

**Northwoods
Elementary
School**

KOALATY TIMES

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Mary Swann—Principal
Susanne Langdon & Aymber Warren—Co-PTA Presidents

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From Our Principal

Dear Parents,

This year’s theme is “Connecting the Pieces for High Achievement”. As we start our 2007-08 school year we anticipate and look forward to partnering with you as we work hard to meet high expectations.

We currently have 621 students enrolled. Right now we do not anticipate any major changes with staff or student assignments. You will be informed if significant growth requires a reassignment of students and staff.

For the benefit of safety, please be sure you adhere to established procedures and guidelines for the dismissal and pick-up of students. Our dismissal time is quite busy and with the volume of traffic, we need everyone’s cooperation so that safety is maximized.

Here are some reminders:

1. For afternoon carpool, the two lines of traffic merge just before student pick-up. A staff person assists with this merge.
2. Do not park and enter the building to pick-up students. The carpool line is designed to make pick-up quick and easy.
3. All students are required to be picked up by 4:00.
4. Boundary Street is not an approved carpool pick-up station. To protect and keep children and staff safe, all children should be picked up in the carpool line, not on Boundary Street.

Together we can connect the pieces for high achievement. Let’s get busy!

Mary B. Swann- Principal

Special Points of Interest:

- Spirit Sprint coming in October
- Volunteers Needed
- Time to re-link grocery cards and save box tops
- WCPSS Volunteer Policy
- Change in early release time

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.

Notes from the PTA President

Greetings from your PTA President

It's hard to believe that Summer vacation is over and school has started! I am looking forward to working with the teachers, staff, students and parents of our Northwoods family. The PTA has many exciting events planned for this school year. I hope that everyone will become involved in making the 2007-2008 school year the best one yet.

As you read through the newsletter you will come across many of the things we have planned for the year. I hope that everyone will be able to become involved as an active PTA member and parent. All the children, not just your own, really love seeing parents at the school. I know that many of you work and cannot help out during the day, but there are many ways you can help without a lot of time or effort. Please look over all our volunteer programs and find a way to be involved.

I am always available by email at northwoodselempta@yahoo.com. If there is anything I can do for you, please send me an email and I'll do my best to help. Let's work together to make this a great year!

Susanne Langdon—PTA President

Here's your PTA Executive Board!

Principal - Mary Swann
President—Susanne Langdon
Co-President—Aymber Warren
Secretary—Robin Faltz
Treasurer—Bonnie Reed
VP Fundraising —Mary Kay Shelley
1st VP Fundraising —Helen Alberse
VP Membership - Leanne Deanda
VP Programs - Kelly Garrett
1st VP Programs - Becky Wood
VP Volunteers - Sandra Libero
Faculty Rep PreK-2 - Shannon Garrison
Faculty Rep 3-5 - Jennifer Bajorek

KOALATY KID COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Koalaty Kid is a way to:

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

KOALATY KID MOTTO
"TO BE ALL YOU CAN IS KOALATY"

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!

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 throughout 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 northwoodselempta@yahoo.com. If you have already responded or joined the PTA, you are already on the list and don't need to respond again.



NORTHWOODS STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL *SPRIT SPRINT*!!

It is that time of year!!! It's time for the First Annual *NORTHWOODS SPRIT SPRINT*!!! The *SPRIT SPRINT* will be the Northwoods PTA's primary fundraiser this year and is sure to be a hit with both students and adults! Our students have been successful at selling magazines in the past and are ready for the new *SPRIT SPRINT* challenge!

Northwoods students will run and walk their way to make this fundraiser a huge success on **Thursday, October 4th**. The Northwoods family continues to focus on regular exercise and habits that promote good health, and the *SPRIT SPRINT* is a fun way to celebrate fitness! Plus, every dollar that the students collect for this fundraiser goes directly to Northwoods and is also tax deductible. Yes, 100% of the money collected goes to **OUR SCHOOL!!!**

This fundraiser is going to fund programs throughout the school year such as:

1. Cultural Arts Programs
2. Family Events at Northwoods
3. Writer and Artist in Residence
4. Supplies for Teachers and Students
5. Accelerated Reader Program
6. Read-a-Thon
7. 5th Grade Activities
8. Northstar
9. Science Fair
10. Books for the Media Center
11. Character Education
12. Playground Equipment and Other School Improvements
13. Staff Appreciation
14. And many, many more programs and events throughout the year



Every Northwoods student benefits from PTA fundraisers, so please be sure to support our largest event of the year! Materials will be sent home with the children soon, so get ready to *SPRINT* your way to success!

A HUGE thank you to these companies for sponsoring our children in the Spirit Sprint!!

The following companies have generously donated money to supply the T-shirts for all students. These shirts will be used for the Spirit Sprint, Field Trips and to show school Spirit.

Please express your appreciation to these businesses.

Bovenizer Orthodontics
 (919)303-4557
www.BovOrthodontics.com
 351 Wellesley Trade Lane, Cary

Click Computer Store
 (919)677-8803
www.ClickComputerStore.com
 1901 NW Cary Parkway, Morrisville

Parkway Dental
 (919)380-9622
www.wstephencokerdmd.com
 3600 NW Cary Parkway, Cary

Burt's Bees
www.BurtsBees.com
 Earth friendly personal care products!

Dinners Ready
 (919)460-4366
www.DinnersReady.com
 1901 NW Cary Parkway, Morrisville

Sherry's Hang Ups
 (919)234-9374
www.Sherryshangups.com
 Custom Window Coverings and Blinds!

Fred Anderson Toyota
 (919)787-0099
www.FredAndersonToyota.com
 9101 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh

Greenwrap by Geami
www.Geami.com
 Earth friendly In-the-Box packaging products!

Volunteers

The PTA has 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 Susanne Langdon, PTA President at northwoodselempta@yahoo.com. Thank you.

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

Box Tops for Education, Tyson Labels, and Grocery Store Programs

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

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parents, Grandparents, Guardians:

Northwoods Elementary is looking for volunteers to help out the school. Support from students’ homes it is a crucial part of a child’s success. By volunteering with the Northwoods PTA, you have an opportunity to have a hands-on role in your child’s school experience. Our hope is that each child can have at least one volunteer at the school during the year. There are many ways you can help, from home or first hand. We need volunteers to help with school fundraising, assist with academic enrichment and reward programs, read to your child’s class, assist teachers in special projects. . . the opportunities are endless. The rewards are great!

Don’t think you have the time? Any small amount of your time is greatly appreciated!

You should have received a green PTA Volunteer Survey from your child’s teacher. Fill it out and send it in by **Tuesday, Sept. 18**; the class with the most returned surveys will receive an ice cream party!

Remember, all volunteers must stop by the school and fill out a quick volunteer registration form online. This is important to insure your child’s safety.

If you have any questions, or did not receive a Volunteer Survey and would like one, please contact Sandra Libero, PTA, VP of Volunteers, 678-9710.

2006 - 2007 Yearbooks

We still have a few 2006 - 2007 yearbooks for sale. If you missed your opportunity last year and would still like to purchase one, please contact us.

Teresa MacDonald : teebear69@gmail.com 460-5856

Stephanie Jabusch: sjabusch@nc.rr.com 677 -0791

Make an investment in your Child- Join the PTA Today!

The Northwoods PTA needs your support! Northwoods has a very active PTA, led by an executive board of parent volunteers and staff members. We would love to welcome you into the PTA. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities to fit any schedule. But, even if you don't have time to be an active member, you can get involved by just joining. There is no better way to advance your child than to become involved in their education.

Northwoods PTA contributes to all Northwoods students through: Classroom set-up funds, Cultural arts programs, Student planners, School directory, Campus improvements, Science fair, Read-a-thon, Character education, Accelerated reader, Koalaty kid, Friday folders, Safety, School improvement, PTA Reflections contest, Yearbook, Staff appreciation, and so much more.

We would love to have all of our Northwoods families as well as all of our faculty and staff join the PTA.

Membership is only \$14 for joint memberships or \$7 for an individual membership. More than \$8 of each joint membership and \$4 of each individual membership remains at Northwoods and directly benefits our children. The remaining money is used at both state and national levels to advocate for our children and our education system. What a wonderful investment of your money!

A letter with an attached Membership sign-up envelope was sent home during the second week of school. Please fill it out and return it to your child's teacher. Please make your checks payable to **NORTHWOODS PTA**. Your membership will be processed and sent home in your child's Friday folder. As an added bonus, everyone who joins will get a coupon for a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich. Your PTA member card also enrolls you into the PTA Perks program at abraKIDabra toys where you will receive a 10% discount.

Several prizes were awarded to people who joined the PTA during the special events held in August at Northwoods. Here are our lucky winners along with our wonderful sponsors:

Teacher Breakfast

Karen Whelan: \$10 Café Carolina and Bakery gift certificate
 Melba White: Starbucks gift bag
 Judy Marx: \$45 Bonefish Grill gift certificate
 Beverly Mitchell: \$25 Staples gift certificate
 Jean Strickland: \$25 Staples gift certificate

Meet the Teacher Day

Sherri Claes: \$10 Café Carolina and Bakery gift certificate
 Stacy Dalness: Starbucks gift bag
 Anjana Manocha: \$45 Bonefish Grill gift certificate
 Stephanie Jabusch: \$20 Maggie Moo's Ice Cream and Treatery

A big "Thank you!" goes out to all of our Community in Schools helpers for donating the gift certificates and gift bags to our membership drive. And an enormous "Thank you!" goes out 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.

If you haven't joined already, you are missing out! **JOIN TODAY!**

Leanne Deanda—VP Membership

Media Minutes

I am so glad I have become a part of the Northwoods family! I am looking forward to a busy year in the media center. We are now ready for student checkout! The media center is open to students from 8:45-3:30. We will also be open for students if they are accompanied by parents from 8:30-8:45 and from 3:45-4:15. Please come by with your students before or after school to meet me and to peruse our book selection. Students may check out books for two weeks and can renew them as needed. Please encourage them to return books on time so that others may read them. A student with an overdue book may not check out additional books until the book is returned. If a book is lost or damaged, the student is asked to provide the replacement price before checking out more books.



Thank you for your time. It is my goal to have all of our Northwoods Koalas excited about reading!

Renee Duncan—Media Specialist



Book and a Bite

Thanks to everyone who signed up for Book and a Bite at Meet the Teacher Day. We still need more parents to sign up to read to children during their lunchtime. If you would like more information about Book and a Bite or would like to sign up, please contact Joyce South by email at jjsouth@gmail.com or by phone at 465-9074.

Please remember that in order to participate in this program, you must have security clearance level 3 or 4. You can ask your child's teacher for further information on completing this process.

Visitor/Volunteer Check-in Procedures

Visitors and Volunteers, you **MUST** come through the front lobby for sign-in and obtain a visitor badge prior to volunteering, walking your child to class, or visiting your child. 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 sign-in computer. Please use this computer to check-in **and** check-out when you enter and leave the building. This 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.

The next newsletter will come out **October 12th**. If you have anything to submit, please email it to Stacy Dalness at weebonk@earthlink.net by October 1st.. ~ Stacy Dalness

Community Fundraising

Here's what we did in 2006 - 2007 ...

General Mills Box Tops—redeemed Box Tops worth \$835.90

Tyson Labels—redeemed labels worth \$27.36

Harris Teeter—earned \$349.31 using our VIC cards (95 families registered in '06-'07)

Food Lion -- earned \$346.71 using our MVP cards

Kroger—earned 31,138 in register tapes which were redeemed for the following items which will be in the Media Center:

- Books: Mount Rushmore; Knuffle Bunny; Cool Science-Robotics; The Liberty Bell; Basketball in Action
- Pencils, CDs and lamination cartridge
- Jonti-Craft Book Stand

Thanks to all the families that participated in these programs last year. It's time to re-link your grocery cards to Northwoods and start sending in your Box Tops and Tyson Labels. Look for details on how to participate in all these programs in the PTA Folder. Let's get the 2007 - 2008 school year off to a great start!



Box Tops for Education

This year Northwoods is sponsoring a Box Tops for Education contest. Each quarter the class with the most box tops will win a class treat. A flyer was sent home last week with further information. On the back of the contest information sheet is a list of the products that have Box Tops for Education labels. I wasn't really aware of how many different products that I use that actually have the labels until I read the list. Please help us make this a super (super easy) fundraiser.

Susanne Langdon-PTA President

5th Grade Activities Committee Forming

If you are a 5th Grade parent and are interested in joining the 5th Grade Activities Committee, please give me your contact information either by phone, 678-0357 or email, hoffdia@earthlink.net. We will have a busy year and will need plenty of help. We will be working on 5th grade t-shirts in the Fall and the dinner/dance and recognition ceremony for the end of the year. We will be getting started sometime in September or early October. Please join us in making this a year to remember for your 5th grader!

Diane Hoff

School Store

The school store hours are the **1st and 3rd Fridays** of the month, from **8:45-9:15am**.

We have an assortment of very reasonably-priced items. We'll have fun pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, folders, sharpeners, etc.

Counselor's Corner

A GOOD START: Tips For Parents

Instead of merely telling children that school is important, you can demonstrate this message by using these strategies to promote school success:

1. Meet and talk with your child's teacher. Make an appointment for important questions or call the school to set up a phone conference.
2. Tell your child why you value education.
3. Show interest in what your child is learning and convey a positive attitude about school.
4. Ask to see your child's assignments.
5. Go through the papers that come home in the Friday folder to compliment improvement, to note positive teacher comments, and to see what the school and PTA are sending home for your review. Sign and return the folder the next day. This teaches responsibility and self discipline.
6. Attend school events.
7. Post school work on the refrigerator.
8. Provide your child with necessary and helpful school supplies, keeping them in a handy container for easy access. This teaches organization.
9. Be involved in the PTA and volunteer at school when you can.
10. Come to school to eat lunch with your child.
11. Create a normal routine at home during the first days of school with time for free play, time for homework and reading every evening, meal time, bath and bedtime. Routines provide stability and a sense of safety for children while enabling them to do their best in school.

Have a great school year!

Beverly Mitchell, School Counselor

School Calendar

September

14, Fri Grandparent's Day 2:00-3:00pm
19, Wed Wacky Wednesday
21, Fri Early Release, **12:30pm** (NOT 1:30pm)
24, Mon Teacher Workday, **No School**

October

4, Thu Spirit Sprint
5, Fri Rain date for Spirit Sprint
17, Wed Wacky Wednesday
26, Fri Koalaty Kid Assembly
29, Mon Teacher Workday, **No School**
30, Tues Family Math Night

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.

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.

TIME CHANGE FOR EARLY RELEASE DATES

Please note that early release will now be at **12:30pm** instead of 1:30pm. Our first early release day will be September 21. Please be sure to make arrangements for your child to be picked up at the earlier time so no student is left at school. Thank you for your attention to this.