

President's Letter

A few months ago, I heard a rather startling question raised on a teaser for a morning talk show, "Is you being involved in the PTA important to your child?" That's an interesting question (and I'm comfortable the answer is "yes!"), but I'm not sure it is the right question to ask. The right question, it seems to me, is this, "Is the PTA—the events/activities the PTA sponsors and the monies that PTA fundraisers bring into the school—important to your child?"

Surely you agree that the answer to this question is "yes?!" And if so, the next logical question is this, "Who is going to run all the PTA activities if not you?" Someone must man the Board seats, tackle the committee Chair positions, handle the Room Parent duties, and staff the many assorted volunteer activities that come up throughout the year at each and every PTA event. It seems like a lot, but the beauty of PTA is this—there is a spot for everyone within the structure of this organization. And, everyone's time and talents can be put to use effectively.

Now that you know that the Northwood PTA can use any (and all!) time you have to offer, please consider exploring the many volunteer options we have available for the 2006-2007 school year. As I announced at the last General PTA meetings, the Nominating Committee will be elected at the **February 27th General PTA meeting (to be held at 6:45 p.m., immediately before the Kindergarten Musical)**. This ad hoc committee will be composed of three members and one alternate; they will be charged with assembling a slate of officers for the 2006-2007 PTA Board. There is a standing call for volunteers to this committee, of course. Once elected, its members will be posted on the PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com). If you have any interest in serving on the Board next year, please contact one of these Nominating Committee Board members once they are in place. Current Board members would also be happy to tell you about their positions. Feel free to contact any one of them to find out more.

If being a Board member isn't quite what you had in mind, perhaps you would like to explore Committee Chair positions. In 2006-2007, there will be a large turnover of Chair roles as many longtime Chairs "graduate" to middle school! This means that there will be a great variety of committees to explore—those that allow you to work at home or with a large group of people; those that require steady maintenance throughout the year or those that sponsor one or two-time events during the school year. You can learn more about all Northwood PTA committees by visiting the PTA website (see the "Website Fun Fact" on page 2 of this newsletter) and/or talking to PTA Board members or current Committee Chairs. Leading a committee is a truly rewarding experience; please consider taking on this role.

Of course, there will still be plenty of opportunities to get involved next fall. Room Parent sign-up will take place during Sneak Preview. Then next year's Board and committee Chairs will rely upon volunteers for each PTA event throughout the school year. Every person's contribution is valuable, and Northwood—its students and staff—benefits from the collective involvement!

Katie Mazzuckelli

Introducing Northwood's Tile Wall

As part of Northwood's 10-year anniversary celebration, we are kicking off a new fundraiser this year that promises to provide enjoyment to Northwood students and visitors for years to come: a Tile Wall! Last fall, Northwood students worked diligently on a self-portrait. Each grade level produced this portrait in a different style/medium, so they are all a bit different—a reflection of the differences in our children! Now we plan to turn this artwork into individual tiles and mount the tiles on a commemorative wall to be mounted outside the Art Room. This masterpiece will be called, "The Bright Faces of Northwood."

Look for a flyer to come home in late January describing how you can reserve a tile with your child's artwork. Orders will be due on **February 13th**. Imagine—your purchase will ensure your child's self-portrait will be mounted at Northwood years after he/she leaves the school. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Lynn Pierce or Chrissy Scartz, Original Art Committee Co-Chairs.

BINGO Night is Around the Corner

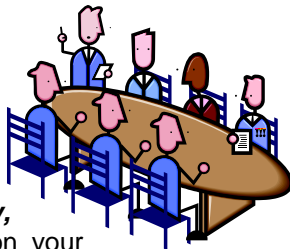
Northwood's Annual Bingo Night will be held on **March 3rd from 6:00-8:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. This is always a fun family night out, and we do hope you plan to join us. Every child playing Bingo wins a prize, and they are great—for example, Chuck E Cheese gift certificates, movie tickets, Home Depot kits, and many more. There will also be an adult raffle with fabulous prizes like weekend stays at local hotels, gift certificates for great area restaurants, even manicures at a local nail salon. This is an event that is fun for everyone, and it fills up quickly. Look for the flyer soon—details about dinner and raffle prizes as well as the reply form will be included there. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Hosseini or Bari Calais, Bingo Committee Co-Chairs.

Foundation Walk-a-Thon

This year, the Northwood Foundation's 3rd Annual Walk-a-Thon will be held on **May 5th** from 4:00-7:00 p.m. That's not the only change in store—the event will be held on the Greenway behind the school followed by dinner in our very own cafeteria!! Look for more details later this spring, but be sure to hold this date on your calendars for this fun-filled, family event. Questions? Contact Sherrie Board, Walk-a-Thon Committee Chair.



Your Northwood PTA at Work For You!



Time to Dance: It's almost time for the second Music Night of the year! 4th and 5th graders, circle **Friday, March 24th**, from 6:30-8:45 p.m., on your calendars. We've hired a brand new DJ to host the fun in the cafeteria—he promises a night of structured games and music. Parents, we'll have formal check-in/out, so be sure to read the flyer carefully when it comes home. Questions? Contact Cathy Rowe, Music Night Committee Chair.

Lunch & Learn Sessions Scheduled for February: Northwood Counselors Betsy Allen and Tracey Roberts will host Lunch & Learn sessions on Fridays during February from 12:00-1:30 p.m. During this first round of Lunch & Learn sessions for the school year, we'll discuss Dr. Phil's *Families First*. This is a wonderful book—buy it now and read ahead so you will be ready to discuss it. These educational sessions will be held in the Counselors' Suite located across from the cafeteria. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Look for more events later in the spring.

Caring & Sharing Holiday Drive Updates: A big "thank you" to all of those who helped raise money for the Counselor's Fund in November. It was the most successful spare change drive ever, raising \$650 to help benefit Northwood families in need. Also, we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who donated socks, hats, and mittens to the Sock Tree in December. These items were donated to North Fulton Charities. Once again, your support and generosity will help make a difference to many people this winter. We are so fortunate to have such caring families in our school community. Andrea Bourgeois and Christy Pincheon, Caring and Sharing Committee Co-Chairs.

Domino's Pizza Night: Domino's Pizza Night offers a great way to help Northwood and have fun at home too. Order pizza from Domino's the last Thursday of the month that school is in session (see "Important Dates to Remember"), and use the time you save in the kitchen to play a board game or catch up on some other fun activity! The day of the event, each Northwood student will bring home a flyer and a sticker as a reminder. **Remember to send this flyer in with the Domino's driver**—if you don't have the flyer, a simple note will do. Include: "Northwood Elementary," the day/date, your child/children's homeroom teacher/s (include all teachers' names—credit can be "split!"), your name, and the total dollar amount of the order. The classroom with the most participation will earn a free pizza party, and the teacher in that class will be given a School Box gift certificate. **One more note—the flyer can only be used to benefit Northwood the Thursday our fundraiser is scheduled.** Questions? Contact Karen Brown, Pizza Night Committee Chair.

Media Center Volunteers Welcome: Media Center volunteers are still needed for many days, and any amount of time you can offer is of value. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Donna Conn, Media Center Committee Chair.

PTA Membership Update: Thank you!!! We have reached 100% membership through individual and business memberships for the 2005-2006 school year. In fact, Northwood PTA earned GA PTA's Early Bird Certificate for having 175 members by 8/31/2005 and the Centennial Award for achieving 100% membership. We always continue to add new members throughout the school year, so if you have not already joined, it's not too late to become part of the Northwood PTA family! Check out www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Forms&Flyers for specific PTA membership benefits (and a PTA membership form). If you have any questions, please contact Ann Cox, Membership Committee Chair.

PTA Website Fun Fact: Considering a Northwood Committee Chair Role for 2006-2007?! Research the opportunities by visiting the Northwood PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Committees) and scrolling through the list. All Northwood PTA committees are cited on this list along with a description of committee activities. (There are even a few "wish list" committees the PTA would like to staff in the future listed here.) If you have more questions after you have read the description posted on the website—including whether the Chair position for the committee you are reading about is available for 2006-07—you can e-mail the VP over the committee by "double-clicking" on the committee name. The VP will either answer your question or forward it on to the Committee Chair herself. Questions? Contact Shelley Avant, Website Committee Chair.

Visit Northwood's School Store: The PTA-sponsored School Store is open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 7:15 to 7:40 a.m. in the cafeteria. Students can purchase basic school supply items such as pencils, erasers, markers, pens, and folders at competitive prices. And remember, we can deliver two sheets of poster board (75¢/each) to the art teachers' rooms for your child's portfolio as described in the memo sent home by Northwood's art instructors. This portfolio will protect your child's artwork so he/she can bring it home safely at the end of the school year. The School Store also sells Bruster's Ice Cream Coupon Books (\$10/each). Please send extra change with your child for all purchases, as we do not want students using lunch money. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Dean, School Store Committee Chair.

Teacher Appreciation Day! Northwood will honor our wonderful teachers and staff on **Thursday, March 30**. In the classroom, parents and students are encouraged to make this a special day for all of our Northwood family. Some ideas include having children make a simple homemade card or gift or bring in a single flower which when combined will make a beautiful and unique bouquet. Room Parents will contact you as the date approaches to coordinate a plan for your classroom. Please also remember to acknowledge the support staff and specials teachers as they also do so much for our children on a daily basis. Also to celebrate the day, the PTA will sponsor a catered lunch for all the staff to enjoy again this year. We will be contacting Room Parents soon to ask for volunteers to assist with the luncheon. If you are not a Room Parent but would like to help, please contact Beth Litter, Room Parents Committee Chair.

Northwood Reflections Winners Announced! Northwood Elementary concluded another successful year of its national PTA-sponsored Reflections Program with ten entries. Participants chose one of four entry categories—Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, and/or Musical Composition—and produced work within the “I Wonder Why . . .” program theme. We are proud of all our Northwood winners; they are listed below by entry category. (This year, all participants chose either the Literature or Visual Arts categories):

- **Literature:** Emily Dean, Allison Diamond (two entries), Emma Evers, Michael Morgan, and Avinash Parmar;
- **Visual Arts:** Abby Evers, Nick Hosseini, Zack Hosseini, and Willow Peterson.

Thanks again everyone. If you have any questions about this year’s Reflections Program, please contact Committee Chair, Carmen Evers. And, it is not too early to think about your entry for next year. The theme for the 2006-2007 Reflections program is, “My Favorite Place.” Remember, even 5th graders can continue to participate—Haynes Bridge Middle School has an active Reflections Program.

Ice Cream Anyone?! Northwood PTA is selling Bruster’s Ice Cream Coupon books for \$10/each. Each book contains ten “buy one cone or dish—single, double, or triple—and get a second FREE” coupons. They can be used at any Bruster’s Ice Cream store; buy some for yourself or for gifts. We will be hosting a Bruster’s Scoop Night on **April 17th**, so you will want to have some coupons in hand then. Coupon books are available for purchase from the School Store or at most PTA events. Questions? Contact Kathy Thomas, New Initiatives Committee Chair.

Yearbook Update: It’s almost time to purchase your 2005-2006 Northwood Yearbook! The Yearbook is a wonderful way to help your child remember his or her special school year at Northwood. Yearbooks will be going on sale in the spring for \$25. Many were pre-ordered as part of the “one-stop shopping” available on the PTA membership form, so check your records to see if you took advantage of that deal. If not, be ready to order your Yearbook when the flyer comes home. Yearbooks will be delivered in mid-May. Questions? Contact Amy Chandler or Allison Smith, Yearbook Committee Co-Chairs.

VIPS Update: We know Northwood has great volunteer support, and our first semester figures prove this point! From August through December, Northwood volunteers logged 6,194 volunteer hours in 3,266 sessions. Of course, Northwood earns funding credit for these hours captured in the “Volunteers in Public Schools” system, and we know you all benefit as well as our students and Northwood staff. We are sure the volunteer effort will continue this year, so please help us continue to capture these hours. When you are in school, log on (*and—before you leave—off*) the computer in the front office. If you do anything for Northwood outside the school, just keep track of your hours and log them on a VIPS card in the file near the computer in the lobby. Those hours get added into the system by hand. Questions? Contact Dana Dowdy, VIPS Committee Chair.

Grocery Scan Card Program Reminder: We all visit grocery stores each week. When shopping at Publix, please use your Publix Commitment Card. Wallet and key ring-size cards are available by the volunteer sign-in computer in the front office of the school. Remember, Kroger’s program has changed this year. You don’t need to use a separate commitment card; you need to have the Northwood barcode scanned against your Kroger*Plus* card. Then Northwood will get credit every time you present this card. This Northwood barcode is printed on a flyer available by the volunteer computer or you can access it on the Northwood PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Forms&Flyers). Remember, not only you, but family, friends, and neighbors can participate if you supply Northwood materials to them. Thanks for helping us leverage these programs to Northwood’s benefit!

Big G Box Tops News:Northwood has a chance to claim some Bonus Box Tops Treasure! Box Tops for Education is giving away **1 million Box Tops**, divided equally, to every new Box Tops Booster Club member who signs up by **February 15th, 2006**. The more Northwood parents who sign up, the more treasure Northwood will receive! It’s easy and free. Please go to www.boxtops4education.com/treasure today and sign up for the Box Tops Booster Club. You’ll receive a newsletter with coupons for General Mills products, and Northwood will claim part of the treasure! There isn’t much time, won’t you help us by signing up today? Also, please continue to clip and save Box Tops from General Mills products. See www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Big_G_Box_Tops for details. The next Box Tops collection date is **February 15th**. Questions? Contact Kim Tolleson, Big G Box Tops Chair.

Important Dates to Remember



February

- Wed, 1—Spirit Day
- Fri, 3—Lunch & Learn, 12:00-1:30 pm, Counselors’ Suite
- Fri, 10—Lunch & Learn, 12:00-1:30 pm, Counselors’ Suite
- Fri, 17—No School, Winter Holiday
- Mon, 20—No School, President’s Day
- Thurs, 23—Domino’s Pizza Night (Don’t forget to fill out your form)
- Fri, 24—Team Meetings, 8 am, Cafeteria and Gym; Lunch & Learn, 12:00-1:30 pm, Counselors’ Suite
- Mon, 27—PTA General Meeting and Kindergarten Musical, 6:45 & 7:00 pm, Cafeteria

March

- Wed, 1—Spirit Day
- Fri, 3—Bingo, 6:30-8:30 pm, Cafeteria
- Fri, 10—No School, Teacher Work Day
- Thurs, 16—Spring Portrait Day
- Fri, 24—Music Night, 4th & 5th grades, 6:30-8:45 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs, 30—Teacher Appreciation Day
- Thurs, 30—Domino’s Pizza Night (Don’t forget to fill out your form)

Northwood 2005-2006 PTA Board and Committee Chairs

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Katie Mazzuckelli 770/664-6307

◆ 5th Grade Graduation

Cathy Rowe 770/992-9237

◆ Walk-A-Thon

Sherrie Board 678/366-2254

SECRETARY

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Angela Blackwell 770/667-0926

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◆ Newsletter

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◆ Room Parents

Beth Litterer 770/343-6227

◆ Spirit Wear

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Bari Calais 770/641-9383
Joyce Hosseini 770/640-1887

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Cathy Riley 770/667-3287
Michelle Thompson 770/772-0141

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Liz Barton 770/751-6885

◆ Pizza Night

Karen Brown 770/410-9004

◆ Publicity

Wendy Jackson 770/569-9215

◆ Reflections

Carmen Evers 770/667-1131

◆ School Store

Kim Dean 770/664-7673

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◆ Carnival

Lisa Anderson 770/552-8055
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◆ Field Day

Jenny Storey 770/232-9004

◆ Hearing and Vision

Cathy Dougherty 770/664-5635

◆ Hospitality

Marty Young 770/410-1336

◆ Movie Night

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Darina Yankey 770/643-9475

◆ New Initiatives

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◆ Spanish Liaison

Ana Hawk 770/558-6665

◆ Staff Recognition

Catherine Ingersoll 770/640-0108

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Katie Mazzuckelli 770/664-6307
Tara Osborne 770/751-7005

◆ Caring and Sharing

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Christy Pincheon 770/754-9796

◆ Media Center

Donna Conn 770/410-0203

◆ Music Night

Cathy Rowe 770/992-9237

◆ Original Art

Holly Lynn Pierce 678/566-0787
Chrissy Scartz 770/343-9567

◆ VIPS

Dana Dowdy 770/310-6103

**National
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everychild. one voice.

Thank You

We would like to extend our thanks to the retailers listed below who have made contributions to our school through Northwood's PTA since the last PTA newsletter was published:

The Cooler
10800 Davis Drive

Domino's Pizza
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Kroger
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Michaels Arts & Crafts
7491 North Point Parkway

Publix
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Publix
1425 Market Boulevard

StarTime Entertainment
608 Holcomb Bridge Road

Wal-Mart SuperCenter
970 Mansell Road

Again, we thank these retailers for their support of Northwood Elementary School. And, we encourage Northwood families to support these businesses that have so generously shown their support for their community through their contributions to our school.

How Can Shopping Benefit Northwood?

Visit the Northwood PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Sponsors) to learn how money you already spend at retailers like Office Depot, Pike's Nursery, Staples, and Target can benefit Northwood! As always, if you know of any other retailers who offer arrangements such as these, please let us know. We would be happy to research them and add them to our list.

PTA Explorer

A Publication of the Northwood PTA

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