



# THE WILDCAT

Northwestern  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2005

## MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

What a great start to the school year this has been! We welcome our interim Principal, Mr. Norm Barchi. He will be with us for the next couple of months and hopefully you have had a chance to meet him. We also welcome our new neighbor, Milton High School.

We want to thank everyone who has already joined PTA this year and made their contribution to the Enrichment Fund. We are close to reaching our goal, which will allow us to completely fund the budget for the 2005-2006 school year, so please join PTA and generously contribute to the Enrichment Fund if you have not already done so. Please see the article on Membership in this newsletter for more details.

Information Day was the official start to the school year, and it would not have been possible without all of the wonder-

ful volunteers working together. We enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces and welcoming all of the new families to the NMS community. We'd like to personally thank our Information Day chairs, Susan Haden and Laura Dean, for all of their hard work in organizing a wonderful and informative day.

On Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Hospitality Staff Appreciation chairs, Lynn Pyecha and Jeanne Jenkins, presented an incredible breakfast to the teachers and staff. The food was delicious and Todd the Coffee Man was a big hit as always!

A huge thank you to Tracy Hopson (Front Office PTA Chairperson) and Ruth Lawandales (Guidance Office PTA Chairperson) and ALL of the NMS staff for getting the offices up and running for the first hectic weeks of school.

Please mark your calendars for the NMS Open Houses to be held on September 6 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and September 8 for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Both sessions will begin at 7 p.m. with a PTA meeting in the gym, and then parents will be able to walk their child's schedule and meet all of their teachers.

As always, we are open to any suggestions, questions, or concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact either of us at anytime. We look forward to seeing you at the Open Houses.

Bonnie Kitay Lisa Stammer  
770-619-9125 770-740-8577

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

"The road to success is always under construction." Anthony Robbins

Dear Parents,

I want to thank the PTA for the wonderful hospitality provided to our staff during pre-planning week. Your efforts were sincerely appreciated and went "above and beyond the call of duty". With such parental support and participation, it is easy to understand why we have the finest school community in our school system.

I am happy to report that we have had an outstanding school opening. Our student enrollment is at 1147 and if we can

reach 1165 by the ten-day count, we will earn an additional teacher.

The following personnel are new to Northwestern this year:

Mark Kapral - Band  
Catherine Richardson - 6<sup>th</sup> grade TAG  
Diane Biesiadecki - 6<sup>th</sup> grade LA  
Leah Robertson - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math/Reading  
Jennifer Hutton - Spanish  
David Beers - PE  
Beth Nichols - French  
Kelley Hummel - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education  
Kimberly Holliday - 7<sup>th</sup> grade LA  
Heidi Ballog - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education

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## PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Because of the size of our organization, National PTA is able to partner with businesses and negotiate special discounts, fundraising opportunities, and other valuable benefits exclusively for PTA members. When you make purchases from these companies, not only will you receive a discount, but National PTA will also receive a percentage of royalties from the sale.

National PTA is working diligently to establish relationships with additional Member Benefit Providers to provide you with even more exclusive benefits in other categories. When you see this

Proud Member Benefits logo, you'll know the company has established a relationship with National PTA to provide special services or discounts exclusively for PTA members.

Businesses that are currently offering PTA members exclusive benefit are AIM, Barnes and Noble, FedEx Kinko's, Global Publishing & Marketing, and S&S Worldwide. For more details, please visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org), and click on "Benefits of Membership" under "About PTA".

Reprinted from the National PTA Website.



## MUSIC SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

Keep your eyes and ears on the outlook for music performances on the last Thursday of specified months during the school year! Musical performances will take place 8:15 a.m. in the Core Atrium. Stop by and enjoy the fabulous music, featuring the **Milton Pep Band & Color Guard** on Sept. 29th, 2005 at 8:15 a.m.

The PTA is looking to book performances. Any groups or individuals interested in performing, please contact **Marie Hudson**, PTA Music Showcase chairperson, at [mariek@bellsouth.net](mailto:mariek@bellsouth.net).



## 2005-2006 REFLECTIONS

### Deadline Set for November 11th

Start work on your Reflections project now! Entries for the 2005-2006 Reflections Contest will be collected the week of November 7-11.

Reflections is a National PTA sponsored Arts program. Projects can be entered in 4 categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Music and Literature. Two win-

ners will be selected in 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 Wonder Why".

Packets including rules and entry forms will be available in the front office in September. Parent volunteers can contact **Susan Pike** at 678-762-9609 or [dspikes@comcast.net](mailto:dspikes@comcast.net).

### 6th Grade Northwestern YMCA Night!

**When:** Saturday, September 24, 2005

**Time:** 7-10 p.m.

**Where:** Ed Isakson/Alpharetta YMCA

Be on the lookout for flyers announcing more details of this popular 6th grade get-together! Taking place at our local YMCA, this event includes pizza, swimming, rock wall climbing, and (most importantly) meeting and making new 6th grade friends! Parent chaperones help make the night a success. If you can help out, or if you have any questions, please contact **Kim Dickinson** at (770)667-7807 or **Jennifer Zielinski** at (770)442-1407.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Now is a great time to sign up for regular information updates on many Fulton County school issues and legislative initiatives. You can simply request these updates be sent to your email address by signing up for this service at [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org) and [www.georgiapta.org](http://www.georgiapta.org).

Katie Reeves, Board of Education Vice President, will continue to hold her monthly community meetings. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to keep informed and comment about key Board agenda items. A complete schedule is available online at [www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org). The next

meeting will be held on September 2, 9:30am at Milton H.S.

Due to a variety of computer and privacy concerns, I will no longer be able to maintain a legislative email distribution. The LSAC cluster will be investigating a way to offer this service again in the future.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sue Derene

Legislative Chair

[sueder@bellsouth.net](mailto:sueder@bellsouth.net)



## TAG TALK

7<sup>th</sup> grade students, who qualify, are given the opportunity to take either the SAT or the ACT through the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). Participation is voluntary. Letters of invitation will be sent to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet the Duke TIP eligibility requirements based on recent achievement tests. For more information, including test and application deadlines, visit the Duke Tip website at [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu).

## ENRICHMENT FUND AND PTA MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to our Information Day restaurant raffle winners: **Mark and Leigh Ann Maloney**, parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Megan; and **Jerry and Dara Geiger**, parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Ashleigh. The Maloney's won a \$50 gift certificate to the Village Tavern Restaurant and the Geiger's won a \$50 gift certificate to La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant!

Thank you to all who joined the PTA and contributed to the Student Enrichment Fund on Information Day. We are getting close to reaching our goal,

but are still short. If you haven't already completed your PTA Membership/Enrichment Fund form, there is still time. Please send in your completed form and payment with your student. Forms can be turned in to their homeroom teacher.

*(Additional forms will be available at Open House and are currently available in the school office.)*

The Enrichment Fund is used to staff the clinic, support academic and cultural arts programs, as well as other PTA

sponsored events. The Enrichment Fund is the only fundraiser PTA sponsors – no wrapping paper, candy or other sales. All contributions are tax deductible.

At the same time, please consider becoming a member of the PTA. Our goal is to have each parent become a member. The cost is \$6 and we encourage moms and dads to both join. You may join on the same form as Student Enrichment.

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## ABOUT THE WILDCAT PTA NEWSLETTER:

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) or via the PTA link on Northwestern's website. This newsletter is produced by Cassandra Hepburn 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 website is [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  
770-619-9125  
[bonnijpn@aol.com](mailto:bonnijpn@aol.com)

Lisa Stammer  
770-740-8577  
[stammer1@bellsouth.net](mailto:stammer1@bellsouth.net)

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Five ways to support your young adolescent in the new school year:

1. Get to know the school your young adolescent attends. What is its philosophy and mission? Is it more traditional or more progressive? How is it organized? Who are the people who can help you and your child—the counselor, principal, assistant principal, and teachers?
2. Personally introduce yourself to your young adolescent's teachers. Many middle level schools use teaching teams. Who is the team leader? How does the teaching team work together? When is the best time to contact them with questions?
3. How can you be an active part of the school? What can you do to contribute? Every parent has some skill, talent, or knowledge to share with students or teachers. Not everyone has to make brownies for bake sales, tutor, or be a guest speaker on career day, but these and other activities are always needed.
4. Remember that the best support you can provide your young adolescent is to be there. Above all, do not fall for the stereotype that young adolescents do not want their parents involved in "their" territory—school. Be visible in the school so your child knows that you care, and the school knows too.
5. Help the school be the best it can be. While you certainly want the best for your child, you also want a school that is responsive and responsible to all children. Push for experiences and practices that truly make a difference for young adolescents—engaging and interesting work, standards that hold students accountable on a realistic yet challenging level, and opportunities for students to contribute to their school and community.

Reprinted from The Family Connection, Volume 9.1 of the National Middle School Association (NMSA).

## IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

September 2, 2005	Katie Reeves (School Board Member) Community Meeting—Milton HS (9:30 a.m.)
September 5, 2005	Labor Day, no school
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 24, 2005	YMCA Night—6th Grade (7-10 p.m.)
September 29, 2005	Music Showcase—Milton Pep Band & Color Guard (8:15 a.m.)
October 1, 2005	"Spruce Up Our Campus" Day (8 a.m.—1 p.m.)
October 7, 2005	Katie Reeves' Monthly Community Meeting—Findley Oaks ES (9:30 a.m.)
October 10, 2005	Teacher Workday, no school
October 11, 2005	PTA Board Meeting (10:30 a.m.)
October 17-28, 2005	PastWords (8:45 a.m.)
October 20-27, 2005	Book Fair
October 27, 2005	Music Showcase (8:15 a.m.)
October 28, 2005	Renaissance Assembly



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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All credit for the great first week must go to the fine organizational and leadership skills exhibited by Dr. O'Prey, the assistant principals, and our excellent teaching and support staff. We can't forget to give some credit to our students who returned full of energy and enthusiasm. It really isn't difficult for a principal to "steer the ship" when there is such a great crew aboard. It is my privilege to serve in a school community that possesses high educational standards, an excellent academic record, bright students and well defined parent - school lines of communication and cooperation.

We wish to remind everyone that Curriculum Nights will be 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> grade parents. Curriculum nights are designed to give you an opportunity to visit all of your child's classes, be introduced to their teachers, receive a course syllabus, and to gain an understanding of each teacher's expectations. Each night will begin promptly at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium. We request that students do not attend curriculum night. If desired, you may make an appointment with the teacher for conference purposes.

Regarding school attendance, Fulton County Board of Education policy requires that an absence note, stating the reason for a student's absence from school, be no later than 3 days following the absence. It further requires that a social worker referral be made for students that have 7 or more unexcused absences within a school year. Although our test scores are very high, they could be higher. Our average daily attendance (ADA) is near 95%. Similar schools in North Fulton County have classes to a 97% ADA. Please help our students achieve their maximum potential by having them attend school regularly.

A gentle reminder, our annual school beautification project day will be October 1, 2005. Any assistance you can provide will be appreciated. The person of contact for the PTA is Mrs. Kathy Christman.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all of you, parents and students alike, who have been so kind and gracious towards me as the interim principal. We have a great deal to be proud of at Northwestern and I will do my very best to keep alive the legacy that Dr. O'Prey left behind.

Sincerely,

*Norm Barchi*

Norm Barchi

Interim Principal



## "SPRUCE UP OUR CAMPUS" DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Please join us for our annual school beautification project day and help make our NMS campus shine! Any amount of assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated, and refreshments will be on hand for all volunteers. For more information, please contact Kathy Christman at 678-366-1130 or [busymx3@aol.com](mailto:busymx3@aol.com).

## NMS SPIRITWEAR

We have sold out almost everything for SpiritWear this year—what a great group of kids and parents we have at Northwestern! However, we do have book covers available for next day delivery (5 for \$15). If anyone is interested in T-shirts, sweat-shirts or flannel Capri pants, please call or e-mail Tracy Heider at 678-339-0950 or [heid0004@comcast.net](mailto:heid0004@comcast.net). Orders will be taken through September 15, 2005. Remember: SpiritWear makes great Holiday gifts!