

July 24, 2009

Dear Parents of Northwood Students:

Welcome to our new parents and students, and welcome back to our returning families. The summer has, once again, proven just how quickly time passes. As a reminder, you can always get current dates and information from one of our award-winning websites, for Northwood Elementary: [NorthwoodElementary.com](http://NorthwoodElementary.com); for the Northwood PTA: [NorthwoodPTA.com](http://NorthwoodPTA.com).

**Sneak Preview is on Thursday, August 6th.** If your last name begins with A-N please come **between the hours of 3:30-5:00 p.m.** **If your last name begins with M-Z please come between 5:00- 6:30.** During Sneak Preview, parents and students will have the opportunity to locate their classrooms, meet their teachers, purchase prepaid meal cards, and find their bus information. Then, in the Cafeteria, they will be able to join the PTA, enroll for volunteer opportunities, buy spirit wear, the yearbook, and school supplies, and investigate this year's primary fundraiser plus many other activities and after-school functions.

To guide you through Sneak Preview, here is a checklist:

- Locate your child's name on one of the class lists posted in the school gymnasium. **The doors will open at 3:30p.m.**
- Visit your child's classroom and meet his/her teacher. Maps will be posted throughout the school and will be given to you at Sneak Preview.
- Go to the Media Center to find your child's bus schedule.
- Stop at desks located at the entrance to each learning community to purchase prepaid meal cards. If your child is buying breakfast and/or lunch, we encourage you to purchase these cards during Sneak Preview for your convenience. Breakfast is served at Northwood from 7:15-7:40 a.m. each morning; lunch is served between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Students may select from several entrees daily at each meal. As of this date breakfast costs \$1.00, and lunch costs \$2.00 for children. At Sneak Preview, you may purchase a lunch card for \$10.00 per week (or \$40.00 per month), per child. To save time at registration, please follow this procedure: make your check payable to, "Northwood Cafeteria;" place your check in an envelope on which you have written your child's name and grade; and, give the envelope to one of the Cafeteria staff members posted at the entrance to each community. *Parents are invited to eat lunch with their children after the first two weeks of school.*

- ☐ Go to the Cafeteria to buy new spirit wear and your 2009-2010 yearbook, as well as stock up on school supplies. While there, of course, be sure to turn in your PTA membership form and investigate volunteer opportunities. There will be lots to learn about in the Cafeteria!:
- The most important table in the Cafeteria is the ***PTA membership table*** as parent involvement is the cornerstone of every **P**arent **T**eacher **A**ssociation. Involved, caring, and committed parents make successful, active members. Please help us reach our goal of 100% membership by the “early bird” deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>. A membership form is enclosed here for your convenience; please bring it with you to Sneak Preview. As for ***volunteer opportunities***—the PTA cannot function without its many committees, and they operate with the help of many, many volunteers. Please take a moment to study the different committees (the “Volunteer Interest” form is also enclosed) such as Accelerated Reader, Bingo Night, Book Fair, Field Day, Hospitality, Movie and Music Nights, and a host of others, and consider volunteering for one or more! By volunteering your time for these activities, and supporting our fundraisers in general, you help us provide support to Northwood in areas of technology, teacher support, and Media Center materials. **After you join PTA, please come to the back hall by the pond, and your child will receive a popsicle from the administrators. This is our way of thanking you for joining the PTA.**
  - Can’t decide what to wear for Spirit Day (generally the first school day of each month) or other special days each month? Try our brand new collection of ***spirit wear*** that will be on display in the Cafeteria. We’ll have T-shirts, hats, and much more. Show your school spirit and stock up!
  - The ***School Store*** will also be open for those who need to gather school supplies before the first day of classes. School supply lists are posted on the Northwood Web site. (If you shop at Office Depot, be sure to ask the cashier to donate 5% of your purchase to Northwood as part of their “5% Back-to-School Program.” Northwood’s ID is: 70026559. Every little bit of revenue helps, so thank you!)
  - Be sure to investigate our fundraising company! Northwood’s primary fundraiser begins on August 21st. This year we will be using ***Innisbrook***, a company with a reputation for quality merchandise and great customer service. Their brochure features Innisbrook exclusive designs, distinctive gifts, and exceptional gift values.
  - Finally, there will be representatives from ***Girl and Cub Scouts as well as other after-school opportunities*** at tables in the Cafeteria.

**The 2009-2010 school year begins on Monday, August 10. School begins daily at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. for all students.** Buses arrive at Northwood between 7:15 and 7:40 a.m. Supervision in the classrooms begins at 7:15 a.m., and students are marked tardy if they are not *in the classroom* when the bell rings at 7:45 a.m. We urge you to have your child ride the bus beginning the first day of school in order to alleviate traffic congestion and prevent tardiness. Teachers and teacher assistants help unload the buses and get children to their classrooms during the first week of school.

On the first day of school, informational brochures will be sent home. The brochures will contain rules, policies, procedures, etc. You will also receive *The Best of Northwood*, a weekly newsletter, from the principal each Friday. Please ask your child for this informative newsletter.

Our first General PTA meeting takes place immediately before Curriculum Nights scheduled on August 25 for grades K-2 and August 27 for grades 3-5. These meetings are for parents only, so please plan ahead for sitters. (And as our parking space is limited, carpooling to school events is always advantageous!) These meetings will take place at 6:45 p.m. in the Cafeteria both evenings. At Curriculum Nights, the proposed PTA budget will be presented. As a PTA member, your vote will count, so have a say—JOIN the PTA!!

**Northwood Elementary School  
Early Dates to Remember**

August 6	<b><i>Sneak Preview (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)</i></b> <i>3:30-5:00 p.m.(A-M) and 5:00-6:30p.m(N-Z).</i>	
August 10	<b><i>First day of school</i></b>	<i>School begins at 7:45 a.m. Please be on time!</i>
Aug. 21-Sept. 9	<b><i>PTA Fundraiser (Innisbrook)</i></b>	
August 25	<b><i>PTA General Meeting/Principal Welcome &amp; Teacher Introductions Curriculum Night (Grades K-2)</i></b>	6:45 p.m. .
August 27	<b><i>PTA General Meeting/Principal Welcome &amp; Teacher Introductions Curriculum Night (Grades 3-5)</i></b>	6:45 p.m. .
September 1	<b><i>Spirit Day—wear your Spirit Wear!</i></b>	
September 7	<b><i>Labor Day (school closed)</i></b>	

Please complete the enclosed forms and bring them with you to expedite your afternoon/evening. We look forward to another wonderful year at Northwood Elementary!

Sincerely,

Sheila Michael, Principal  
Northwood Elementary School

Stephanie Duffy & Angela Blackwell  
Northwood Elementary PTA Co-Presidents

Enclosures:  
PTA Membership & Volunteer Interest Forms

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Esta carta se ha traducido al español y se encuentra a su disposición en la Oficina de Northwood.  
(This letter has been translated into Spanish, and that version is available in the Northwood  
Elementary School office.)