

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 2007-2008 school year. At the last General PTA meetings held on January 29th and 30th the Nominating Committee was elected. This ad hoc committee is composed of three members and one alternate; they will be charged with assembling a slate of officers for the 2007-2008 PTA Board. If you have any interest in serving on the Board next year, please contact one of these Nominating Committee Board members, they are posted on the PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com). 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 2007-2008, 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 3** 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!

Lisa Anderson

Counselor's Corner

Nearly all large trees have enormously deep root systems which sustain them and firmly hold them in place. All that is, except the redwood. Oddly enough, the redwood is one of the tallest and longest-lived trees in the world. Seemingly, if any trees need a long, deep, and extensive root system, it must be these giant trees. And yet their roots are shallow.

How can that be? Why don't they fall over in the high winds and rough weather in the places where they grow? How can they live so long like that?

The answer is redwoods never grow alone. They always grow in clusters, and their roots are tangled together in an enormous system. So while the individual redwood's roots are shallow, together they are far more extensive than any single tree and can thus sustain storms that would topple trees that grow alone.

None of us exists alone, no matter how strong physically or economically. Our success as a school and a community is present because each of us at Northwood Elementary sustains and borrows the strength of another and shares the knowledge and kindness each of us possesses.

By David L. James

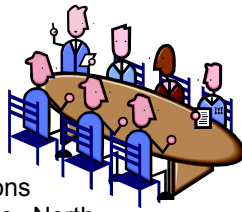
Reflections Winners!

We had a wonderful turnout for this years Reflections Program with a total of 56 entries. The students used their artistic abilities to produce a piece of work that reflected this years theme, "My Favorite Place." Of the 56 entries, 26 were forwarded to the County level. The students that continued to the county level are as follows: Carson Greene, Nicholas Arshun, Julia Leftwich, Mackenzie Connick, Madison Peterson, Emma Pincheon, Skylar Kalb, Jessica Bonin, Nicholas Lazar, Elena Bramel, Emma Voss, Georgia Harper, Jenna Raymond, Allison Diamond, Leah Andrews, Sara Blackwell, Claire Anne Dean, Alexis Andrews, Robin Lehmann, Emily Dean, Rachel Carkuff, Michael Morgan, Avery Albright, Willow Peterson and Hilary Boyd.

We are so proud of all the students that participated in this program and encourage all students to participate in the future. Next years theme will be "I can make a Difference..." This gives the students the opportunity to create something this summer or at least get a head start by thinking about it.



Your Northwood PTA at Work For You!



Big G Box Tops News: Thank you for participating in the Box Tops for Education program by clipping Box Tops coupons from your favorite General Mills products. Northwood has earned over \$700 so far this school year. Please send your Box Tops to school or drop them in the pink collection bin in front of the Media Center (in a baggie or envelope with your child's teacher indicated). The next collection date for box tops is Friday, February 23rd.

You can also earn cash for our school by shopping online at the Box Tops Marketplace at www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace. You can shop at over 200 stores (including Target, Best Buy, Dell, and Lands' End) and our school earns up to 8% of every qualifying purchase—all at no additional cost to you!

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Tolleson, Big G Box Tops Committee Chair.

Caring & Sharing Holiday Drive Updates: A big "thank you" to all of those who helped raise money for the Counselor's Fund in November. This year we raised nearly \$400 to help Northwood families in need! Amazing how little bits from lots of folks touches lives! This December we focused our giving efforts in a new direction and collected wonderful goodies for a group of senior citizens. Our huge Christmas tree was beautifully decorated with candy, socks, slippers, lotions, soap, and even some hand-knitted scarves! Then a group of Northwood students completed the giving circle by presenting the senior with the collected goods, serving them dinner, providing musical entertainment and sharing much needed hugs and smiles. Once again, your support and generosity will help make a difference to many people this winter. Thank you, thank you! We are so fortunate to have such caring families in our school community.

Bingo Night is Around the Corner: Northwood's Annual Bingo Night will be held on **March 2nd 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. If any of you or your company have items you can donate for prizes for the raffle, please let us know. 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 Allison Nolen at 770-645-0978 or Jan Kalb at 770-667-1314, Bingo Committee Co-Chairs.

Yearbook Update: It's almost time to purchase your 2006-2007 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 Jennifer Pugh, Yearbook Committee Co-Chairs.

PTA Membership Update: It's not too late to become part of the Northwood PTA family! Receive a student directory with the Explorer or Star Memberships. Added PTA membership benefits through Georgia PTA include: discounts at: The Alliance Theatre, The Atlanta History Center; Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta Thrasher, and some Phillips Arena events, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Honey Baked Ham stores, Fernbank Museum, and the newest benefit provider – Party City!

Added PTA membership benefits through National PTA include: online parenting resources, discount from Liberty Mutual, discounts at Barnesandnoble.com, and discounts at S & S Worldwide (catalog and online products for education, crafts, recreation and therapy).

Check out www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Forms&Flyers for specific PTA membership benefits (and a PTA membership form). If you have any questions, please contact Lyn Shealy, Membership Committee Chair.

Time to Dance! MUSIC NIGHT: LET'S DANCE.... AGAIN! All 4th and 5th graders, circle **Friday, March 23rd (6:30-8:45 p.m.)** on your calendars for this year's second Music Night. Join us in the cafeteria for another night of dancing, contests, pizza dinner, snacks and games led by Matt the DJ and joined by surprise guests to teach you new dances! Wear your purple, green and gold t-shirts for casual, Mardi Gras-themed fun! Parents, be assured, this is not a dance... middle school will come soon enough! Instead, it is a special night of age-appropriate activities geared toward Northwood's older students. If you have any questions or are able to volunteer, contact Jenny Bramel, Music Night chair @ (770) 365-4213.

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. 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.

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.

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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING VOTE! On March 20, 2007, Fulton citizens will vote on whether to continue the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for an additional five years. SPLOST is a one-cent tax on every dollar spent in Fulton County. The money is used by the school system to fund new schools, provide technology upgrades, purchase equipment and buses, and provide property tax relief. Fulton first approved SPLOST in 1997, with a renewal approved in 2002. Since it began 10 years ago, the penny tax has funded 29 new schools in Fulton County and 18 school additions.

SPLOST III, if approved, would fund 14 new schools and classroom additions at 11 schools. All existing buildings would receive infrastructure improvements, renovations or modifications.

In the coming weeks you will hear much more about SPLOST, including specific improvements proposed for our school. Please pay attention to this information so you can make an informed decision on March 20.

Please visit www.fultonschools.org website for more information – click on the *Pennies for Progress* button.



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 16th**, 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 Kitzmiller, New Initiatives Committee Chair.

VIPS Update: We know Northwood has great volunteer support, and our first semester figures prove this point! From August through December, Northwood volunteers logged 3626 volunteer hours in 1996 sessions. Of course, Northwood Elementary 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 Jamie John, 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!



Teacher Appreciation Day: Northwood Elementary will honor our wonderful teachers and staff on **Thursday, March 29th**.

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 Kit Connick, Room Parent Committee Chair.

PTA Website Fun Fact: Considering a Northwood Committee Chair role for 2007-2008?! 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 2007-2008—you can e-mail the Vice President over the committee by "double-clicking" on the committee name. The Vice President will either answer your question or forward it on to the Committee Chair herself. Questions? Contact Shelley Avant, Website Committee Chair.

Important Dates to Remember



February

- Thurs, 1—Spirit Day
- Mon, 19—No School, President's Day
- Thurs, 22—Domino's Pizza Night
- Fri, 23—Red and Blue Team Meetings (8:00am)

March

- Thurs, 1—Spirit Day
- Fri, 2—Bingo, 6:30-8:30 pm, Cafeteria
- Mon, 12—No School, Teacher Work Day
- Thurs, 15—Spring Pictures
- Tues, 20—Fifth grade visits Haynes Bridge Middle School
- Wed, 21—Fifth grade visits Haynes Bridge Middle School
- Fri, 23—Music Night, 4th & 5th grades, 6:30-8:45 pm, Cafeteria
- Wed, 28—Art Show at Country Club of Roswell, 6:00-8:30 pm
- Thurs, 29—Teacher Appreciation Day; Domino's Pizza Night

See www.NorthwoodPTA.com, for a full calendar!

Northwood PTA Board and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT

Lisa Anderson 770/552-8055

◆ 5th Grade Graduation

Grace Pate 770/587-2870

◆ Carnival

Lisa Anderson 770/552-8055
Angela Blackwell 770/667-0926

◆ Newsletter/Website

Shelley Avant 770/619-9097

◆ Walk-A-Thon

Sherrie Board 678/366-2254

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Joyce Hosseini 770/640-1887

◆ Bingo Night

Jan Kalb 770/667-1314
Allison Nolen 770/645-0978

◆ Business Partner Liaison

Amy Poteet 880/642-6328

◆ Gift Wrap

Grace Pate 770/587-2870
Cathy Riley 770/667-3287
Annie Wehr 770/667-3433

◆ Media Center

Donna Conn 770/410-0203

◆ Reflections

Tia Peterson 678/352-8023

◆ School Store

Kim Dean 770/664-7673

◆ Yearbook

Amy Chandler 678/352-1453
Jennifer Pugh 770/667-0956

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Thomas 770/777-1914

◆ Directory

Margaret Cash 678/319-0021

◆ Membership

Lyn Shealy 770/649-7503

◆ Hearing and Vision

Cathy Dougherty 770/664-5635

◆ Music Night

Jenny Bramel 770/992-9237

◆ New Initiatives

Kathy Kitzmiller 770/343-6465

◆ Spirit Wear

Sandy Lashley 770-587-9444

◆ Staff Recognition

Semmes Calvert 770/992-8067

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Tara Osborne 770/751-7005

◆ Book Fair

Beth Litterer 770/343-6227
Tara Osborne 770/751-7005

◆ Caring and Sharing

Becky Erickson 770/609-2635

◆ Original Art

Chrissy Scartz 770/343-9567

◆ Hospitality

Andrea Bourgeois 770/772-4981
Christy Pincheon 770/754-9796

◆ Spanish Liaison

Ana Hawk 770/558-6665

◆ Room Parents

Kit Connick 678/297-6772

◆ VIPS

Jamie John 770/998-3321

FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

Stephanie Duffy 678/339-0033

◆ Accelerated Reader

Mary Beth Bierbaum 770/442-5306
Susan Harper 770/754-0239

◆ Big G Box Tops

Kim Tolleson 678/566-1562

◆ Field Day

Jenny Storey 770/232-9004

◆ Hands on Atlanta

Jud Shumway 770/992-6013

◆ Movie Night

Kathleen DeBuys 770/619-3388
Darina Yankey 770/643-9475

◆ Pizza Night

Karen Brown 770/410-9004

SECRETARY

Susan Harper 770/754-0239

TREASURER

Angela Blackwell 770/667-0926

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Sandy Andrews 770/410-0513



everychild.one voice.



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, Roswell

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, Target and Staples, 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

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www.NorthwoodElementary.com

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Principal—Sheila Michael

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