

THE NORTHWOOD PTA EXPLORER

February 2005

News for Northwood Elementary Families

Volume 9, Issue 03

President's Letter

Have you ever thought about running for the Board? How about chairing a committee?! Well now is your chance. Though the next school year seems far away, we are currently beginning to lay the groundwork for the 2005-2006 Northwood Elementary School PTA Board and Committee Chair structure.

Electing the PTA Board

As announced at the last General PTA meetings in November, a Nominating Committee (three people and an alternate) will be formally elected at the February 7th General PTA meeting. (This meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m., immediately before the Kindergarten Musical.) The Nominating Committee is an ad hoc committee that will meet for just a couple of months this spring and is charged with putting together a slate of officers for the 2005-2006 Board. The Nominating Committee will present this slate (one person for each of the positions on the Northwood PTA Board) to the general membership at the May 2nd meeting. Once the general membership votes on this slate, the new officers will also be installed; then, the Nominating Committee will be disbanded.

Establishing PTA Committee Chairs

As you know, the Northwood PTA utilizes a committee structure. Besides recruiting Board members, it is vital that strong Committee Chairs are in place to run Northwood PTA's committees. Currently, there are 30 committees, and we are considering adding a couple of new ones next fall. (These committees are run by over 40 Chairs as some committees have co-Chairs.) Current PTA Board members are actively securing committee Chairs for the next school year. Sometimes a current Chair graciously agrees to serve another year; but when a committee is vacated, we start looking for new volunteers. All committees are described in detail on Northwood PTA's new website (read the exciting details about this website in: "Announcing: www.NorthwoodPTA.com"!). Besides reading about committees on the website, you can talk to a current Chair, someone else you know is active in that committee's activities, or to any Board member to learn more.

Hopefully I've sparked your interest. If so, please talk to a current Board member, a member of the Nominating Committee (when elected, the names of these committee members will be posted on the website), or a current Committee Chair. We'll help you find the right match for the time/talents you have to offer!

Katie Mazzuckelli

Announcing: www.NorthwoodPTA.com

For several years, Northwood PTA had a section of Northwood Elementary's website. Now it has a home of its own: www.NorthwoodPTA.com.

This new website is a great resource for everyone associated with Northwood. Included on the site are: a PTA calendar of events, Board and Committee Chair listings and contact information, membership and other forms, volunteer opportunities including a special section for Room Parents, committee descriptions (see the "President's Letter" for why this information is especially important now!), information about business partnerships and sponsors, and links to state and National PTA websites for legislative and other useful information. Of course, PTA newsletters will be posted here as well, and fliers associated with PTA activities will be accessible for quick reference should "your copy" get lost. There is a wealth of information already available on this new website, and we have plans for the site to grow. We hope you will take the time to visit—if you do visit and have feedback for us, please let us know!

Many people contributed content to this site, but we would like to offer two special "thank yous." The first goes to NTi Computers, a Northwood Business Partner that is hosting this site for us. Second, we couldn't have launched this independent site without Board member Shelley Avant's help—she was instrumental in making this website a reality and continues to maintain it now. As you begin to use and come to rely on this new resource, we're sure you will join us in thanking NTi Computers and Shelley!

Get Ready for the 2nd Annual Northwood Family Walk-a-Thon!

Put on your sneakers and mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Northwood Family Walk-A-Thon to be held on Monday, March 28th from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at the Country Club of Roswell. The Northwood PTA in partnership with the Northwood Foundation is sponsoring this fun-filled family event designed to raise money for various school enhancements including a new state-of-the-art Technology Lab. The Country Club of Roswell has again generously allowed us access to their cart paths and use of their facilities to ensure a safe and successful event. Watch for more details coming in February! If you have any questions or would like to help with this activity, please contact Sherrie Board, Walk-a-Thon Committee Chair.



Your Northwood PTA at Work For You!

Bingo Night is Around the Corner: Be sure to circle Friday, March 4, on your calendar and get ready to play Bingo! This annual event will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Northwood Cafeteria. It is always a great family event, and it fills up fast. The admission price includes dinner.



Every child wins, and the prizes are bigger and better than ever. You can also purchase raffle tickets to try your chance at adult prizes like a night's stay at a local hotel or a gift certificate to a local restaurant. Look for the flier soon—details about dinner and raffle prizes as well as the reply form will be included there. If you have any questions, please call Bari Calais or Joyce Hosseini, Bingo Co-Chairs.

Celebrating the Success of Book Fair and Original Art:

Thanks to you, Northwood's two November fundraisers were very successful! Book Fair raised almost \$6,000 for the Media Center (about \$2,000 of this was taken directly in books). And, about \$3,000 was raised for the Art Department through the Original Art program. We hope you are enjoying your books and your new art-embellished products, and thank you again for your support of these fundraisers!

Caring and Sharing Committee Update: Caring and Sharing, the committee dedicated to reaching out to those less fortunate in our community, wants to thank the families of Northwood for their generosity during our two major drives late last year:

- The Counselor's Change Drive was a great success and greatly exceeded expectations. Our wonderful Counselors, Betsy Allen and Tracey Roberts, are thrilled to be able share your generous donations with our Northwood families in need.
- The response to the Sock, Mitten, Hat and Glove Drive was also overwhelming! Our tree as well as all four large boxes underneath the tree were completely filled!

Thanks for once again showing what a generous family we are at Northwood. Look for one more charitable drive to wrap up our school year this spring. If you have any questions or would like to help with future drives, please contact Andrea Bourgeois or Christy Pincheon, Caring and Sharing Committee Co-Chairs.

Visit the School Store: The PTA-sponsored School Store is open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the cafeteria. Kids and teachers love new school supplies! We have a fun assortment of mechanical and Pop-A-Point pencils, highlighters, folders, markers, crayons, and glue at reasonable prices. These are great for goody bags and treasure box rewards too! All profits earned support PTA activities. Questions? Call Kim Dean, School Store Chair.

Coming Soon: Music Night: 4th and 5th graders—celebrate Valentine's Day by attending Music Night! Look for a flier soon, but circle the date on your calendar now: Friday, February 11, from 6:30-8:45 p.m. That night, Northwood students (no outside guests please!) will enjoy music, games, and more fun led by one of Atlanta's top DJs. Questions? Contact Music Night Chair, Cathy Rowe.



Did You Know . . . ?! The computer system Northwood utilizes to capture volunteer hours also provides some interesting data: **from August through November, almost 700 different volunteers logged over 6,500 volunteer hours for Northwood Elementary!** Of course, this amazing outpouring of volunteer support benefits everyone—the students, staff, and the volunteers themselves. Plus, Northwood earns funding credit for these hours!

Please continue to record your volunteer hours. If you do anything for Northwood outside the school, just keep track of your hours and log them on a VIPS card in the card file near the computer in the lobby—those hours get added into the system by hand. But when you are in school, be sure to log on (and—before you leave—off!) the computer. Let's continue to watch Northwood's hours grow!

Big G Box Tops Reminder: Are you still clipping Box Tops?! Northwood PTA was able to collect over \$1,000 through this General Mills program last year, and we're hoping to exceed that figure this year. All you have to do is clip off the "Big G" label from any General Mills product and have your student bring these Box Tops into school. It's that easy! We will continue to collect Box Tops at the end of each month; the last collection for this school year will be February 28th. (*Then we'll re-start the program in the fall, so be sure to continue saving box tops through the rest of the spring and summer!*) Remember—the class that collects the most Box Tops each month earns a cookie party! If you have any questions, please contact the Big G Box Tops Chair, Cathy Kleiber.

Landscaping Update: Northwood PTA has made a significant investment in landscaping this year, and we hope you notice it is beginning to pay off! First, our thanks to everyone who helped with Hands-on-Atlanta Day last October. It was a huge success in jump-starting several outdoor projects for Northwood. We have continued the work we started that day—by ourselves, through our contracted arrangement with Business Partner, Ed Castro Landscape, and with the minimal help we still receive from Fulton County. On any given day, you might see folks from Ed Castro, Fulton County, or even me working outside!

We have a number of additional landscaping projects outlined for this spring. If your service organization would like to tackle one of these, we would be happy to direct you! Please contact Liz Barton, Landscaping Committee Chair.

Reflections Winners Announced "A Different Kind of Hero"

We are very proud of all who entered Reflections program this year. Sponsored by the national PTA, this year's program theme was, "A Different Kind of Hero."

Winners for Northwood Elementary were honored at a breakfast in December when their entries were displayed. By category, these winners are:

- **Literature:** Clair Owens, Alec Mazzuckelli, Robert Batson, Reedan Kniss, Gina Karseboom, and Julia Kleiber;
- **Visual Arts:** Anna Mazzuckelli, Willow Peterson, Angela Munoz, Ashley Struletz, and Isabella Phan;
- **Photography:** Rachel Lybrook, Jake Young, Madison Kniss, Katie Williams, and Ryan Kelly;
- **Music:** Emma Evers, Abby Evers, and Katie Williams.

In January, we learned that two of Northwood's entries will advance to the state level of competition. Please congratulate Katie Williams for her musical composition and Ryan Kelley for his photography entry!

Everyone did a wonderful job! Remember, it is not too early to think about your entry for next year. The theme for the 2005-2006 Reflections program is, "I Wonder Why." If you have any questions about Reflections, please contact Committee Chair, Carmen Evers.

Thank You!!!

We have reached our 100% membership goal through individual and business memberships for the 2004-2005 school year!!!

We always continue to add new members throughout the school year even though we've met this milestone, so if you have not already joined, it is not too late to become part of the Northwood PTA family.

Of course, Northwood benefits from your support of the PTA, but did you know that PTA members also enjoy benefits? Northwood PTA members receive a student directory (at certain levels of membership—see the membership form); and they receive the best deal on the 2004-2005 yearbook taking advantage of "one-stop-shopping" available on the membership form. Plus there are additional benefits available through Georgia and National PTA. One new Georgia PTA benefit is really exciting—discounted admissions to the Fernbank Museum!

Visit the new PTA website to review all the benefits your membership affords. Go to: www.NorthwoodPTA.com and click on the "Join PTA" link. If you have any questions, contact Ann Cox, Membership Chair.

Important Dates to Remember



February, 2005

- Tues, 1—Spirit Day
- Thurs, 3—Skate Day at The Cooler, 3:30-5:15 pm
- Mon, 7—PTA Meeting and Kindergarten Musical, 6:45 pm and 7 pm
- Fri, 11—Music Night, 6:30-8:45 pm, Cafeteria, 4th & 5th grades
- Fri, 18—Team Meetings, 8 am, Cafeteria and Gym
- Mon, 21—No School, President's Day
- Thurs, 24—Domino's Pizza Night

March, 2005

- Tues, 1—Spirit Day
- Thurs, 3—Skate Day at The Cooler, 3:30-5:15 pm
- Fri, 4—Bingo, 6:30-8:45 pm, Cafeteria, all grades
- Fri, 11—No School, Teacher Work Day
- Wed, 16—Spring Portraits Day
- Thurs, 24—Teacher Appreciation Day
- Fri, 25—Good Choices Day Meeting, 8 am
- Mon, 28—2nd Annual Northwood Foundation Walk-a-Thon, Country Club of Roswell, 4:00-7:00 pm
- Thurs, 31—Domino's Pizza Night

Shopping Benefits Northwood!

The businesses that offer money and other benefits back to Northwood are listed on the Northwood PTA website: www.NorthwoodPTA.com/sponsors.html Please visit to learn how money you already spend at Office Depot, Pike's Nursery, Target, Staples, and ShapeXpress can benefit Northwood!

And 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.

WINTER

2004-2005 Northwood PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs

President

Katie Mazzuckelli 770/664-6307

First Vice President

Beth Litterer 770/343-6227

◆ Room Parents

Beth Litterer 770/343-6227

◆ Hearing and Vision

Cathy Dougherty 770/664-5635

◆ Spirit Wear

Debbie Lommen 770/754-9202

◆ Music Night

Cathy Rowe 770/992-9237

◆ Contributions

Bari Calais 770/641-9383

Joyce Hosseini 770/640-1887

◆ Caring and Sharing

Andrea Bourgeois 770/772-4981

Christy Pincheon 770/754-9796

◆ Carnival

Lisa Anderson 770/552-8055

Second Vice President

Cathy Riley 770/667-3287

◆ Original Art

Diane Nelson 770/569-0989

Tara Osborne 770/751-7005

◆ VIPS

Dana Dowdy 770/642-0117

◆ School Store

Kim Dean 770/664-7673

◆ Gift Wrap

Cathy Riley 770/667-3287

Michelle Thompson 770/772-0141

Grace Pate 770/587-2870

◆ Publicity

Wendy Jackson 770/569-9215

◆ Reflections

Carmen Evers 770/667-1131

◆ Big G Box Tops

Cathy Kleiber 770/998-0301

Third Vice President

Catherine Ingersoll 770/640-0108

◆ Bingo Night

Bari Calais 770/641-9383

Joyce Hosseini 770/640-1887

◆ Staff Recognition

Kim Boyd 770/552-8437

◆ Media Center

Donna Conn 770/410-0203

◆ Landscaping

Liz Barton 770/751-6885

◆ Hospitality

Marty Young 770/410-1336

◆ Accelerated Reader

Sandy Williams 770/664-0667

Mary Beth Bierbaum 770/442-5306

◆ Field Day

Carl Washburn 770/552-9891

Jenny Storey 770/998-4641

Fourth Vice President

Shelley Avant 770/619-9097

◆ Movie Night

Delonica Brennan 770/641-7418

Betty Dobroski 770/649-8006

◆ Membership

Ann Cox 770/475-5981

◆ Directory

Margaret Cash 678/319-0021

◆ Big Creek Park

Margaret Cash 678/319-0021

◆ Book Fair

Katie Mazzuckelli 770/664-6307

Mary Kay Flett 770/664-8459

◆ Yearbook

Laurie Ferry 770/667-4910

Allison Smith 770/667-0884

◆ Newsletter

Shelley Avant 770/619-9097

Secretary

Ann Cox 770/475-5981

Treasurer

Cathy Rowe 770/992-9237

Parliamentarian

Joyce Hosseini 770/640-1887

Thanks!

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

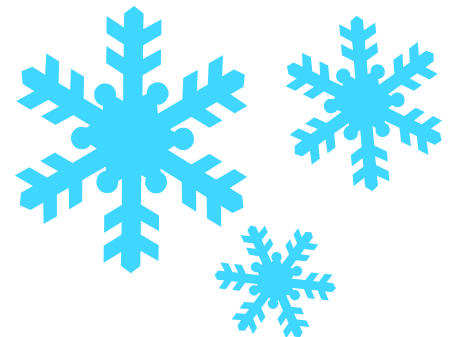
Publix
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Sam's Club
10600 Davis Drive

Target
6000 North Point Parkway

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.



PTA Explorer

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