



# THE WILDCAT

Northwestern  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice.

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER, 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only a few short weeks away and soon many of us will be spending time with family from far and near. With this being said, Northwestern PTA has been working closely with the school in helping to plan and implement it's first ever "Family Fun Night!" scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope you'll take advantage of this evening to spend time with your own family and those of Northwestern. So, come and enjoy the many activities, food and music by our own Northwestern Jazz band! Time passes by all too quickly and it's important we take every opportunity available to spend quality time with our children.

In this newsletter you'll not only find more details on the Family Fun Night but information regarding those events that have passed and those that are yet to come, and since November is the month of gratitude, I want to thank all those who have supported the PTA with their time and talents, without you many of the programs that are touched upon in this newsletter could not exist. Each and every one of you has made a difference in our students' lives. A special kudos goes

out this November to Kim Horne and Dena Kennedy for the well received book fair, Daphne King for the most recent Music Showcase, Karen Mueller for Past words, to Jenny Glover and Debb Brooks for coordinating and helping with Wildcat Days and to all our parents who make an effort to attend the PTA meetings.

Our November 13<sup>th</sup> PTA will be a General meeting and all are encouraged to attend, with the generosity of our parents we find ourselves with a few extra dollars and hope to vote on the allocations of our extra monies. This next meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 due to the Wildcat Den location, this will allow for less noise interruptions, while students go to and from classes. We also have Mrs. Kemp as guest speaker, speaking on, "How to Prepare our Children for Graduation and the Future."

In closing I leave you with a quote befitting of the Thanksgiving holiday.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by

them." ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Norma Khayat

PTA President

678-580-3462

### SPIRIT WEAR

Will be on sale at the Family Fun Night on November 10<sup>th</sup>. You can also view and order items from the NMS website.



**Don't Forget!**  
**Saturday, November 10th**

**Northwestern Family Fun Night**

**GENERAL PTA MEETING**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER**

**13**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Wildcat Den**

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

### Don't forget, Northwestern's first Family Fun Night is fast approaching!

The PTA and NMS have been working feverishly to get this event on track. This is a great opportunity for the community to get together and have a good time. We have a variety of inflatable activities for the students along with food provided by Shane's Rib Shack and Papa John's Pizza. We will be drawing the winning tickets for our raffle and hope that your entire family will attend. Teachers have pitched in their time and "skills or interests" to offer some priceless opportunities for the raffle. The goal here is "fun". I have been asked a number of times about the purpose of the event. I truly just wanted for the school and the PTA to create an opportunity for the middle school to be more central in the community. Elementary schools do a great job with festivals and events and Milton has athletics and the Red and Silver Ball. It was time that Northwestern joins in to offer something of this nature. My goal is truly to break even on this event. If by chance, we do raise money, we will help our performing music groups with their trip to Disney, but that would be done either way. Tickets for both the raffle and the event went on sale today and will continue being sold up until Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>. A list of raffle items can be found on the NMS website.

Last fall, I set up a number of "Conversations with the Principal" meetings. This is an opportunity for you and your neighborhood to garner more insight into Northwestern. These meetings were enjoyable and informative as I had a chance to not only provide information about NMS, but also hear about the issues of greatest concern to you. I would once again like to offer to come to your

community to talk about our school. All you need do is call Ms. Evans and request a date (770-667-2870). I will set that evening aside for your neighborhood. Last year, the meetings began at 7 and lasted for approximately two hours. I encourage your community to consider an evening that would work well, so that we can get it on the calendar.

I would also like to offer you another opportunity. During our Learning Matters early release days, our teachers are involved in a variety of professional development activities. One of the "strands" we are working with this year is a book study. This book has stimulated some great conversations about children and teaching. I would like to gauge your level of interest in the same book study. We have been reading a book titled, The Price of Privilege. As we are all aware, many of the "luxuries" of the past have become standard for today's child. There are many things today that were not even available to us a decade ago. This book looks at the impact of materialism as well as the increasing pressure to achieve on today's children. If you would like to join a study of this book, call Ms. Evans and express your interest.

I would like to address an issue that the school has been working on since August. This issue has affected each grade level as well as each area of the building. We have been struggling and continue to struggle with our bathrooms. On a regular basis, students are taking rolls of toilet paper and throwing them in the commodes. They will soak paper towels and throw them against the wall or ceilings to make them stick. We have soap dispensers (filled with bags of soap) punctured so that the soap runs onto the floor. And, unfortunately, our custodians have been cleaning up urine as well as other

things on a regular basis. Our custodians check the restrooms on a regular basis to ensure there are soap and paper products available and we check our hall cameras when incidents are reported. I have also made an announcement to all the students via our morning broadcast asking for their help in keeping the bathrooms clean. I must ask for your help as well. Please talk to your child(ren) about the need to respect both the custodians and the school. This issue goes beyond the simple "clean-up" of the lavatories. With the recent media attention given to staph infections, this would be a great opportunity to talk to your child about proper hand washing and the need to inform a staff member when they find a mess in the bathroom. We will continue to work diligently to solve the issues with the bathrooms, but appreciate anything you can do to support us with this.

Finally, and to end on a positive note, we were just informed that we once again received the Office of Student Achievement's award for academic excellence. This year we were awarded the "Bronze Award" for having the "highest percent of students meeting and exceeding standards". To qualify for this award, a school must have at least 95% of students meeting or exceeding standards on the CRCT with at least 20% in the exceeding category. This is yet another testament to your children's dedication to academics and your support of them. As always, I thank you for your support.



Bruce R. Fraser, Principal

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 8th Grade Dance Committee needs volunteers, we need your help!! Please plan to attend one of these organizational meetings for the 8th grade dance. We will begin to plan the dance and organize work schedules for the coming months.

- ★ Thursday November 1st at 7:00 PM at NMS
- ★ Monday November 12th at 10:00 AM at NMS

Any questions contact us at [eighthgradedance@hotmail.com](mailto:eighthgradedance@hotmail.com). Mary Patterson, Jennifer Zielinski and Kim Dickinson

## LOST & FOUND

Items in the lost and found, located in the clinic in room #139, will be donated to charity at the end of each month.

Laurie Bezila

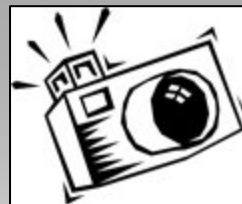


## ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

Please remember to log onto the TRAXX computer at the Front Office when volunteering your time at the school. If you have at-home volunteer hours, please e-mail them to Mary Haney at [pmhaney@mindspring.com](mailto:pmhaney@mindspring.com) THANKS!



### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY!



If anyone has photos of any PTA events, please e-mail to Paula Roland [pro-land37@comcast.net](mailto:pro-land37@comcast.net). or put in the "historian" folder in the PTA files. This includes, Music showcase, 6th grade fun night, "spruce up our campus" day, Wild-cats days - 6th, 7th, and 8th, and book fair. Thanks!

## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

November 10, 2007	Family Fun Night		TBD
November 13, 2007	PTA Meeting—General Meeting	PTA Room	9am *
November 21-23, 2007	Thanksgiving break		
November 28, 2007	Early Release Day		
December 7, 2007	Staff Holiday Lunch		
December 11, 2007	PTA Board Meeting / Holiday Get Together		TBD
December 20, 2007—January 3, 2008	Winter Break		



## TEACHER'S RAFFLE

During Family Fun night we will hold a "Staff Le' Raffle" in which students are allowed to purchase raffle tickets for the item (s) of their choice. Please see the attached purchasing / authorization form in order to participate. Winners will be announced during the event. Here are many of the choices (more may be offered at school)

1. Round of golf for two at the White Columns Country Club with Mr. Fraser & Mr. Jackson
2. Principal for the day – 1 winner for each grade
3. Mini-putt for you and a friend with Mr. Jackson
4. Hawks Game for you and your parent with Ms. Ochs
5. Fishing on Lake Arrowhead for you and your parent with Mr. Fraser
6. Movies & Dinner for you and 9 friends in the media center
7. Throw a pie in the face of Ms. Chiodo
8. Throw a pie in the face of Ms. Street
9. Throw a pie in the face of Ms. Robertson
10. Bedtime stories at your home with Ms. Street
11. Cartwheel lessons for you and 3 friends with Mr. Holt
12. Lunch of your choosing for you and 3 friends with Ms. Cady
13. Pizza lunch for you and 2 friends with Ms. Perque
14. Pizza lunch for you and 2 friends with Ms. Warner
15. Pizza in the Wildcat Den for you and 2 friends with Mr. Becker
16. Two dozen famous homemade cookies from Ms. Major
17. Pop Art portrait painting with Ms. Hudson
18. Hand-spun, Hand-knit Felted Handbag made by Ms. Gillespie
19. Series of 5 knitting lessons with Ms. Gillespie
20. Cork board making for you and a friend with Ms. Holiday
21. Manicure clinic for you and 3 friends with Ms. Mayo
22. Manicure clinic for you and 3 friends with Ms. Rimedio



## NMS 8TH GRADE BAND AWAKENS SLEEPY STUDENTS!

On Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Northwestern Middle School students had the pleasure of listening to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band perform several selections in the Core Atrium from 8:15am to 8:35am. As the students prepared for morning classes, the band, led by our own Ms. Christy Naughton and Ms. Carissa Grant, played several songs. Many students could be found "tapping their toes" as the band performed Disney favorites *Under the Sea*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Friend Like Me*, and *A Whole New World*, in preparation for their trip to Disney World in the spring. *A Thousand Thanks* to Ms. Naughton, Ms. Grant, and all the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade performers for this wonderful morning treat!



## GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS INFORMATION

Fulton County Schools have been holding forums to give parents an opportunity to learn about the new Georgia Performance Standards math curriculum. Kindergarten through second grade, as well as sixth and seventh grade, already are using the new math curriculum. This year, students are seeing changes in grades 3-5 and 8. High school students begin the new math standards in 2008-2009.

On Monday, October 8th there was a math forum at Milton High School. Claire Pierce from the Georgia Department of Education gave a presentation and Fulton County Schools Director of Math Curriculum Lori Fanning gave a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

A Frequently Asked Questions document has been updated with additional questions and answers from the Milton forum. This document is on the Fulton County Schools website [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org).

You can also access more information about the Georgia Performance Standards at the Georgia Department of Education website at <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us>.

### THANKS GO OUT TO....

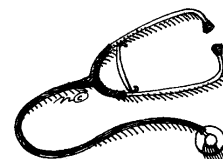
Tabitha Shamis  
Bryant King  
Matt Lamb  
Eric Pollmann  
Abbey Clear  
Jordan Khayat  
Caitlin Baggett  
Megan Maloney

A big thanks go out to the above students for giving up their Saturday morning to help clean up the campus.... Way to show your wildcat pride! Thanks, Lauri Enyart (Grounds Chair)

### Physician or Dentist Volunteer Needed

The NMS science department is in need of a medical doctor or dentist to serve on the SRC/IRB committee that review's science fair projects. This committee signs-off on whether a project's design may/may not be carried-out. Having an SRC/IRB committee is mandatory for the science department at each school prior to the experimentation phase of the project. Each school handles setting-up their own committee and Northwestern is looking for a medical doctor or dentist to serve as our "biomedical scientist" on the SRC/IRB committee. This committee will be meeting twice after school in October. Please email Julie Johnson ([johnsonjulie@fultonschools.org](mailto:johnsonjulie@fultonschools.org)) if you are interested. Your time and efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,  
**Julie Johnson**  
8th Grade Science



## LSAC

### 2007-2008 Meeting dates

The Northwestern Local School Advisory Council (LSAC) meets the last Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Office Conference Room.

All meetings are public and open to all members of the school community. In order to address committee during a meeting it is necessary to contact the LSAC chairperson, Amy Corn at [awcorn@bellsouth.net](mailto:awcorn@bellsouth.net) and obtain approval prior to the meeting. If you would like to observe a meeting, please contact Karen Evans at [evansk@fultonschools.org](mailto:evansk@fultonschools.org)

- October 25th
- November 29th
- January 31st
- February 28th
- March 27th
- April 27th
- May 15th

Additional information such as LSAC members and minutes of meeting is on the Northwestern Middle School website at <http://www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/index.html>

## Shane's BBQ



The 2nd Tuesday of each month is NMS Spirit night at Shane's and 10% of total sales goes back to the school dine in or take out! Located on Houze road next to Publics. Order a head and save time on pick-ups 678-297-2041... don't forget to mention Northwestern!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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