



THE WILDCAT

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MAY 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Northwestern
PTA
everychild. onevoice.

The 8th grade dance committee has been working very hard to organize this event which will be Friday, May 5th from 7 to 10 p.m. They really need parents to help decorate at

school on the day of the dance starting at 12:30 p.m. If you are available to help out, please contact either Cheryl Highland at jmhighland@hotmail.com or Bobbie Tivnan at bjtivnan@aol.com.

We have reached the end of our 2 years as PTA CO-Presidents here at NMS. We want to thank everybody for all of your support and hard work throughout this school year. It takes

many people working together to have a successful PTA like we have.

We wish everybody a safe and happy summer!

Bonnie Kitay

Lisa Stammer

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

With the advent of spring come rains, blossoming flowers, and the administration of the CRCT. Northwestern students took the CRCT last week. We must thank you for ensuring that students were at school on time each day.

Student attendance is crucial to success. We enjoyed a great week of testing. Thanks to the students effort and your support.

Along with the change in seasons, we commonly have a change in clothing selection. Prior to spring break, Northwestern sent out "Dress Code 101". This reminder outlined some of the clothing choices which would be considered inappropriate and could result in consequences ranging from written warnings to in-school suspension. Thus far, we have had a number of students receive warnings for dress code violations. Please help your children make appropriate clothing choices, before consequences become necessary. Bare midriffs, short-

short clothing, sagging or ripped pants or tank tops should not be worn to school. We thank you for your assistance and if you have any questions about the dress code, please call the school.

On behalf of the Vision Committee, I would like to thank everyone for their responses to our Vision Survey. We received a large number of responses which will truly help lend insight into that which we hope to become. We have tallied the responses and would like to provide another opportunity for you to provide us with information.

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VISION SURVEY

For each of the survey questions, we have provided the top three or four responses. Please take a moment to rank what you believe are the two most important ideas for each question to be included in our school's vision. **Simply write a one and two next to your top selections and turn in to the school's front office.** We thank you very much for your insight and assistance.

What is the school's purpose?

Educate Prepare students Motivate students

What makes NMS great?

Teachers Parents Motivated students Safe environment

In 5 years, how would you like NMS to be different?

More collaboration Higher expectations Improved technology Increased student leadership

What values would the school embody?

Honesty Student dedication Respect Compassion

It would be a place where...

All enjoy/are excited to be here Safe environment All are valued/respected All are challenged



Mr. Bruce R. Fraser, Principal

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Board Of Education Budget Meetings:

The following schedule of activities will guide budget development in the Fulton County School System for the school year 2006-07. The public is welcome at all meetings. Opportunities for public comment are provided only at the Public Hearings, and Pre-Board and Board meetings. Additional budget information available at the system website www.fultonschools.org.

Budget Work Session 1

Thursday, April 20
5 p.m. (Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School)

Budget Work Session 2

Tuesday, April 25
5 p.m. (Administrative Center)

Budget Work Session 3

Thursday, May 11
5 p.m. (Dunwoody Springs Charter School)

Budget Work Session 4

Monday, May 15
5 p.m. (Administrative Center)

Budget Work Session 5

Tuesday, May 23
5 p.m. (Dunwoody Springs Charter School)

Public Hearing #1 on Millage Rates (if required*)

Thursday, June 1
10 a.m. (Administrative Center)

Salary Schedule Public Hearing

Thursday, June 1
5 p.m. (Dunwoody Springs Charter School)

Public Hearing #2 on Millage Rates (if required*)

Thursday, June 1
6 p.m. (Dunwoody Springs Charter School)

Budget Work Session 6

Thursday, June 1
7 p.m. (Dunwoody Springs Charter School)

Public Hearing #3 on Millage Rates (if required*)

Thursday, June 8
4 p.m. (Administrative Center)

Board Meeting – Final budget & final millage rates adopted**

Thursday, June 8
6:30 p.m. (Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School)

**Public hearings on the proposed millage rate are required if millage is not fully rolled back. If a full rollback is proposed, meetings will not be held.*

***Scheduled dates for adoption of Budget and Millage Rates are contingent on the availability of tax digest information from tax officials.*



NORTHWESTERN NEEDS YOU!

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The Northwestern PTA would like to thank all the people who volunteered for the upcoming 2006-2007 PTA Board. **The PTA still has a few open committee chair positions.** The open positions include: Website, Grounds Beautification and the 8th Grade Career Day.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Melanie McNaughton at 770-442-0342. Thank you for your consideration to serve your school in this capacity.

Thank you,

Sally Hildebrant

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

In lieu of a spring book fair, the media center is having a **Book Swap**. Students are encouraged to bring a book(s), in good shape and appropriate for middle school students, to the Media Center from April 24 to May 12. Books should be put in grade level boxes. The grade level that brings in the most books will get to come to the swap first during their reading classes. Students who bring in books will be given coupons to exchange for the number of books they bring to the swap. The Book Swap will take place during the week of May 15-19.

"Can Your Fines" will take place in the Media Center from May 1-12. Students may pay off their fines by bringing in canned goods which will be taken to North Fulton Charities. One can of food will cancel out each \$1 or less in fines. For example, if a student owes \$1.60 in fines, they can bring in 2 cans of food to cancel the fine.

The last due date for student books will be May 12. On this date, all books should be returned to the Media Center. We will have overnight check-out for the following week. **All science and foreign language CDs are also due on May 12th.**



**8TH
GRADE
DANCE**
May 5, 2006

7:00-10:00 PM

We still need volunteers to help decorate for the 8th graders' big night. Please come on May 5th from 12:30 -6:00 p.m., and help us make this a really special event. (Dads have a great opportunity to help out too!) Contact Cheryl Highland at jmhighland@hotmail.com or Bobbie Tivnan at bjtivnan@aol.com if you can help.

PARENTS A KEY TO INTERNET SAFETY



The media has recently paid a lot of attention to the alarming stories of children who have been seriously harmed by predators they first encountered through online activity, sometimes

through the creation of a personal website. While such sites can be an incredible outlet for creativity and personal expression, they can also present serious risks if they are not critically monitored by responsible adults. You need to educate yourself about the potential dangers this access can pose and talk with your child about using the Internet safely.

Children who have their own websites need to understand how an outsider might view the information they post. Ask them to consider what a stranger would learn about them from the information they posted and how that information could be used to harm them.

You should periodically type all family members' names into a commonly used search engine to find out what types of information is posted about them. If you find that your child has created a website that you weren't aware of, take a look. You should let your child know that you are aware of the site, and that you will be monitoring it. If your child has posted personal or inappropriate information, you should have a serious and open discussion about it.

Your child needs to know what the rules are, why they exist, and what the consequences will be if they are broken. Above all, you need to reassure your child that if anything online makes him or her feel uncomfortable, you are the safest person to turn to for help and advice.

National PTA is a member of the Internet Keep Safe Coalition, which is a valuable resource for parents who want to learn more about Internet Safety. They are creating an Online Parent Resource Center, and they would like input on its design!

Source: The PTA Parent; March 28, 2006

TAG TALK

Congratulations to the following 7th grade TAG students who were recently involved in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) and took either the SAT or the ACT. Out of 23 TAG students from NMS, 12 earned State Recognition for scoring in the top 25% of the talent pool. This means that they met the following criteria: SAT Math > 510, SAT Critical Reading > 510 OR SAT Math = 500 and SAT Critical Reading = 500.

We are extremely proud of all of our NMS TAG 7th grade students who participated: Quinn Campbell, Emelie Coleman, Christina Cotsakis, Kate Elmore, Madeline Hassett, Adam Hildebrandt, Rachel Issac, Kathleen Murphy, Victoria Rand, Chloe Super, Allison Thompson, Reid Vernon, Rachel Blizzard, Connor Bourff, Harrison Cassada, Will Farr, Sophie Frankham-Smith, Alexis Pounds, Alyssa Sargent, Nicholas Snow, Andrew Szabela, Collin Williams and Austin Willis.

Join us in celebrating the achievements of all NMS TAG students with National Gifted Education Day on Friday, April 28th.

MUSIC SHOWCASE HAS GOT THE BEAT!

Don't miss the **Northwestern Middle School Percussion Ensemble** on May 11th! This exciting new group will be performing 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

NMS SPIRIT WEAR



Northwestern Spirit wear will have a new look this fall.... Look for our new style and new merchandise this fall at the Open House.



"BROADWAY BOUND"

Northwestern Middle School students: Come make a scene at **SUMMER DRAMA & ACTING CAMPS**—presented by the award winning **METROPOLITAN CONSERVATORY'S** Teen Scene, Broadway Bound, Movie/Film, Musical Madness, Improv, and Performing Arts Camps.

Registration is open for Alpharetta's Professional Youth Theatre students ages 4 to 17. Day camps start June 6th and run through July 25th for beginners to advanced students. There will be an end-of-week performance in costume.

All classes are taught by professional actors and educators, with degrees in theatre & film. Locations in Alpharetta include Hopewell Middle School and Centennial High School.

For details and to register, call 770-394-1461 or visit www.metropolitanconservatory.com.

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

May 5, 2006	8th Grade Dance (7-10 p.m.)
May 9, 2006	PTA Board Meeting/Get together
May 10, 2006	7th Grade Career Day
May 11, 2006	Music Showcase (8:15 a.m.)—Northwestern Middle School Percussion Ensemble
May 12, 2006	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (10:50 a.m.—1:10 p.m.)
May 24 & 25, 2006	Renaissance Assembly
May 26, 2006	Last Day of School

