



THE WILDCAT

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PTA CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear NMS Families,

Can you believe that we have almost completed the first nine weeks of school?! The PTA and its many committees have been very busy working on a variety of projects this year.

We are pleased to announce that due to the hard work of our Membership and Enrichment Co-Chairs, Melody Oliver and Linda Martinez, we have met our enrichment goal, and we will be able to completely fund our 2006-07 PTA budget. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, and for those of you who may not have given, we encourage you to do so. Any additional funds raised will allow us to provide even more grants and programs for our students and teachers.

We are, however, still short of reaching our 100% membership goal. PTA membership goals are based on the number of students enrolled and the number of cer-

tified teachers in our school. Currently Northwestern's enrollment and certified teachers total is 1321, and our membership is at approximately 82%. October is PTA Male Membership month. We need your help to not only achieve our 100% membership goal, but also to help Northwestern Middle School become the top school in male membership. On that note, we ask that if you are not already a member, you will consider becoming one. The cost is only \$6, and we encourage both moms and dads to join. Many people, when they hear about parent involvement and PTA, automatically think of moms. However, a strong PTA should be inclusive of all parents. So... DADS, please fill out the membership form inside this newsletter and join PTA!

Many activities are planned for September and October. The first Music Showcase will feature the Milton Pep Band. Sixth graders are looking forward to their

Fun Night scheduled on October 6th at Big Air (please note this is a date change) where they can meet and have fun with both old and new classmates. Look for more information to come home regarding the Book Fair from October 16th to the 20th and Past Words from October 16th to the 27th. And, don't forget we will have 2 early release days – September 28th and October 25th. So, mark those calendars!!

Finally, we welcome all parents to our meetings. We're open to your suggestions, questions and/or concerns. Please come and be a part of our PTA and our school.

Norma Khayat
678-580-3462

Lisa Romm
770-346-7747

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Students and Parents,

First, let me sincerely thank everyone who attended our curriculum nights. We had a tremendous turnout for both evenings, and your involvement with Northwestern does not go unnoticed. The benefits to student achievement associated with your interest in quality education reach far beyond that which you can imagine.

I have had the opportunity to visit with every class in the building and have been very impressed with the quality of instruction thus far. The students have been engaged in their learning, and the teachers have provided activities that stretch the students' thinking beyond a simple recall of information. I

am truly fortunate to have an opportunity to get into classes and experience such dynamic teaching.

Unlike many schools, Northwestern is very fortunate to have facilities which are open for community use on the weekends. When I have passed the campus on a weekend, I am amazed at the number of people who take advantage of the soccer field, the track and the tennis courts. Many schools lock their campuses on the weekend in an effort to maintain the quality of the facilities for student use. Unfortunately, for the first time since I have been here, we had damage to our facilities over the Labor Day weekend. I sincerely want to keep

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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the campus open for use on weekends and to that end, request your assistance. If you are at the school on a weekend, please help us monitor the activities taking place on campus. If you notice any inappropriate activity, please let the school know about it. With your help, we should be able to keep the campus open. If further damage occurs, we will need to look at other alternatives. Thank you for your help.



Mr. Bruce Fraser, Principal

League of Women Voters City of Milton Candidate Forum

Wednesday, October 4, 2006; 7:30 – 9:30pm
(9:30 – 10:00pm Candidate meet & greet)

Location: Milton High School auditorium

Moderator: Paul Yates of FOX 5 News

The Forum is being co-sponsored by Milton High School, the Georgia North Central Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Northside Hospital, and Alpharetta-Roswell Revue & News. Candidates are as follows:

For Mayor: Joe Lockwood; George Ragsdale

For City Council, Dist. 1: Karen C. Thurman (unopposed)

For City Council, Dist. 2: Julie Zahner Bailey; Gordon W. Hunter; Roger Santi

For City Council, Dist. 3: Joe Carroll; Clint Johnson; Marty Lock; Bill Lusk; Paul Moore

For City Council, Dist. 4: Samuel D. Bottoms; Tim Enloe; John McMillan; Eddie Moore; Neal O'Brien; Vincent Pisano

For City Council, Dist. 5: Tina D'Aversa-Williams (unopposed)

For City Council, Dist. 6: Rick Mohrig (unopposed)

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



The Georgia PTA is conducting a legislative priorities survey to determine what issues you want addressed in the upcoming General Assembly. The final decision will be made following the Board of Directors meeting October 13. If you want your voice to be heard, you should visit their website at www.georgiapta.org/issues-legislative-priorities.html, preferably by October 1st. Fill out the survey, ranking the issues by their importance to you. We are in the North Fulton Council, District 10, Local Unit 30586. While you're at the PTA website, sign up for legislative alerts and register as a grassroots advocate.

Katie Reeves, our School Board representative, will hold a community meeting at Manning Oaks Elementary School on Tuesday, October 19, at 9:30. She will discuss the topics covered by the Board during their October meeting.

Remember, your greatest impact on issues affecting education and our children is by holding our elected officials accountable, and that is done at the ballot box. November 7th is Election Day, so please be sure you vote. The voter registration deadline is October 10th. If you have a teenager in the house, they can register if they will be eighteen by Election Day.

Stay current on school information with **Fulton County School System (FCSS) News**. Subscribe to get regular updates at www.fultonschools.org.

NMS SPIRIT WEAR

Show your Wildcat Spirit! There are several NMS Spirit Wear items still available for purchase, including lots of girls white & navy large T-shirts and some small/medium pajama pants, with limited quantities of other styles. If you are interested in purchasing Spirit Wear, you may inquire about items and availability by directly contacting Tracy Heider at 678-339-0950 or heid0004@comcast.net.



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. 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. Northwestern Middle School's site is www2.fultonschools.org/school/northwestern.

REFLECTIONS

2006-07 Reflections: "MY FAVORITE PLACE"

Deadline October 3, 2006

Be sure to submit your entries for the 2006-07 Reflections Contest by October 3rd. Projects can be entered in 6 categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Music, Literature, Dance, Choreography and Film/Video. Two winners will be selected from 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: "My Favorite Place". Entries will be judged beginning on October 12, and the winners will be announced at the end of the month. Good luck to all our Reflections participants! If anyone is interested in assisting with this program, please contact **Carolyn Lauterbach** at lauterbach5@gmail.com or **Beth Leigh** at leighs6@bellsouth.net.



The Fulton County Schools Mall is open for business!!

If you are looking for that perfect gift, planning a vacation or simply looking for a new armchair from which you can watch the big game, look no further than the Fulton County's online mall. This resource not only provides you with access to dozens of retailers, but also helps raise money for Northwestern. Upon entering the site and selecting a retailer, you simply select the school which you would like to benefit from your purchases, and then shop away! It is that easy! The number of retailers available for your use is amazing. You will recognize names such as Wal-mart, Sears, Petsmart, Home Depot, Netflix and many others. Please consider checking out the site and supporting the school. The site address is <http://www.fcs.fundlinkllc.com/>.



PTA/STUDENT ENRICHMENT

It's not too late to join the PTA and contribute to the Student Enrichment Fund. You can use the form below and send it in to school with your payment. Please remember that this is the **only** fundraiser for the PTA. Thank you to all who have already supported the school by joining the PTA and donating to the Student Enrichment Fund. The entire community benefits from a successful school with parent support.

NMS PTA MEMBERSHIP, ENRICHMENT FUND & STUDENT DIRECTORIES ENROLLMENT FORM

Membership Options:

\$200.00 Enrichment Fund Contribution, \$20 Spiritwear Voucher, 2 Student Directories, 2 PTA Memberships _____

\$150.00 Enrichment Fund Contribution, \$10 Spiritwear Voucher, 2 Student Directories, 2 PTA Memberships _____

\$100.00 Enrichment Fund Contribution, 2 Student Directories, 2 PTA Memberships _____

\$60.00 Enrichment Fund Contribution, 1 Student Directory, 2 PTA Memberships _____

Other Enrichment Fund Contribution _____

PTA Membership @ \$6.00 each X ____ = _____

Student Directory (available with PTA membership)
@ \$6.00 each X _____ = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE = _____

Please write one check payable to NMS PTA.

Paid by Check # _____ Cash _____

*The tax deductible contribution does not include the value of any incentives such as the student directory and/or spiritwear.

PTA VOLUNTEER HOURS ATTENTION ALL NEW VOLUNTEERS:

Are you a new volunteer at Northwestern? If so, please take a moment to register on the TRAXX computer located in the Front Office. Just click on the "Volunteer" button on the screen and follow the prompts. Make your volunteer hours count! Log in and out of TRAXX every time you volunteer. Your at-home hours can be emailed to Mary Haney at pmhaney@mindspring.com. Thanks for your service!

WILDCAT DAYS



We need volunteers for the upcoming Wildcat Days: Nov. 17th for 6th grade; Nov. 20th for 7th grade; and Nov. 21st for 8th grade. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kim Dickinson at kbdmsd@aol.com or Jennifer Zielinski at jla5@earthlink.net. Thank you!

Scholastic Book Fair Coming to NMS!

October 16 - 20; 8:45am - 3:30pm

Tuesday, October 17; 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Come out to our book fair to see the newest book releases! The NMS Scholastic Book Fair allows the library to purchase additional titles. *Please support this beneficial fund raiser!* Parents, we will be in need of volunteers. If you are able to help for a morning or afternoon shift, please contact **Kim Horne** (770-754-7857 or mhorne@mindspring.com) or **Dena Kennedy** (770-752-9826 or denakenedy@comcast.net). Thank you!



TAG TALK

Attention 7th grade Students and Parents:

If you are interested in information concerning the Duke TIP Program, please pick up a packet from the counseling office. This 7th Grade Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores. Candidates are provided an opportunity to pursue an above level testing experience in the form of the SAT or the ACT. These are the same tests that high school juniors and seniors take when preparing for college admission. The application deadline is October 2nd for the December 2nd and 9th testing dates.

CLINIC/OFFICE CLOTHES...



The clinic and office could use some "stylish" tops and bottoms in all sizes (both male and female) to keep on hand for dress code violations or accidents. Thank you!

Laurie Bezila
NMS Clinic

IMPORTANT NORTHWESTERN DATES

October 3, 2006	Reflections Deadline
October 9, 2006	Teacher Planning/Conference Day—No School
October 10, 2006	PTA Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
October 16-20, 2006	NMS Scholastic Book Fair (8:45 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.)
October 17, 2006	Katie Reeves Community Meeting (9:30 a.m.—Manning Oaks Elementary School)
October 17, 2006	NMS Scholastic Book Fair (6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
October 16-27, 2006	PastWords (8:30 a.m.)
October 25, 2006	Early Release Day (12:30 p.m.)
November 14, 2006	Katie Reeves Community Meeting (9:30 a.m.—Northwestern Middle School)
November 17, 20, 21	Wildcat Days 6th, 7th & 8th Grades
November 22-24, 2006	Thanksgiving Holidays—No School
November 29, 2006	Early Release Day (12:30 p.m.)

