

**Northwoods  
Elementary  
School**

# KOALATY TIMES

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Mary Swann—Principal Christina Morris—PTA President

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## From Our Principal

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning families to the 2006-2007 school year, where our staff is "**All Aboard for Student Success.**" Our theme and goals align with Superintendent Del Burn's and focus on teaching and learning. We rally your support as we strive to make this a learning year for all.

Northwoods has a total of Five hundred and eighty-five students including fifteen Pre-K students. This total student enrollment is 49 students more than projected, placing us in a position of gaining (possibly) one and maybe two additional teachers. Within the next few days, I will make a decision concerning where to place additional teachers. Kindergarten and Third grade has a slightly larger enrollment than other grades. Their larger class sizes position them for strong consideration for an additional teacher. Once a decision is made, I will forward a letter to parents of students who will be moved to a new classroom. Rarely, does a parent want his/her child moved after the beginning of

the school year but at times, it is necessary in order to reduce a large class size to produce a smaller teacher student ratio. I ask for your support if your child is selected to be moved. Mrs. Townes and I will review class lists and make the final reassignment decision. We will employ similar criteria of placement as used to place children during the summer months. While we plan to interview and hire teachers as quickly as possible, no students will be moved until a quality teacher is hired.

Be assured that we will keep parents informed as we go through this process.

Your children are great and we look forward to working with you and your children to promote their success...

I hope to see you at **Open House on September 28.**

*Mary B. Swann- Principal*

### Special Points of

#### Interest:

- Help the PTA meet their fund-raising goal: Support the Magazine Sale
- Volunteers Needed
- WCPSS Volunteer Policy
- School Improvement Team: Help drive the future of Northwoods

## Help Us Reach Our Goal

It's that time of year for our **Magazine Sale** fundraiser! We respectfully ask for your support in this event because it **funds so much of our school needs** throughout the year. If you are interested in making a straight donation, 100% of your donation goes to our school PTA. Packets have already been distributed to the students and staff on Sept. 8 and there are **2 remaining collection days, Sept. 20 and Sept. 28.** Students receive credit and prizes for each magazine order. Awards will be distributed after each collection day and an ice cream party will be given to the class with the highest sales each week! Finally, the success of this sale will also provide for the activities at Fall Fun Day. Let's get this year off to a good start and help us reach our goal!

# Notes from the PTA President

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year! This is my second year serving as your PTA president. I often take it for granted that everyone knows what a PTA is and why we need a PTA at Northwoods.

The PTA is a non-profit organization. We are part of the National PTA, NC PTA as well as, the Wake County PTA Council. Together with these organizations, our mission is to advocate for children. We provide programs and opportunities at school that enhance our children's education. Many of the programs and assistance we provide to the school do require funds; however, we are not a fundraising organization. Traditionally we choose one main fundraiser to fund our programs. Our biggest asset however, is you, the volunteers!

The Northwoods PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is here to partner with the teachers and administration to provide some of those "extra" and "special things" that make elementary school a rewarding and memorable experience for our children. Cultural Arts, new books for the media center, new computers, Accelerated Reader, Science Fair, Read-a-thon, Character Education, new playground equipment, Friday folders, campus improvements, Fall Fun Day, PTA Reflections contest, Koalaty Times Newsletter, Yearbook and Staff Appreciation are some of the ways we contribute to our school.

Our tax dollars pay for school buildings, teacher salaries, building of new schools, maintenance, and trans-

portation. The PTA is here to bridge the gap. So when you join the PTA, participate in the magazine sale and volunteer at school, you are contributing to the success of Northwoods and every child who attends it.

I'm thrilled that a new school year has started with such a positive beginning. Over the past couple of weeks I have seen lots of excited kids, teachers, parents and volunteers in the hallways. I am constantly reminded of how lucky we are that our children attend school in a safe, fun and nurturing environment. Our school staff does a fabulous job of educating our children and making learning a fun experience for them. Elementary school is a special time. It is a time when our kids still think we know "everything", when they still want us to come to have lunch with them.

I'd like to invite and encourage you to get involved and take advantage of this wonderful time in your child's life. It will go by much, much too quickly. They will be off to middle school before we know it and they will no longer think it is "cool" for mom or dad to volunteer at school. Volunteer your time, be it a small or large amount. Volunteer at home, at school, during the week, or even on the weekend. Get involved, you'll be glad you did and so will your children!

Please feel free to contact me anytime during the school year with questions, comments or suggestions. I'd be happy to help you find your place at Northwoods.

*Christina Morris—PTA President*

## Friday Folders

Your children have started bringing Friday Folders home. Please be sure to check them for important school and PTA information. These folders will be used each week to send communication home. **It is very important to check the folders each week and return to your teachers on Monday.** If you have more than one child at Northwoods, you will notice that some information only comes home with your youngest child. We use the one-per family method for most materials. We have found that this lowers costs for both the school and PTA.

PTA volunteers stuff these folders each week for all teachers. Anyone interested in helping the Friday Folder committee may send a note to [northwoods-pta@nc.rr.com](mailto:northwoods-pta@nc.rr.com)

## Need to know what's happening at school?????

Join the PTA e-mail distribution list. You will receive SCHOOL and PTA updates and information via e-mail periodically through out the school year. Your e-mail address will be kept private and will not be shared in e-mail distribution or in any other way. Please send your request to [northwoods-pta@nc.rr.com](mailto:northwoods-pta@nc.rr.com).



## Carpool Safety

In order to maximize safety for afternoon carpool, we made a few changes effective immediately.

- You are allowed to make a double line off Chapel Hill Road into Northwoods' parking. This double line will merge into one line closer to the building. A staff person will be on hand to help with the merging.
- Traffic cones will be placed in the parking area to prevent parking until after carpool is complete. Cones will be placed at 3:30 PM.
- Only one lane of traffic once cars are parallel with the building. Risk Management staff advised this to eliminate the possibility of accidents.
- Parents are not to park their cars and go into the building to checkout students in order to avoid the carpool line. If your child requires an early dismissal due to an appointment or personal situation, please plan to pick up your child before carpool begins.
- Parents of walkers are asked to wait outside the building after 3:30 P.M. because our entrance foyer cannot accommodate student traffic and parents waiting for children.
- As in previous years, carpool is generally over before 4:00. Children are required to be picked up by 4:00 PM. If you cannot arrive by 4:00 you may want to consider bus transportation for your child (ren).

Mary Swann

## School Directory is Coming

The PTA will be producing a school directory again this year. The directory will allow communication between families, families and teachers, and families and other Wake county resources. The directory is **NOT** to be used for any type of solicitation.

Soon you will be receiving a form in your child's Friday folder. Please note, **you will be automatically included in the directory unless you sign the form and send it back** stating that you choose not to be included in the directory.

**KOALATY KID PLEDGE**

I pledge to respect my teachers,  
my friends and myself.

I pledge to learn all I can.

I pledge to do my best at school.

I pledge to follow the school rules.

I am proud!

I am great!

**I AM A KOALATY KID!**

**KOALATY KID  
MOTTO**

"TO BE ALL YOU  
CAN  
IS KOALATY"

## Northwoods is a Koalaty School

The Koalaty Kid program focuses on developing and maintaining a positive "can do" environment. Koalaty Kids are excited about learning, proud of their achievements and celebrate their successes. Each quarter, the students and staff have an opportunity to participate in a special assembly to honor and reward students that have been selected by their teachers as being Koalaty Workers, Organizers and Citizens. This is a special honor that the students are so proud to receive.

Also during the program students who were "caught" using one of our several character traits have an opportunity to have their names drawn out of a basket to win a special prize.



**KOALATY KID  
COMMITMENT STATEMENT**

*Koalaty Kid is a way to:*

- Build school spirit
- Empower the students
- Use tools and skills to encourage continuous learning.

# Volunteers

We are already starting to see a wonderful response from volunteers. Some are long standing helpers and many are new faces at Northwoods. **However, as of September 8, 2006, the PTA is still in need of a VP of Fund-raising.** Additionally, we have a variety of committees that are still in need of a Chairperson. These committees represent many different opportunities to share your special talents with the students of Northwoods. If you would like to consider any of these positions or would like additional information regarding time commitments or job details, please contact Mary Faustyn, VP Volunteers, [mfaustyn@nc.rr.com](mailto:mfaustyn@nc.rr.com), 678-9533. Thank you.

**Awards and Grants** - Seek out and apply for awards and grants that the school and PTA might be eligible for.

**Friday Folders** – Work with a committee to stuff and distribute Friday Folders. Need to be available at school Thursday mornings.

**Bedtime Stories** – Work with a committee to plan and coordinate this February event. Students come in their PJs to hear bedtime stories. Recruit readers.

**Koalaty Kids** - Work with a committee at the beginning of the school year to plan themes for quarterly Koalaty Kid Celebration. These are celebrations recognize our children’s achievements.

**Reflections** – Facilitate student participation and coordinate entries in this nationally sponsored PTA contest for the arts for students.

**Legislative** - The PTA Legislative representative will gather and share information that will help parents make well-informed decisions about their children’s education.

**Grounds Committee** – Work with a committee to plant flowers, etc. at Northwoods

**Hospitality** – Work with a committee when needed to welcome special guests and visitors to Northwoods.

## Upcoming volunteer needs

*Wednesday morning 9/20 or Thursday, morning 9/28: Magazine Sale collections*

*Friday, September 22: Fall Photo Day*

*Week of 10/9 – 10/13: PE Testing (We need many volunteers for this weeklong event.)*

**Please contact Mary Faustyn, VP Volunteers, [mfaustyn@nc.rr.com](mailto:mfaustyn@nc.rr.com), 678-9533**

# Lost and Found

Has Aaron come home without his lunchbox? --- Ann without her umbrella?

If so, have them look in the Lost and Found cabinets at school. **Where are the Lost and Found cabinets?** They are the two blue cabinets in the cafeteria located at the left side of the stage.

To help your child recover a lost item, please put their name and their teacher’s name on their lunchbox, the handle of their umbrella and on a label/tag of their jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, etc.

Should your child happen to lose a wallet, watch, bracelet, etc., have them check with Mrs. Chavis in the office as items such as these are kept there for safekeeping. Our morning announcements will soon be broadcast over our classroom televisions. Occasionally we will have a “fashion show” featuring items from the Lost and Found cabinets. Encourage your child to watch for any article of clothing that they may have lost.

P.S. Aaron and Ann --- there were three lunchboxes and two umbrellas in the Lost and Found cabinets recently!

## Help Us Put The “FUN” In Fall Fun Day!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

We cannot pull off “Fall Fun Day” for our Northwood’s families without your help. We **need** parents and high school age children for volunteers. **Each volunteer will receive 10 free tickets.**

We will have 4 big inflatables, a dunking booth, a cake walk, a teacher silent auction, entertainment, food, games and more. **We will only be able to do as much as we have volunteers for, so let’s try and make this the biggest fall fun day ever!!!!**

We need volunteers to help with:

- Inflatables:** taking tickets and monitoring the inflatables
- Dunking Tank:** handing out balls
- Necklace making:** help the kids if necessary make beaded necklaces
- Hair braiding/beading** - girls will love this
- Temporary tattoos:** putting tattoos on the kids
- Food distribution:** taking tickets and handing out the food
- Duck Pond:** taking tickets and giving out prizes

Please call Kathy Leibold at 678-8660 or email me at [mkleibold@nc.rr.com](mailto:mkleibold@nc.rr.com) to be a part of making this day a success for our families, children and friends. **THANK YOU!**

### NetWorks Basketball Ballhandling Club Commitment to Excellence 2006-2007



NetWorks is a non-profit organization that uses the game of basketball to teach character education and the importance of a strong work ethic to students and players of all ages. Networks and its basketball skills program chose Northwoods to receive a grant which will implement a free after school club that will offer our school developmentally appropriate skills for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Networks is a program very popular in our area which develop children’s physically and mentally as they learn new skills necessary to be successful in basketball...Students were asked to submit an essay of why they would like to become apart of the Networks Basketball Club. The students were then selected on the basis of need, diversity and interest in personally developing skills they can use for a lifetime. Mr. David Schenk, Networks BC Director and Mrs. Beals, Physical Education Specialist will be working with this club throughout the school year.

Students who are members of our Basketball Ball Handling Club are:

Dalton S., Quentin P., Shivani S., Kimberly H., Adrielle K., Caleb P., Scott L., Larry Z., Zane A., Sholyn D., Demetrius D., Hector G., Chris G., Mariah M., Alexis H., Maurtez S., Jamie D., Christian B., Mikenna B., George B., Amber C., Noa L., Brodie W., Trevor M., India G., Bdrelden A., Rhys C., Teressa P., Harold H., Dondre G., Keishon W., Jhone-sia M., Keelan W., Julissa N., Jillian R., Justin B., Juwan H.

The **next newsletter** will come out **October 13th**. If you have anything to submit, please email it to Diane Hoff at [hoffdia@earthlink.net](mailto:hoffdia@earthlink.net) by October 1st.. ~ Diane Hoff

## Upcoming Cultural Arts Event

Northwoods is excited to announce that Red Grammer will be performing for our students on October 31st. He is a Grammy nominated recording artist who performs contemporary children's music. Our music teacher, Mrs. White, will be helping the students learn the lyrics to some of the songs that will be performed. Red Grammer has performed at Northwoods before and we are very excited to have him return. Please join us at 9:30 for (K-2) or 10:30 for (3-5).

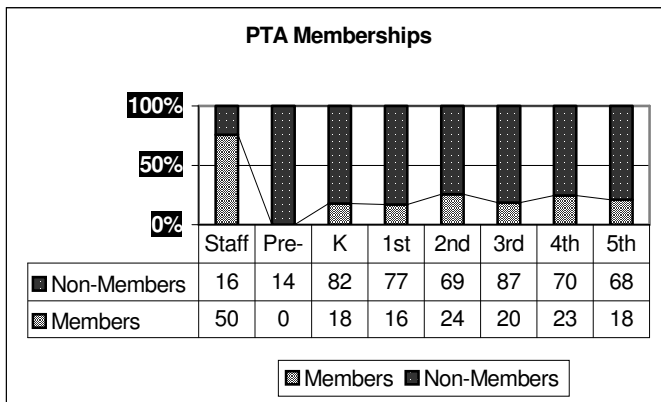
## Ask Your Child about Java...

My son Chris, a fourth grader in Mrs. Izzet's class, recently began bringing his highly trained service dog, Java, to school with him. Chris has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and his buddy Java enables him to be more independent while at school. Although she knows over 80 commands, while at Northwoods her main duties will be picking things up from the floor or from shelves for Chris, helping him stand from his motorized scooter and from chairs, holding things for him, and going to get help if he needs it.

I introduced Java to each of the classrooms and educated the children on the rules of etiquette around service dogs. We explained that Java is working while at Northwoods assisting Chris and outlined some simple rules that, if followed by students and staff, will enable Chris and Java to be a successful team. Basically, the children should not call out Java's name, pet her, give her commands, or do anything else that might distract her.

Thanks in advance for your support at home! We really appreciate your help.  
Sincerely, Kerry Beach

## Invest in the Future - Join the PTA Today



The Northwoods PTA needs your support. Each year the PTA sets goals to accomplish to help the students and staff of Northwoods. This year the PTA has allocated money to support new and current programs. Some of these are : Student planners of each student in grades 2 - 5, Classroom set-up money for each teacher, School directory, Cultural arts programs throughout the school year (including dance, theater and music programs), Writer in Residence, Artist in Residence, Various campus improvements, Science Fair, Talent Show, Read-a-thon, Koalaty Kid, Accelerated Reader, Friday Folders, Staff Appreciation, Family Spirit Nights and many more.

Many of these programs can not be accomplished without the financial support of Northwoods families. That's why it is so important to join. You can help us reach our goal! We would like to see each staff member and each family purchase a membership. Even if you aren't able or don't have the time to volunteer, you can get involved just by joining the PTA. Your financial support is very important.

A letter with an attached Membership sign-up envelope was sent home in your child's Friday Folder. Please fill it out and return it to your child's teacher. Thank you for your support.

Stephanie Jabusch

## Community Fundraising

It's time to re-link your grocery cards to Northwoods. **Look for details** on how to participate in all of these programs in **the Friday Folder**. There are many families who shop at these stores who have not participated in these programs before. This is a great way for the local business community to support our school. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Here's how we did in 2005-2006:

General Mills Box Tops -- redeemed box tops worth \$720.50

Tyson Labels -- redeemed labels worth \$92.88

Harris Teeter -- earned \$450.00 using our VIC cards

Food Lion -- earned \$121.37 using our MVP cards

Kroger -- earned \$26,000 in register tapes which were redeemed for : 9 Califone - Multimedia Stereo Headphones and a Community Helpers book to be added to the Media Center collection.

### Painless Fundraising

Please bring your Harris Teeter VIC card and Food Lion MVP card to the Northwoods Open House on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We will link your card to Northwoods for you. **A portion of your purchase at these grocery stores goes to our school.**

Look for our booth!!!

## And The Winner Is...

For those of you that participated in our 2006-2007 PTA Membership Drive Kick-off, THANK YOU! Several prizes were awarded to people who joined the PTA during the special events held in August at Northwoods. Here are our lucky winners !

#### Teacher Breakfast :

- Reah Duncan -- Bonefish Gift Certificate (\$45)
- Kathy Bolduc -- O2 Fitness (3 month membership)
- Jackie Wiggins -- Target Gift Card (\$10)
- Susan Clark -- Stone's School Supply Gift Card (\$20)
- Casey Izzet -- Blockbuster Gift Card (\$10)
- Linda Slocum -- Cafe Carolina Gift Card (\$10)
- Shannon Smoker -- Cafe Carolina Gift Card (\$10)
- Chad Miller -- Maggie Moo's Gift Card (\$10)
- Jackie Townes -- Staples Supply Box
- Courtney Pratt -- Staples Supply Box

#### Meet the Teacher Day:

- Jeff Sommer -- Bonefish Gift Certificate (\$45)
- John Jabusch -- O2 Fitness (3 month membership)
- Tracey Keeler -- Starbuck's Gift Bag
- Beth Woosley -- Moe's Southwest Grill Dinner of Two (up to \$20)
- Tom Davis -- Blockbuster Gift Card (\$10)
- Amy Mielock -- Blockbuster Gift Card (\$10)
- Kim Fegeley -- Bear Rock Gift Card (\$10)
- Pamela Beatty -- Panera Gift Card (\$10)
- Jennifer Whaley -- Target Gift Card (\$10)
- Kimberly Campos -- Maggie Moos's Gift Card (\$10)

A big "Thanks!" to all the area stores and restaurants who donated gift certificates and other items to our membership drive. And an enormous "THANKS!" to all of the families who have joined the Northwoods PTA. Without you and your support, we wouldn't be able to accomplish all that we do.

## Counselor's Corner

September's Character Trait for Wake County Public School System is **Responsibility**. It is taught and emphasized first in the school year since an important key to success in all aspects of a child's life is responsibility. This character trait is basic to learning, and well-disciplined students take responsibility for their own behavior at home and at school. Responsible students are self-motivated and self-directed. Self-disciplined students take responsibility for their actions and don't make excuses or blame others for their mistakes. They make good choices about what to do and when to do it. They are resourceful and conscientious, and they don't quit easily.

None of this, however, is inborn, and for some it can be challenging. A student learning to take responsibility for his/her actions is an important step in becoming self-disciplined, and it must be learned. Because parents are a child's first and most important teacher, the very best place for children to learn to take responsibility for their own learning and behavior is right at home.

How can you teach responsibility to children? There are numerous methods, but some important ways are:

- when children are given responsibilities at home from an early age (even toddlers can perform simple little chores)
- when chores and tasks are age-appropriate
- when children are taught to help out in the family and community in ways such as helping with household chores, picking up after themselves in the park or in the neighborhood
- when children are expected to take care of personal care items like brushing their teeth and hair; getting their homework to and from school; making their beds, etc.
- when parents avoid doing for children what they are capable of doing for themselves.
- when children receive positive feedback and encouragement for contributions and for showing reliability.
- when children see responsible role modeling from mom and dad.

*Beverly Mitchell, School Counselor*

## School Improvement Team

*Have you every wondered how decisions are made regarding plans for our school's future?*

Every parent is an integral part of our school team. However, a couple of parents are needed for a very important team. Each school in NC has a team to manage the academic, health, safety, and school environment goals for their school. The Northwoods School Improvement Team is responsible for our school improvement plan. The team is comprised of teachers, staff, administration, and parents, and meets Thursdays once or twice a month from 7:45am – 8:45am. If you are interested in serving on this important team or would like more information, please contact Chris Morris @ 678-0960.

## School Calendar

### September

- 20, Wed Magazine 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection
- 22, Fri School Pictures
- 28, Thu Magazine 3rd Collection
- 28, Thu K – 5 Open House, 6pm
- 29, Fri Early Release, 1:30pm

### October

- 2, Mon Teacher Workday, **No school**
- 4, Wed Walk to School Day, 8:00am
- 6, Fri PTA Board Meeting, 9:30am, Conference Room
- 7, Sat Fall Family Fun Day
- 26, Thu Photo Retakes
- 30, Mon Teacher Workday, **No School**

## WCPSS Volunteer Policy

Volunteering at school is a critical part of our school community and the day-to-day operations of the school. All families attending Northwoods are encouraged to volunteer on a regular basis. It is essential that all parents volunteer in the school.

In 2004, the Wake County Public School System adopted a new process for parent volunteers. **ALL volunteers must register at any Wake County Public School prior to volunteering.** This applies to all individuals who volunteer in any capacity whether it is for the classroom, field trips, Northstar or PTA.

Please make sure you come by to register as soon as possible. You will be registered on the school's intranet system; therefore, your information will not be accessible through the internet. It is important that you come into the school to register, especially if you intend on going on a field trip. This level requires a background check, and it takes at least two weeks for the clearances to go through.

If you registered last year, you need only re-activate your volunteer status. Our compliance with the WCPSS policy helps to ensure the safety of your child and every child attending Northwoods. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### New Check-in Procedures

Visitors and Volunteers, you **MUST** come through the front lobby for sign-in and obtain a visitor badge prior to volunteering. Each school in Wake County is required to follow security procedures which include keeping a log of visitors who are in the building and requiring visitors to wear a badge while on campus.

At Northwoods, we have a new sign-in computer. Please use this computer to check-in **and** check-out when you enter and leave the building. This new computer program was provided free to our school by the Ident-a-kid program. The computer is located in the front office and will also print your visitor badge. Please wear the badge while you are on the school campus. Following these procedures keeps all our kids safe. Don't forget to check-out when you leave. We appreciate your cooperation.