



# The **BEST** of NORTHWOOD Elementary



August 31, 2007

Please mark your calendars

Monday, September 3rd  
Labor Day Holiday—School Closed

Tuesday, September 4th  
NORTHWOOD SPIRIT DAY

Wednesday, September 5th  
Fall Picture Day

Friday, September 7th  
Media Center Volunteer Training  
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Signed Papers go home



CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AT [www.northwoodelementary.com](http://www.northwoodelementary.com)

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending your child's Curriculum Night. This event is one of the most important events that we sponsor at Northwood. Meeting with your child's teacher allows you to learn about the class routines and performance expectations, and helps you become an active partner in your child's successful school experience.

One of the handouts you received was information about attendance. We know that all parents want their children to succeed in school. However in order for students to do their best, they must be here and on time. Over the past three years, we have seen the attendance rate at Northwood decline. In 2005 there were 6.3% of our students who missed more than fifteen days of school. In 2006, we had 8.2% and this past year we had 12.4% of our students miss more than fifteen days. These numbers concern me for two reasons: first, students who are absent several days during the year miss out on valuable instructional time; secondly, our school could find itself on the list of schools not making Average Yearly Progress due to our attendance.

Because of our increased absence rate of students missing more than fifteen days, we would like to enlist your help by having your child at school every day and on time. When our students are here at school, our staff is successful in providing the best education for them, and your children have a greater opportunity to do their best.

Sheila Michael  
Principal

### Can We Help?

Please call us at 770-552-6390

- Curriculum: Ms. Evangelista, ext 141
- Guidance Counselors  
Ms. Allen, ext 133  
Ms. Roberts, ext 131
- Media Center:  
Ms. Corrigan, ext 149
- IST: Ms. Thompson, ext 132
- Cafeteria: Lisa Sutton,  
ext 156 or 770-552-6396



Sheila Michael, Principal  
Ritu Ahuja, Asst. Principal  
Northwood Elementary School  
[www.northwoodelementary.com](http://www.northwoodelementary.com)  
10200 Wooten Road  
Roswell, GA 30076  
Ph: 770-552-6390

### Northwood Yearbook Cover Contest

Theme: "Building Character, One Step at a Time:"

Our 2007-2008 yearbook is going to be incredible. It will be in full color and will feature our own artwork on front and back. PTA is hosting a contest where students submit original artwork. Please submit an 8 1/2x11 vertical drawing representing this year's theme by Friday, October 5th. Winners will be announced on Friday, October 26th. Questions? Call or e-mail Jennifer Pugh: [Jennpugh@yahoo.com](mailto:Jennpugh@yahoo.com) or 770-667-0956.

### Notification of School Bus Changes and Delays

Parents can now view school bus change information and school bus delay messages via the internet. Begin by going to the Fulton County Schools' homepage: <http://www.fultonschools.org/index.asp>. Click the School Bus Information button on the left navigation bar. Click the School Bus Delays/Changes button on the bottom right of the page. Select Northwood from the drop-down box, and click the Submit button. Any messages that have been entered for the selected school will be displayed.

Parents: When your child changes his/her daycare schedule, please remember to notify the daycare provider.  
Thank you.

### **Board Member Julia Bernath Community Meeting**

Wednesday, September 12,  
2007 at 9:30 am at Esther  
Jackson Elementary School

### INTRODUCING....

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Kindergarten teachers:

Jill McCabe: Mrs. McCabe is a University of Alabama grad where she met her husband, Trip. Roll Tide! They have a new baby girl, Natalie—2 1/2 months old. Mrs. McCabe is in her 12th year of teaching. She loves golf and snow skiing.

Laura Morrison: Ms. Morrison is returning to Georgia after living in Ohio since 4th grade. She is a graduate of Mount Union College in Ohio. Her best friend and hero is her mom who is a kindergarten teacher, too!

Abby Schooler: Ms. Schooler comes to Northwood after teaching in Gwinnett for 2 years. She adds a new football dimension to our SEC fans—she is a Texas Longhorn! Her favorite foods include anything with chocolate and peanut butter.

### Fulton County Attendance Policy

A student's absence will be considered excused when it is due to any of the following circumstances: (when the student returns to school they **must submit written documentation within 3 days** of one of these reasons for the absence to be excused)

Personal illness of the student

Attendance at school would be detrimental to the health of the student or others

A serious illness or death in the student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.

Compliance with a court order or an order issued by a governmental agency, including an order for pre-induction physical examination for service in the armed forces, mandating school absence.

Observance of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.

Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to the student's health or safety.

Serving as a page in the Georgia General Assembly.

Absences not exceeding a cumulative total of six days per year for the following reasons, but only if the absence has been pre-approved by the principal or designee:

Scholarship interview/college visitation

Travel opportunity with a clear educational benefit

Graduation or wedding of an immediate family member

Specialized educational experience

Other circumstances that are mutually agreeable to the parent and principal

Up to 10 instructional days (60 instructional hours) per year for school-sponsored non-instructional activities (defined as functions during the school day that are under the auspices or sponsorship of a school or the school system) that are specifically approved in advance by the principal or designee. The principal shall ensure that an accurate record of all such absences is maintained.

School days missed as a result of out-of-school suspension.

Any absences for reasons not considered excused above will be counted as an Unexcused Absence.

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

Families of students with excessive UNX absences can expect to be contacted by their child's teacher, the administration, and possibly the school social worker.

Excessive unexcused absences will result in a truancy or educational neglect petition being filed with the Fulton County Juvenile Court or the Fulton County Criminal Court.

\* If a student has three consecutive absences (not previously cleared through the school), the teacher will contact the parents via phone to determine the cause of the absences.