



# THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2007

## MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear NMS Families –

It's hard to believe that school will commence in just a few short weeks. I hope you've had a much deserved and well rested summer with your families. The PTA has been hard at work planning for the 2007-2008 school year and we have many new and exciting changes in progress. To begin with our PTA location is now in the Media Center and we hope you'll plan on attending as many meetings as possible. We have a fresh new board with great new ideas and an administration with a wish list to keep you busy and thinking!

Some immediate changes you'll notice will be our new and improved membership form along with a much improved directory printed by Tleh's Publishing Company. We have attached this year's Directory Consent Form for your con-

venience so you can turn it in early at the office or bring it with you on Information Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8th. You won't want to miss out on this year's directory!

For the first time in years, Northwestern PTA is looking to host a major fund raiser in hopes of helping the Northwestern staff and administration obtain much needed learning material for advisory period, a golf cart to assist with fire drills, new equipment for our broadcast studio and flags to show our school pride as you enter Northwestern. We are planning on going paperless by the end of the academic year and hope to begin using an e-mail server to administer information electronically. If you or someone you know can help us prepare to make the above changes, please contact a board member as soon as possible. Your help and suggestions are always appreciated.

Please remember to take time out to join PTA and give generously to our Enrichment Fund Program. More than ever, we are in need of an increase in our budget and will be looking for additional help through matching funds and a fund raiser scheduled for later this year! With that, if you are a parent with event planning experience and are ready to make a difference at our school, contact a PTA board member and let us know how you can help! Looking for new ways to earn extra funds for the PTA and school will be a big part of our 2007-2008 school year!

I want to thank those who are new and those returning to the board for their help and support and look forward to an exciting 2007-2008 academic year. We have many new challenges ahead but together we can make a difference!

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## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Students and Parents,

Northwestern is a busy place this summer as we prepare for a fantastic 2007-2008 school year. We need to recognize our entire school community as Northwestern was recognized by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation as one of the top 10 middle schools in the state. You can read about this at their website, <http://www.gppf.org/default.asp?pt=doc&doc=reportcard>.

What's new at Northwestern for the 2007-08 school year?

- A traditional 8 period schedule
- A daily advisory class
- Students scheduled on teams
- A new guidance counselor
- An additional physical education teacher
- A new band teacher
- 6 new portable classrooms
- 2 new French teachers
- A graduation coach, Darla Kemp
- A total of 18 new staff members
- GPS rollout for Math 8
- GPS rollout for social studies
- New math books
- New lunch times: 8<sup>th</sup> 10:57, 7<sup>th</sup> 11:45, 6<sup>th</sup> 12:30
- Our Wildcat Days will be in October
- We will have more visitor parking
- Family news: Wedding bells rang for Mr. Beers, Ms. Ellington, Ms. Jeffers, Ms. Baraka, Ms. Richardson, and me. Baby Wildcats are on the way or have already arrived for Mr. Franco and Mr. Walker

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

In closing, I am excited about the new changes and what the new year has in store for us! With the help of our dedicated parents, students and Northwestern staff it should prove to be a year of positive growth and changes! I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2007-2008 PTA President and I look forward to a rewarding year at Northwestern Middle School.



Norma Khayat  
PTA President  
678-580-3462



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER-

Information Day will be **August 8** between the hours of 3:30 and 7:00 P.M. During this time you will receive your student's schedule, textbooks, and lockers. Please bring your checkbook so that you can join PTA, purchase PE uniforms, a lock, a binder for your math workbooks, open up a debit meal account with the cafeteria, and make a contribution to the PTA enrichment fund.

We need to express our appreciation to our Junior Beta students for the hundreds of hours they spent working in our front office this summer, answering phones, assembling materials to be mailed, cleaning out lockers and preparing textbooks for distribution this fall.

If you are a sixth grade parent, don't forget to bring in your child's immunization record to the school. Please remember that this year all parents must bring in a verification of residency form before school begins. Students without this form on file will be withdrawn from Northwestern after 30 calendar days.

Rest up and enjoy what's left of summer! An exciting and busy year is just ahead. See you on August 8.

Yours truly,

Bruce R. Fraser, Principal



## STUDENT ENRICHMENT FUND

### Support the PTA at Northwestern

Please stop by one of the PTA tables during Information Day on **Wednesday, August 8th**, to join the PTA, contribute to the Student Enrichment Fund and purchase a School Directory.

The Student 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 as its primary means of meeting budget goals. When making your contribution, please remember our children benefit tremendously through this program, and your contribution is tax-deductible. **Please give generously!**

### Matching Funds



Matching funds are always welcomed and encouraged so please find out if your company is one that can make a difference in your child's education through this beneficial program.



### 6th Grade Fun Night!

If you're a 6th grader, please mark your calendar for **Friday, September 28th, 7-9 pm**. This is the night for the "6th Grade Fun Night" event. This is a great event to get to know your classmates at a huge party at the Big Air Indoor Inflatable Party Zone. Details and registration information will be distributed during the first week of school - so keep your eye open for the flyer.



**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).

## LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Northwestern Middle School Local School Advisory Council is holding nominations and elections for parents and/or guardians to serve on the Local School Advisory Council. Northwestern has two open parent positions for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. Council members are elected for a two-year term.

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 schools. One parent position requires the parent to have had at least 2 years experience working in a professional business.

Northwestern's LSAC currently meets once a month on Tuesdays, dates and times will be confirmed during the school year.

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:

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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 are interested in serving on Northwestern's LSAC committee, please stop by the front office for a nomination form or contact Karen Evans at 770-667-2870, ext. 125 or [EvansK@fultonschools.org](mailto:EvansK@fultonschools.org). Nominations will be accepted from August 1 - 13, 2007. Elections will be held the week of September 4-7, 2007.

### SPIRIT WEAR

At Information Day on August 9th, look for the Spirit Wear table set up in the front office lobby. There will be sweat-shirts, t-shirts and pajama pants with a wide selection in size, color and style - all at a great price too! We will have samples on display.

Be sure to pick up your favorite NMS Spirit Wear, and show your Wildcat Spirit!



## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

August 8, 2007	Information Day	(Please enter through Gym)	3:30-7:00 pm
August 10, 2007	Residency Affidavit forms due at School		
August 13, 2007	First Day of School		
August 14, 2007	First PTA Meeting	Media Center	10:00 am
September 3, 2007	Labor Day Holiday		
September 5, 2007	General PTA Meeting/Curriculum Night—6th Grade		7:00-9:00 pm
September 6, 2007	General PTA Meeting/Curriculum Night—7th & 8th Grade		7:00-9:00 pm
September 11, 2007	PTA Board Meeting	Media Center	10:00 am
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 Party Zone	7:00-9:00pm

# Northwestern Middle School



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## Student Directory Permission Form

Please check one and return to your student's homeroom teacher:

- Yes, I give permission for my information to be published in the 2007-2008 Northwestern Middle School Directory.
- No, I do not wish to have my information published in the 2007-2008 Northwestern Middle School Directory.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print in neat and legible writing:**

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip code (if other than Milton, 30004): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



**Support our community and promote your business! Buy an ad in our directory.  
Call Tleh's Directory™ at 770-623-6220 ext. 0 for advertising information!**

\*\*\*This form does not constitute purchase of the 2007-2008 Northwestern Middle School Directory. To purchase a Directory, you must be a member of the Northwestern Middle School PTA. Please contact the membership chairs for more information:  
Linda Martinez 770-475-3957 or Melody Oliver 770-752-9471.

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The following laws affecting education were passed by both the House and the Senate in the 2007 legislative session, and signed into law by Gov. Sonny Perdue.

**HB208** – Requires Local School Advisory Councils (LSACs) to be made up of a majority of parents and to be chaired by a parent. Currently, only two of seven seats on the LSAC must be parents. Goes into effect next school year.

**HB 332** – Permanently delays the mandated class size reductions in grades 9-12 which were passed in 2000. Local school boards may exceed maximum state class sizes in math, science, social studies, and language arts for grades 9 through 12 by up to 40 percent – 32 students per class maximum.

**SB 9** – Provides that no classroom teacher shall be required, coerced, intimidated or disciplined in any manner to change the grade of a student, unless it is in conflict with school board policy. However, principals retain the right to change grades.

**SB 10** “The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship” – Provides an estimated \$9,000 a year to parents who can then enroll their special needs child in any approved private or public school. To be eligible, the child must be diagnosed as having at least one of 11 special needs, been enrolled in a public school for at least two semesters prior to accepting the voucher and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Parents must also have been residents of Georgia for at least one year.

**SB 39** – The bill allows entire school systems, not just individual schools, to convert to charter school status, freeing the system of many of the local and state regulations covering education (such as class sizes and certified teachers). The bill allows up to five systems to apply for charter status each year beginning in 2008, and provides a \$125,000 planning grant for each approved charter system.

**SB72** - Allows schools to hire a business administrator in lieu of a certified assistant principal to oversee the financial and non-academic needs of the school

**SB 123** - (The Twins Bill) - Schools must place twins, triplets, or other multiples from the same family in the same classroom if the children are in the same grade, at the same school, and the parent requests the placement in the first 14 days of the school year.



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### FULTON SCHOOL SYSTEM BUDGET

The Fulton County School Board approved a \$794 million budget for Fiscal Year 2008 (beginning July 1, 2007), which provides a three percent raise for all employees, funds the 2.8 percent “step” raise for most employees, and continues most programs in place last school year. While the budget does not “roll back” the millage rate to provide tax relief, it will use its additional local tax revenue to pay down outstanding debt in order to be completely debt free by 2012. The system is anticipating a 4,3000 student increase for the 2007-2007 school year and will open four new schools.

### FULTON PLANS NEW HIGH SCHOOL ON FREEMANVILLE ROAD

Fulton County Schools purchased 116 acres on Freemanville Road at the end of March. A new high school is scheduled to open by 2012, and could possibly be followed by a middle school on the same campus. Community meetings will be held once conceptual drawings are completed.

### Information Day PTA Checklist!

(Aug 8th, 3:30-7:00p.m.)

- Bring check book
- Join PTA
- Bring Directory Consent Form
- Bring Matching Fund Forms
- Purchase Spirit Wear
- Give generously to Enrichment Fund



### Box Tops for Education

Don't forget this summer to be cutting out your Box Tops and bring them in on Information Day and drop them in the box marked BOX TOPS! Also, ask your friends, family and neighbors to be collecting them for the school also.



*Thanks for your support!!*

## Fulton County Schools 2007-2008 Calendar

### First Semester

August 13	First Day of School
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 19	Early Release Day
October 12	Teacher Conference /Workday
October 24	Early Release Day
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
November 28	Early Release Day
December 20-January 3	Winter Break
January 4	Teacher Conference/Workday

### Second Semester

January 7	First Day of Second Semester
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 18	Presidents' Day Holiday
Feb. 27	Early Release Day
March 14	Teacher/Conference/Workday
March 26	Early Release Day
April 7-11	Spring Break
May 23	Last Day of School

## REFLECTIONS

National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in pre-school through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage), dance choreography and film/video production. In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art.



This year the theme is "I can make a difference by . . ." Begin thinking about submission ideas! Northwestern students had many wonderful and award winning entries last year. We look forward to exciting, creative presentations this year as well! The entry deadline will be early October. Watch for more details!

The Wildcat PTA Newsletter  
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