected to once again serve the council along with Ms. Sandy Rasque. The teachers will be represented by Ms. Caulie Hamling as well as Ms. Regina Karow. We welcome each of these individuals and look forward to working with them throughout the school year.

I wanted to take a moment to share our procedure with respect to requested absences. I have already received a number of requests for family trips, student competitions and other similar absences. I can approve up to six absences of this type during a year. All that is required is a signed request submitted to my attention prior to the days of absence. I can not approve absences after the fact, so

please, take the time to submit your request prior to the date of the event.

During the open houses I had a chance to draw attention to the incredible NMS flags which are now displayed proudly next to those from Milton. As the flags were being printed, we had a parent of two former NMS students call and ask to sponsor a flag in honor of a teacher. Mr. Ott (7th grade language arts) had taught both of her children as they passed through 7th grade and the family felt fortunate to have received instruction from such a talented teacher. Both former students, their mother, and a reporter from the Alpharetta Review were here to honor Mr. Ott and his dedication to your children. A gesture of this kind highlights the extent to which this community appreciates the efforts of the NMS teachers and faculty. Teachers are modest about the impact they have on the lives of children and this type of recognition is appreciated and well deserved.

During open house I was asked a number of times about the new portables located here in between the seventh and eighth grade halls. The portables are a fair distance from the hallways and I was asked about how the students get to class on rainy days. I am pleased to inform you that I have taken your questions to the county and was informed that we will be receiving canopies for the portables. These covered walkways should offer protection from the elements as students make their way to class. I thank you for your concerns and continue to ask that you share any questions that you have so that I can either provide or find a suitable answer for you.

This year is off to a great start. This is an impressive group of students and I have extremely high expectations of them. I have no doubt that they will continue to impress everyone as we navigate our way through the year. I am fortunate to take this journey with you and your children and will continue working to make Northwestern a special place for the students.

Yours truly,



Bruce R. Fraser, Principal

SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit Wear is now on sale on the NMS website! It is at the top of the home page. Pictures of the items are included and an order form can be printed. Check it out!

www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/

Also feel free to contact Holly Ruark with any questions:



LOST & FOUND

Lost and found items will be donated to charity at the end of each month starting October 31st. Also the clinic could use some tops and bottoms for both boys and girls in adult sizes.

Laurie Bezila
NMS Clinic



Wildcat Days:

Volunteers Wanted!



We are looking for volunteers to work the water stations and first aid stations for the upcoming Wildcat Days.

6th grade - Tuesday, October 9th

7th grade - Wednesday, October 10th

8th grade - Thursday, October 11th

If you are interested, please contact Jenny Glover at glove-dog@aol.com or Debb Brooks at bdebb123@yahoo.com. Thank you!

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

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		
November 10, 2007	Funworks Family Fun Night		TBD
November 13, 2007	PTA Meeting	PTA Room	10am
November 21-23, 2007	Thanksgiving break		
November 28, 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.

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



REFLECTIONS

2007-2008 Reflections: "I Can Make a Difference by . . ."

Deadline October 5, 2007



Be sure to submit your entries for the 2007-08 Reflections Program by October 5th. Projects can be entered in six categories: Visual arts, Photography, Music, Literature, Dance, Choreography and Film/Video. Entry packets are available on the school website or in the Media Center. Two winners will be selected from each grade, in each category, to represent Northwestern Middle School at the county competition. Judging will be based upon artistic use of this year's theme: "I Can Make a Difference by . . ." Entries will be judged with winners being notified by late October. Good luck to all of our Reflections Participants! If anyone is interested in assisting with this program, please contact Carolyn Lauterbach at lauterbach5@gmail.com or Beth Leigh at leighs6@bellsouth.net.

	<p align="center">7th Grade Health Fair: Volunteers Wanted!</p> <p>Volunteers are need to be present on the day of the health fair which lasts all morning until lunchtime. They sit in the rooms with the speakers in case the speakers need anything and to help monitor the students. They also may help show speakers where to go. Teachers are also present so the volunteers are not responsible for the students, just an extra helping hand. Please contact Stacey Heit at stacey-heit@mindspring.com, or Babette Faerber at babette_faerber@comcast.net for further information.</p>	
--	---	--

BOOK FAIR

Scholastic Book Fair Coming to NMS!

October 15 – 19

8:45am-3:30pm

Family Night-Tuesday, October 16 6pm-7:30pm



Come out to our book fair to see the newest book releases! Parents are welcome to come and browse anytime. The NMS Scholastic Book Fair allows the library to purchase additional titles. Please support this beneficial fund raiser! Parents, we will be in need of volunteers. If you are able to help for a morning or afternoon shift, please contact **Kim Horne** mhorne@mindspring.com 770-754-7857 or **Dena Kennedy**, denakennedy@comcast.net 770-752-9826

TRACKING VOLUNTEER HOURS

WHY TRACK VOLUNTEER HOURS?

The Fulton County Board of Education tracks the volunteer hours across the county with volunteer hours from school to school. One function of the PTA is to track hours at Northwestern Middle School. The VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) Committee is responsible for tracking the volunteer hours at Northwestern on a monthly basis.

TRACKING AND REPORTING SCHOOL VERSUS AT-HOME HOURS

All Committee Chairpersons are encouraged to keep track of their personal volunteer hours. Time spent volunteering *at the school* is tracked on either the TRAXX Computer System, located in the Front Office, or in the manual Volunteer Log when the computer is down.

Volunteer hours *at home* should be tracked and turned in to the VIPS Chair either directly by email or on the Volunteer Time Log circulated at the monthly PTA meetings.

Please do not duplicate tracking information in more than one area to avoid being "double-counted".

WHAT ACTIVITIES COUNT AS VOLUNTEER TIME?

Just about anything you do for the PTA should be counted as volunteer time! For example, activities such as meetings to plan programs or events, shopping for the events, calling volunteers, emailing volunteers,

etc., should all be tracked as volunteer hours. Activities conducted for your own child, such as parent/teacher conference, should not be counted as volunteer time.



THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Mary Haney, VIPS Chair,
pmhaney@mindspring.com

LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (LSAC) ELECTIONS

The ballots have been counted and the 2007-2008 LSAC positions are now filled! Bill Bailey will serve as parent-business person and Sandy Rasque will serve as parent representative for a two-year term. Current parent members are Sally Hildebrant, parent, and Amy Corn for parent-business person.

Caulie Hamling and Regina Karow were elected as the NMS teacher representatives.

The first LSAC meeting will be September 27, 2007. For more information please visit Northwestern's website at:

www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/

"WE ARE A MONTH INTO THE YEAR, AND IT IS ALREADY APPARENT, THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS, THAT WE SHARE IN THE VISION OF COLLABORATION, MOTIVATION AND RESPECT"

PRINCIPAL FRASER



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.