

President's Letter

Support comes in many forms, and we appreciate any/all of it! But, I would like to dedicate this space to offering thanks for one particular form of support—financial.

Let me start by offering a round of applause to the Northwood community for working so hard with us on our annual gift wrap fundraiser! With your help, we have almost reached our ambitious goal of \$23,000 profit. We are currently about \$1,000 away from meeting this goal, and we might still hit it since Internet orders can be placed through December 1st! (Information on placing Southern School Services orders via the Internet appears below.)

Reaching our gift wrap fundraising goal is a tremendous achievement in any year, and this year we faced unusual challenges: hurricane relief fundraising efforts competed for funds and the economy was tight because of the effects of these storms and other factors. Thank you all for remembering Northwood despite these things. (And a special “thank you” to our Gift Wrap Committee Co-Chairs—Grace Pate, Cathy Riley, and Michelle Thompson—who guided us smoothly through this “gift wrap season!”) As I mentioned when we reviewed this year’s budget together, this fundraiser is the cornerstone of the Northwood PTA budget. Meeting our target ensures that the PTA will be able to fund the many activities and events that the PTA, departments, and teachers have planned for this year.

Since the gift wrap fundraiser was successful, the PTA budget is fairly secure. Of course, we will monitor each of the other, smaller, fundraisers—like Domino’s Pizza Night, Music and Movie Nights, Carnival, Bingo, etc.—to be sure each achieves its budgeted profit goal. Since each is guided by wonderful Committee Chairs, and supported by the Northwood Community, we are sure each of these will be as successful as our fall fundraiser.

Two current fundraisers deserve separate mention—Book Fair and Original Art. Though they are guided by the PTA and supported by the same community that supports gift wrap and all the other PTA activities/events—the monies raised from these fundraisers are earmarked for distinct entities. Money raised at the Book Fair goes directly to the Media Center—it does not even flow through the PTA books. Money raised through the Original Art fundraiser flows directly to the Art Department. We hope you will be able to support these two fundraisers—and thereby the Media Center and Art Department—as enthusiastically as you supported the gift wrap fundraiser. Luckily, both offer the opportunity to purchase some wonderful holiday gifts, so you can work through your holiday shopping lists while supporting Northwood.

Please remember our November *General PTA meeting*—it will be held twice, *November 7th and 8th*, at 6:45 p.m., preceding “Math Mania”—Northwood’s evening academic event for Kindergarteners-5th graders and their families. The Book Fair will be open that evening, and you can view Original Art products in the display case outside the cafeteria if you are still trying to decide what to order!!

Thanks again for all the financial support you offer Northwood. Our next newsletter will be in late January, so have a wonderful holiday season!!!

Katie Mazzuckelli

p.s. Northwood still gets credit for gift wrap orders placed via the Internet through *December 1st*. If you need some more gift wrap, magazines, chocolate, cookie mix, or gift products, visit the Southern School Services website: (www.ezfundraising.com) and register your child using the “User ID: 4965” and “Password: 843293.” Write down the unique user ID and password that will then be generated. Then you will be ready to shop for yourself or send e-mails to family and friends to let them know how to place orders that will be credited to Northwood.

Enter the Book Fair Kingdom!

Wear your crown to enter the magical world of castles, knights, and dragons when Northwood hosts its annual **Scholastic Book Fair, November 4th-14th**. The schedule will be as follows:

PREVIEW DAYS: Friday, November 4th and Monday, November 7th—each class will come to preview books and write “Wish Lists,” but there will be no buying these days.

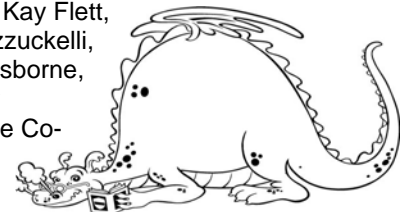
CLASS BUYING DAYS: Wednesday and Thursday, November 9th and 10th—these days, each class will return to the Book Fair at a scheduled time to shop. (During these days plus November 8th, 11th, & 14th the Book Fair will open before school at 7:30 a.m. and remain open after school until 3:30 p.m. Children are welcome to join a parent who is shopping before or after school, but children will not be allowed to shop by themselves during these periods.)

Monday and Tuesday Evenings, November 7th and 8th—the Book Fair will also be open during Math Mania: Northwood’s evening academic event for Kindergarteners through 5th graders and their families. While Math Mania activities will run from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (preceded by a general PTA meeting at 6:45 p.m.), the Book Fair will be open from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Parents who cannot attend either evening event or join their child’s class during its scheduled time may shop any weekday from November 8th-14th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Outside their scheduled class buying time, however, children must be accompanied by a parent for shopping.

Profits from this event directly benefit Northwood’s Media Center. You can get holiday shopping done and help the Media Center at the same time!

Many volunteers are needed to make the Book Fair run smoothly. If you can help and haven’t been contacted already, please contact Mary Kay Flett, Katie Mazzuckelli, or Tara Osborne, Book Fair Committee Co-Chairs.



Your Northwood PTA at Work For You!

Caring and Sharing: Thanks to everyone who participated in our October can drive! Northwood is such a generous community, and North Fulton Charities was most grateful for your donations. In November and December, the Caring and Sharing Committee will guide two more annual activities dedicated to helping those less fortunate:

- **The Counselor's Fund**—from *November 14-18*, students can bring in spare change for our Counselors to disburse to Northwood families in need.
- **Sock Tree**—from *November 28-December 16*, students can bring in socks, mittens, and gloves to decorate Northwood's sock tree. These items will be donated to North Fulton Charities before the holidays.

Both these activities offer wonderful opportunities to teach students about helping others, and we know the Northwood community will embrace these charitable efforts as wholeheartedly as they have in the past. Look for more details to come home with your child in November and December. Would you like to help? Contact Andrea Bourgeois or Christy Pincheon, Caring and Sharing Committee Co-Chairs.

PTA Membership . . . We're Almost to 100%! If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it's not too late. Please help us reach our goal of 100% membership and receive a directory with certain levels of membership. Forms are available at the front desk in the office or on the PTA website. Remember, the best deal on this year's year-book is available on the membership form. Additional benefits afforded by your membership are also listed on the website. We're almost there—let's reach 100% **again** this year! Questions? Contact Ann Cox, Membership Committee Chair.

Spirit Wear: Final Orders Due November 8th! Spirit Wear ordered early this school year was delivered in October so you might be seeing some fun new sweatshirts, caps, etc. around Northwood. If you didn't place an order early in the year, it's not too late! This year besides t-shirts and shorts, you can also order hooded pull-over sweatshirts, zip-up sweat jackets, baseball caps, and water bottles. All sport the "Celebrating 10 Years!" or "Est. 1996" logo in celebration of Northwood's tenth anniversary. Order forms went home in October (copies are available on the PTA website: www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Forms&Flyers), and final orders for the year are due on *November 8th*. This is a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping for your Northwood student! Questions? Contact Barbara Drexler, Spirit Wear Committee Chair.

Hearing and Vision Testing Schedule: Northwood Elementary School, in conjunction with Fulton County, will conduct hearing and vision testing the week of *November 14th*. *1st graders will have their hearing tested, 3rd graders will have both their hearing and vision tested, and 5th graders will have their vision tested.* If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact Cathy Dougherty, Hearing & Vision Committee Chair.

No Time to Cook? Call Domino's on Pizza Night! Once a month, you can buy dinner from Domino's instead of cooking! Domino's Pizza Night is held on the last Thursday of every month that school is in session. The day of the event, each child will bring home a flyer and a sticker as a reminder. 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. Questions? Contact Karen Brown, Pizza Night Committee Chair.

Wanted: Media Center Volunteers! If you are looking for a way to get involved at Northwood, why not investigate the Media Center? It's a fun place to work, and you might well get to see your student bookworm in action! Volunteers are still needed for many days, and any amount of time you can offer is of value. If you are interested in volunteering in the Media Center, please contact Donna Conn, Media Center Committee Chair.

Big G Box Tops—Keep Clipping! Please remember to keep clipping Big G Box Tops! We just finished our first collection period. Ms. Rosebrough's class won the class pizza party—they submitted over 600 box tops! Ms. Armistead's class won a second-place cupcake party with just under 600 box tops. Two other classes will win parties in the spring, so be sure to keep clipping the Box Tops coupons from General Mills products and drop them in the collection bin in front of the Media Center (in a baggie or envelope with your child's teacher indicated). The next collection date will be Friday, *December 16th*. Also, visit the Northwood website to learn about other ways Northwood can earn money from this program. Questions? Contact Kim Tolleson, Big G Box Tops Chair.

Big Creek Park Update: The City of Roswell's Big Creek Park project continues to grow around Northwood Elementary! Earlier this year, the athletic fields above the new playground opened. And On October 29th, the City of Roswell held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Wetlands Demonstration Project. The main objective of this project is to "create a public park setting for demonstrating storm water quality improvement technologies." The site is located along Big Creek, and the project was funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is being conducted by the City of Roswell's Public Works and Environmental Department. You can read more about this project by visiting the City of Roswell's website (www.Roswellgov.com), going to "Publications," and pulling up the "fact sheet" for Big Creek Park.

Kroger and Publix Scan Card Reminder! Do you do your grocery shopping at Publix or Kroger? At Publix, do you use your scan card every time? At Kroger, have you scanned the Northwood barcode against your KrogerPlus card? Please visit the PTA website (www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Forms&Flyers) to read details about scanning your KrogerPlus card, and thanks for helping us leverage these programs to Northwood's benefit!

Save the Date for Movie Night: Save *Friday, January 20th (6:45-9:00 p.m.)* for the next Movie Night! This event is held in the cafeteria for Northwood's Kindergarten-3rd graders. The movie will be announced after the holidays—look for a flyer to come home in early January and sign up then! Questions? Contact Kathleen DeBays or Darina Yankey, Movie Night Co-Chairs.

Northwood Skate Day: Join us for Northwood Skate Day at The Cooler on *January 12th from 3:30-5:15 p.m.* You can either roller skate, ice skate, or do both for just \$6. There are fun games and raffles, and the class with the greatest attendance wins the gold skate. This is our last Skate Day of the year—plan to come! Questions? Contact Kathy Thomas, New Initiatives Committee Chair.

PTA-Sponsored School Store: Besides basic school supplies, the School Store now offers *poster board* which can be delivered to the art teachers' rooms to safely house your child's portfolio (75¢/each), and *Bruster's Coupon books* (\$10/each). The School Store is open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the cafeteria. Questions? Contact Kim Dean, School Store Committee Chair.

PTA Website Fun Fact: Did you know that the PTA website has a new calendar function you can search by month and day? And, did you know that flyers associated with activities scheduled on any given date can be accessed by simply “double clicking” on the activity you find listed there?! It’s true. For example, go to (www.NorthwoodPTA.com/Calendar) and click on “October.” On October 22nd, you will find the Carnival listed. Double click on “Carnival,” and you can read the Carnival flyer. This will give you the opportunity to fill out a form that may have been lost on its way home in your student’s backpack! Sometimes a “double click” will take you to other places on either the PTA or the Northwood Elementary website where you can read more information about an activity. In any case, you can always find out more information about an activity by searching the website calendar. Try it for yourself! Questions? Contact Shelley Avant, Website Committee Chair.

Bruster’s Ice Cream Coupon Books For Sale: Bruster’s Ice Cream Coupon books are available for purchase from the School Store while supplies last! Coupon books are \$10/each, and each book contains ten “buy one cone or dish—single, double, or triple—and get a second FREE” coupons. Buy some for your own family, and shop ahead for holiday gifts!

A Reminder About Logging Volunteer Hours: Did you know that Northwood Elementary earns funding credit for the hours we capture in the VIPS (“Volunteers in Public Schools”) system? It’s true! We know that volunteers spend countless hours doing work for Northwood—we just hope we are capturing that time. Will you help us? It’s simple . . . 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.

Counselor’s Corner

Family Traditions

At this time of year we begin a period of many secular and religious holidays. The holidays give us an opportunity to strengthen our families through family traditions. It is fun to hear what children say they like best about the way your family celebrates holidays. Family traditions give both adults and children a sense of roots and anchoring which can be very important during the rest of the year. Our busy families really need traditions to help us slow down and focus on those most important to us. Traditions help build a strong sense of family and belonging. Take the time to ask your family which traditions are important to them for each of the upcoming holidays. Sometimes it is a very small thing like a certain food or watching a special movie together that means the most. Share with your family what you remember about how your family of origin celebrated holidays. Traditions need not cost a lot or take a huge amount of time. Keep it simple and you’ll be more likely to do it. Have fun during the next few months and, most of all, cherish your family!

Betsy Allen and Tracey Roberts, Northwood Counselors

Note: Northwood’s Counselors will be sponsoring some Lunch & Learn Sessions in 2006. First on the agenda is a book group which will meet Fridays during February (February 3, 10, and 24) from 12:00-1:30 p.m. to study Dr. Phil’s *Families First*. We hope you’ll join our Counselors to discuss this interesting topic—you might want to buy this book now and get a jump on reading over the holidays!

Important Dates to Remember



November

- Tues, 1—Spirit Day
- Fri, 4-Fri, 14—Book Fair
- Fri, 4 & Mon, 7—Book Fair Sneak Preview Days
- Mon, 7—PTA General Meeting and Math Mania, Kindergarten-5th grades (blue team classes), 6:45 & 7:00 pm; Book Fair open, 6:00-8:30 pm
- Tues, 8—PTA General Meeting and Math Mania, Kindergarten-5th grades (red team classes), 6:45 & 7:00 pm; Book Fair open, 6:00-8:30 pm
- Tues, 8; Fri, 11 & Mon, 14—Book Fair Open for Parents, 7:30 am-3:30 pm
- Wed, 9 & Thurs, 10—Book Fair Buying Days for Classes
- Mon, 14-Fri, 18—Hearing & Vision Testing, 1st, 3rd, & 5th grades
- Thurs, 17—Domino’s Pizza Night
- Fri, 18—Team Meetings, 8 am, Cafeteria and Gym
- Wed, 23-Fri, 25—No School, Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- Thurs, 1—Spirit Day
- Tues, 6—Band Concert, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- Mon, 12—Orchestra & Choir Concerts, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs, 15—Domino’s Pizza Night
- Mon, 19—Class Holiday Party, 1-2 pm, Kindergarten
- Tues, 20—Class Holiday Parties, 1-2 pm, 1st & 2nd grades
- Wed, 21—Class Holiday Parties, 1-2 pm, 3rd & 5th grades
- Thurs, 22—Class Holiday Party, 10:30-11:30 am, 4th grade;
- Thurs, 22—Reading is a Gift Day; End of First Semester
- Fri, 23-Fri, 30—No School, Holiday Break

January

- Mon, 2-Thurs, 5—No School, Holiday Break
- Fri, 6—No School, Teacher Work Day
- Mon, 9—First Day, Second Semester
- Thurs, 12—Skate Day at the Cooler, 3:30-5:15 pm
- Mon, 16—No School, MLK Day Holiday
- Fri, 20—Movie Night, K-3rd grades, 6:45-9:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Thurs, 26—Domino’s Pizza Night

Everyone’s an Artist!



Again this year, Northwood PTA is sponsoring **Original Art**—a program from Original Works that turns your child’s art into keepsake products! Once your child’s magnet—featuring this year’s masterpiece!—comes home, you will get a chance to purchase an array of products featuring that artwork. A full display of Original Art product offerings has been set up in the case outside the cafeteria. We hope you will get a chance to look at the mugs, aprons, note cards, key rings, etc. that you can purchase; they are all beautiful! All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Northwood’s Art Department. These items will make wonderful holiday presents, and buying them will support the Art Department. What could be better?! Order forms are due by *November 7th*. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Lynn Pierce or Chrissy Scartz, Original Art Co-Chairs.

Northwood 2005-2006 PTA Board and Committee Chairs

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◆ Walk-A-Thon

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◆ Staff Recognition

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◆ Book Fair

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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



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:

Burger King
2310 Mansell Road

Domino's Pizza
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Kroger
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama

Publix
Haynes Bridge and Old Alabama,
Alpharetta

Publix
1425 Market Boulevard, Roswell

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.

Learn How Shopping Can 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, Staples, and ShapeXpress 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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