



## Note from the PTA Co-Presidents:

### Welcome Back!

We hope that everyone is having a wonderful and relaxing summer! It is hard to believe that school will be starting again in just a few short weeks. The PTA has been busy planning for a great new year. We are looking forward to seeing and working with all the students, parents and staff. In addition, we want to welcome all of the new students and parents to the **Northwestern** family!

There are many opportunities to volunteer at **NMS**. The Front Office, Guidance Office, Copy Center and Media Center need volunteers. We have an open position on our PTA Board – Newsletter Development. We have someone temporarily helping us with this position but we are looking for someone to fill the position. If you are interested in any of these jobs, please contact us.

To kick off the school year, **Information Day will be held on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**. Students will receive their schedules and meet their teachers. Parents will be able to check on bus routes, learn about volunteer opportunities and most important, join the PTA and make their contribution to the Enrichment Fund.

Traditionally, the Enrichment Fund has been **Northwestern** PTA's only fundraiser. While we hope to "continue the tradition" of only one fundraiser, we must still reach our budget requirements. We therefore ask that you **PLEASE** carefully consider supporting our school generously through your Enrichment Fund contribution this year. We need every family's support to continue providing all the programs that PTA funds for this wonderful school!!

Please mark your calendars for the Open Houses to be held on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Both sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately 2 hours. Parents will be able to walk through their child's school schedule and meet all of their teachers.

We are very excited about the 2005-2006 school year. It will also be so exciting to have our new neighbor – Milton High School open its doors for the first time on August 15<sup>th</sup>. It is truly a privilege to work with such dedicated parents, students and school staff. We are open to any comments, suggestions, questions or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to contact either of us at anytime. We look forward to seeing you at Information Day!

Bonnie Kitay Lisa Stamm  
Co-President PTA Co-Pres  
770-619-9125  
[Bonnijpn@aol.com](mailto:Bonnijpn@aol.com) Stamm

## Principal's Corner

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation. Northwestern's Information Day this summer will be Wednesday, August 10 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for families to join the PTA, rent locks and lockers, purchase clothes for PE, buy a yearbook and tour the building. There will also be counselors available to visit with parents and students new to Northwestern about the block schedule. I encourage all of you to participate in this activity. If for some reason your family will be out of town that day don't worry. A student can get all the necessary information and make the needed purchases the first few days of school. Also on Information Day there will be registration forms available for families who are interested in signing up for Parent Connect. This is a web based service provided by Fulton County Schools for parents to keep up with their child's grades, attendance, and discipline.

Also at Information Day you will be able to pick up important information about the traffic flow in and out of the Northwestern parking lot. Start time for next year is 8:45. The school day will conclude at 3:45. With the inevitable additional traffic, high school drivers bringing siblings to Northwestern MS, and some shared buses between the schools, the safety of the students will come first in changes being made. All Northwestern students will need to be dropped off at Northwestern in the car pool circle in the morning and picked up in the parking lot in the afternoon. Northwestern students will not be allowed to cross the road to the Milton High School parking lot. Remember that a student can not be tardy to school if they are riding the bus.

**Northwestern Middle School will not be providing any student parking for Milton High School students. If a high school student's car is found on our campus it will be booted. A cash fee of \$75.00 will be assessed before the car is released to the student. The Northwestern Middle School parking lot will be available for parking for high school events at the same cost as Milton will be charging. Parents, when you have a meeting at school be prepared to list your make, model and tag number of your car in the front office when you sign in.**

The Office Depot store at Windward Parkway and the store at Mansell Road/Hwy 9 have our grade level supply lists. The supply lists can also be

Continued on page 5



## ATTENTION!

NEW START AND END TIMES  
FOR 2005-2006

1 - 3:45 PM

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## TAG parents can sign up for updates

Please sign up your email address at the PTA TAG table in the atrium on Information Day to receive information throughout the school year concerning your TAG student. You will receive updates from meetings of the TAG Advisory Committee and the Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted.

The TAG Advisory Committee meets monthly to primarily address curriculum concerns. The Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted is an advocacy group for the county which supports camp scholarships, newsletter, mini-grants for TAG teachers and educational programs and speakers.

If you have any questions please contact:

Katie Campbell 770/663-4834 or [ktcamp@mindspring.com](mailto:ktcamp@mindspring.com)

## Parent To Parent Program

The Parent to Parent Program is a prevention program. It is designed to help parents become more aware of the negative influences affecting our children and the important role they play in putting themselves between their children and these influences. The dates for our Fall Session are as follows: The weeks of 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3. Look for updates in the September newsletter regarding times for the sessions. If you have further questions, contact Melanie Steuer at [msteuer@comcast.net](mailto:msteuer@comcast.net) or Linda Jones at [jones89@bellsouth.net](mailto:jones89@bellsouth.net).



Information Day  
Wednesday  
August 10, 2005  
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Students will receive their schedules, meet their teachers, tour the school and find out about bus routes.

Parents can find out about volunteer opportunities, join PTA and contribute to the Enrichment Fund, purchase yearbooks and great school Spiritwear, including very cool book covers. Students can find out about clubs and other organizations available at Northwestern.

As always, please begin your visit by entering through the gymnasium doors located on the left side of the building as you face the front. This will ensure that you do not miss any of the important stations.



## Advertising available for 2005-2006 Northwestern School Directory

Advertise in the new 2005-2006 Northwestern Directory!

For more information on how to get your ad in the directory, please contact Rhonda Mason at 770-442-6775 or [r\\_mason@bellsouth.net](mailto:r_mason@bellsouth.net).

**The Wildcat** is the Parent Teacher Association Newsletter for Northwestern Middle School, and is produced monthly by the Northwestern PTA. Issues are sent home with students, and are available on-line at Northwestern's website at [www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/](http://www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern/).

The **Northwestern PTA Co-presidents** for the 2005-2006 school year are:

**Bonnie Kitay Lisa Stammer**  
770-619-9125 770-740-8577  
[bonnijpn@aol.com](mailto:bonnijpn@aol.com) [stammer1@bellsouth.net](mailto:stammer1@bellsouth.net)

**Northwestern  
PTA**  
*everychild. onevoice.*

The newsletter is produced by Donna Peuster. If you have copy to submit, please send it via email to: [jdms48@comcast.net](mailto:jdms48@comcast.net)

Northwestern Middle School • 12805 Birmingham Hwy., Alpharetta, GA 30004 • 770-667-2870

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## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We know you've heard people say, "Now that my child is in middle school, they don't need parent volunteers anymore." Well that is absolutely NOT TRUE!!!

Here are four chances for you to "get involved" at **Northwestern**:

**Front Office Volunteers** Tracy Hopson 770-475-0702 tracyhopson@bellsouth.net

**Guidance Office Volunteers** Ruth Lawandales 770-751-1230 lawandales@mindspring.com

**Copy Center** Kathy Lobene 770-664-6824 jklobene@comcast.net

**Media Center** Melanie Kulamer 770-754-1625 kulamer@mindspring.com

Betsy Miller 770-569-0009

Most of the above positions operate on a "once a month" volunteer schedule. Decide which area you would like to volunteer for and call or email the chairperson. The sooner you call, the more likely you will be able to pick YOUR best day and time to volunteer!!! **Northwestern needs you– please volunteer!!**


## Parent Involvement Increases Student Success

In today's changing economy the need for advanced skills and technical knowledge is growing. Showing our children that we value learning and education is important and will pay off in the long run as they mature. When you're involved in your child's education, your child achieves more. Decades of research show that when parents are involved students have

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education

You can help your child succeed by providing a home that encourages learning and supports your child's physical, mental, and emotional development. And, you can help your child's academic experience by working with the school and community groups that have an impact on your child.

*Reprinted with permission from "Student Achievement," National PTA website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).*



### 8th Grade Career Day

**Northwestern Middle School** will once again host a career day for all 8th grade students. The objective of this day is to expose the students to a wide variety of career paths and encourage them to think about their own future career goals. Be sure to check future newsletter publications for pertinent information relating to this event.



### Legislative Communications

You can access the county website to stay up to date on all things school related at [www.fultonschool.org](http://www.fultonschool.org).

You can also sign up at this site to be notified when new stories are posted.

## Renaissance Kick-Off for 05-06 school year!

Renaissance will kick off the year with their first round of assemblies on Thursday September 1, 2005 during Connections.

Renaissance is a program that celebrates student achievement and teacher success! Our Business Partners support this program by offering free or discounted food, service or merchandise to the Renaissance cardholders. Every nine weeks an assembly is held and the students are presented with the card(s) they have earned. This year, in addition to the many incentives offered by our wonderful Business Partners, students will be able to earn a host of "in-house" awards, prizes and special opportunities. (i.e. ice cream sundae bar during lunch, free Milton football game tickets, Northwestern spirit wear, etc.)

### Future Renaissance Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly –Friday, October 28, 2005  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly – Friday, January 26, 2006  
Final Assembly- Thursday, March 30, 2006

### Business Partner Meet and Greet

We have invited our Business Partners to come and meet the community during Information Day on August 10, 2005. They will set up display tables between 1-6pm and offer freebies, samples and informational flyers about their businesses. Please support them as they support us year after year!!

If you want to become a NMS Business Partner or would like to be involved with our Renaissance program, please contact Kindra Smith or Jodi Edge at 770-667-2870.

### Renaissance Card Requirements

**White Card**– Perfect Attendance  
(during second semester 04-05)



**Blue Card**– Improvement  
(any grade improvement from one grading period to the next grading period– beginning 05-06 school year)



**Silver Card**– All A's and 1 B  
(during second semester 04-05)

**Gold Card**– All A's  
(during second semester 04-05)



**Red Card**– Staff card

### Reflections

Reflections is a National PTA sponsored arts recognition program. This year's Reflections theme is "**I Wonder Why.**"

Artist may submit entries in the following 4 categories:

Visual Arts Literature  
Photography Music

Entries will be due in early November, so start working on your entry today. Parent volunteers can contact **Susan Pike** at 678-762-9609 or



**School In Session**

Please follow all directional signs.

Keep Q

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## PTA Membership and School Directory

Make sure to stop by one of the PTA tables during Information Day on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, to join the PTA, contribute to the Student Enrichment Fund and order your 2005-2006 School Directory. Join the PTA before Monday, August 15, and your name will be placed in a raffle for a gift certificate to one of several local area restaurants! Our goal again this year is for every Northwestern parent to become a PTA member. Each PTA membership is only \$6.00.

The PTA Enrichment Fund provides funding for valuable academic and cultural programs at Northwestern Middle School. Northwestern's PTA strives to meet its annual budget by having this drive as our **ONLY** fundraiser for the year.

When making your Enrichment Fund contribution, please consider that you will not be asked to do any other fundraising this school year. So we ask that you **please give generously!** Our children benefit tremendously through this program, and your contribution is tax-deductible.

### Principal's Corner

Continued from page 1

found on our website. If you choose to shop at Office Depot please use our School ID# 70024578. Office Depot will give back 5% of your purchase to Northwestern Middle School. Please support this business partner.

In addition to Office Depot the following businesses provide monetary donations back to Northwestern for your patronage:

Publix Kroger

Washington Mutual through the WaMoola for Schools program

Cartridges for Kids (recycled printer and copier cartridges as well as recycled cell phones)

Target Stores (Please give them the name of the school)

The PTA continues to be very active and supportive at Northwestern. I hope each of you will join and support this organization through service and/or gifts. Northwestern's PTA provides many services to our students that other North Fulton middle schools do not have.

Please check out our CRCT scores and AYP data . Northwestern MS students did spectacular! Congratulations to our students and staff. More information about our scores will be coming out in the fall.

6<sup>th</sup> grade Reading 99% (tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the county) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading 98% (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county)  
 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts 97% (tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the county) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts 97% (3<sup>rd</sup> in the county)  
 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math 96% (3<sup>rd</sup> in the county) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math 97% (1<sup>st</sup> in the county)  
 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies 96% (tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies 97% (tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county)  
 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science 98% (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county) 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science 97% (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county)

8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading 97% (tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county)  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts 96% (tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the county)  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math 95% (2<sup>nd</sup> in the county)  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies 97% (tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the county)  
 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science 95% (2<sup>nd</sup> in the county)

For AYP all 3 grade levels are averaged and Language Arts and Reading are counted together. Here is a comparison of our growth from school year 2003-04 to 2004-05. We had 5 sub groups which were counted for AYP.

#### Language Arts/Reading

Year	All	Afr-Amer	White	Stu w/ Disabilities	Econ Disadv
03-04	95	79	96	71	76
04-05	97.5	88	98.7	81.8	90.1

#### Math

03-04	94	78	96	65	77
04-05	96.2	79.8	98.6	75.3	78.9

I would like to thank all the BETA volunteers who have worked very hard this summer assisting the staff in getting the school ready to be opened.

I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing all of you August 10<sup>th</sup>.



Dr. Scott O'Prey

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The Wildcat PTA Newsletter  
Northwestern Middle School  
12805 Birmingham Hwy.  
Alpharetta, GA 30004



## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

- ☺ August 9, 2005 PTA Board Meeting (10:30 a.m.)
- ☺ August 10, 2005 Information Day (1 p.m.- 6 p.m.)
- ☺ August 15, 2005 First Day of School!
- ☺ August 31, 2005 School Picture Day
- ☺ September 6, 2005 General PTA Meeting/Open House, 6th grade (7 p.m.)
- ☺ September 8, 2005 General PTA Meeting/Open House, 7th & 8th grades (7 p.m.)
- ☺ September 13, 2005 PTA Board Meeting (10:30 a.m.)
- ☺ September 19- 23, 2005 IOWA Testing (8th Grade ONLY)
- ☺ September 29, 2005 Music Showcase (8 a.m.)