

Wildcat Tracks

Volume 4, issue 4

February, 2012



Published by NFMS
PTSO
3645 Coal Mountain Drive
Cumming, GA 30040

The Principal's Note... *by Mr. Jeff Hunt*

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Included with this issue:

- School Calendar
- Volunteer News
- Club Updates
- Class News
- Sports Information



Dear Friends of North Middle:

Quite a bit going on at North these days, and this issue of Wildcat Tracks will cover a wide variety of topics including HS Transitions, spring sports updates just to name two. Some of our parents may have already heard about an exciting new program we are using in our Math and ELA classes called *Pinpoint*. Forsyth County Schools has partnered with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, one of the largest educational resource companies in the world, to develop this interactive learning system.

North Middle and North High are the first schools in our district to pilot this program, and our teachers have begun their training in how to best manage this new resource. They are setting up their class pages, designing curriculum, and aligning assessments in preparation for student use. While we will still maintain some materials in Angel, *Pinpoint* will soon be the exclusive resource for our ELA and Math courses. Student logins will remain the same and a link to the following site can also be found under the Quick Links section of North Middle's web page:

<http://pinpoint.forsyth.k12.ga.us>

Over time, there will be parent logins available to monitor student progress. Until then, you will continue to use your child's district defined computer username and password to gain access to the instructional materials. Grades will continue to be posted in Infinite Campus and your parent portal access will not change until additional *Pinpoint* modules are brought online. Many of our resources will soon be integrated to create a one-stop shop for all academic needs. Not only will Pinpoint connect instructional content to assessment results, but it will do so based on the students' learner preferences, thus personalizing the learning process for each child. iTunes, Amazon and a whole host of private corporations are able to accomplish this goal of personalizing (or targeting) demands by tracking nothing more than your purchasing patterns. Our goal is to use the wealth of data and information available to us that will deliver a more personalized and engaging learning experience for your child.

If you have any questions about the implementation process of Pinpoint or would like further information, please review the I³ (Investing in Innovation) website or contact the I³ team through the following link:

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/i3>.

Finally, I have some exciting news on our ability to communicate important announcements / events with our students and parents. North Middle has decided to join the Social Network! You can now follow our school on *Facebook* and *Twitter*. I have not included links to these sites, but I'm sure our friends who utilize these resources can find us, click on like, and begin following our school! I constantly hear how the news we deliver with a piece of paper does not make it home (oh the bane of every middle school parent). For our parent partners who utilize social media, I am excited about the possibilities!

Watch for updates and thank you again for entrusting your children with us!

Go CATS!

Greetings from the PTSO

The PTSO has begun 2012 with a couple of projects. . Mr. Bailey, the media specialist has begun to rearrange the media center to make it more reader friendly. Check out the new black sofas recently purchased by the PTSO and the new designated reading areas. Another project the PTSO has taken on is labeling the halls in the rotunda. This project will be completed by the school year's end so be sure to check it out.

As spring gets closer, we are looking for volunteers to take positions on the PTSO Board. The school store/spirit wear chair and a president-elect position will be open. If you are interested, please email Kathy Thomas at bmtkbt4@aol.com.

Counselor's Corner

Events for Rising 9th Graders

The middle school counselors plan to meet with 8th grade students in Georgia Studies classes to discuss high school terms, credits, registering for electives, etc. These classroom visits are scheduled for February 6 - 9.

Thursday, February 23, 2012 (2:30 – 4:15) at NFMS– High school counselors and students meet with 8th graders to discuss elective course offerings and career pathways. **(Only students attend)**

We will also have our 8th graders complete a four-year-plan for high school on the morning of the 23rd.

Freshmen Festival – will be scheduled at the high school in August the week before school starts. Counselors and administration discuss extra-curricular activities, communication, difference between middle and high school, tour of school, band, chorus, teachers on hand, etc. Usually on a Saturday. **(Parents and students attend)**

See important dates on Page 4... Parent Involvement Necessary for important high school registration.

6th grade by Michelle Livingston

Class Notes

Sixth Grade ELA: We're currently reading about "John Henry" and are looking forward to having students complete their first "Pinpoint" activity by completing a pre-test over cumulative CRCT skills. We are also preparing for the upcoming ELA Benchmark on February 13th. **Stormy Weather Forecasted for Sixth Grade Science!** Earth Science students will begin their meteorology unit by learning about the layers of the atmosphere, how heat is transferred to earth, and how global wind currents affect weather. They will learn about barometric pressure, wind speed, and how temperatures are affected by those wind currents. They will be able to explain how air masses and fronts can create thunderstorms and tornadoes and be able to interpret the symbols on weather maps. In **Math**, students have just finished learning about Scale Factor and how to measure and convert measurements. We are now learning about Direct Proportions and how we use those in real life to calculate such things as distance and speed. Our county benchmark exam for math will be on February 14, followed by our unit on Geometric Solids. **Social studies** is studying Latin America. Students have learned about the geography and civics/government and the economy. We will soon begin the history of this region, including the work of the revolutionists, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Simon Bolivar, and Miguel Hidalgo. We will also study the interactions of the Conquistadors with the Aztecs and Incas.

8th grade by Matt Phillips

The 8th graders are more than half way through the year and well on their way to becoming high school students. 8th Grade Teachers are beginning to work on High School Course Recommendations for their current students. High School will be here before we know it. Also, the 3rd payment for the 8th Grade Savannah Trip was due Thursday, February 2nd. Please get your child's payment turned in to their **PRIDE** teacher as soon as you can.

School Calendar



NFMS LSC 2010-2011 Meeting Dates



All meetings start at 4:30 in the media center.
2/28, and 5/23

December

8th	Oratorical 9:15
10th	Georgia Day
13th-16th	Benchmarks
15th	High School Registration Packets go home
17th, 20th	Student Holidays
23rd	8th graders meet with HS 2:30-4:15
27th	6th, 7th, 8th band Concert 6:30



Wildcat



Athletes of the Month

November

8th Girls Basketball: Megan Hampton

8th Basketball Cheer:

Katelin Simpson & Kristina Thomas

December

7th Boys Basketball: Dylan Nix & Ethan Teems

7th Basketball Cheer: Torrie Mathis

January

7th Girls Basketball: Maddie Rine

8th Boys Basketball : Jacob Bailey

Congratulations!

Get Social!

Stay up-to-date on the school happenings via our **Facebook** page:

(www.facebook.com/NorthForsythMS)

You can also follow us on **Twitter!**

(<https://twitter.com/#NorthForsythMS>)

Volunteer News

Thank you to all the wonderful parent volunteers who provided desserts for the Teachers' Luncheon on December 3rd. We (and the teachers) appreciate your baking abilities ;~)!

Teacher Appreciation is the week of March 19th. We'll be looking for volunteers to help... stay tuned.

Wildcat Sports



Spring Sports Try-outs



Track Tryouts — February 6th- 9th, 4:15-6:00

February Meets:

- 2/22 at FCHS
- 2/29 at WFHS

Golf Try-outs — February 7th and 8th at 4:45 at
Countryside Golf Course

All students trying out must have a physical
on file with Coach Hoyle.

News about Box Tops

Students and Staff, thank you to all that have done such a great job bringing in Box Tops and Campbell's soup labels! The Box Top organization just sent a large check to our school that will come in handy with our daily expenses. We were very grateful to receive this!! It would not have been possible without your clipping and bringing them into the front office. Remember, for every 50 Box Tops that you bring in, your name goes into a monthly drawing for a \$10 gift card of your choice. We are also collecting Campbell's soup labels for free sports equipment for our school. Thank you for helping with this successful program and please keep clipping!



Congratulations to the following teacher and students. They are our monthly winners of a \$10 gift card of their choice for their Box Top collections:

- October: Lacy Hamilton
- November: Cathy Helmuth
- December: Sydney Page

NFMS Student Council
presents
DENIM &
Diamonds
Saturday, February 25th
7:00-9:00 PM
Tickets in advance - \$5.00
Tickets at the door - \$7.00

Activities for 2012 - 2013 9th graders:

9th Grade PARENT NIGHTS -

NFHS - Tuesday, February 14, 2012 (for last names beginning with A – H) **OR**

NFHS - Wednesday, February 15, 2012 (for last names beginning with I – P) **OR**

NFHS - Thursday, February 16, 2012 (for last names beginning Q - Z)

from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at NFHS at the PAC (Performing Arts Center)

FCHS - Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 in the East Cafe.

High school counselors will discuss course offerings, course digest, 4-year plan, etc.

***If you cannot attend the designated night for your student due to a conflict, you are welcome to attend the other evening!* (Parents and students attend)**

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Note: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 - Parent Portal opens to register for 9th grade electives.

The Portal closes on **Friday, March 2, 2012** at 4:00 PM.

****If you do not have computer access, you may register for electives at NFHS on Tuesday, February 21 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**** Also, the public library offers internet access.

Also, Mr. Highland at NFMS can help 8th graders register for their electives as long as the students know what they would like to take.

FRIDAY, April 13, 2012 - FINAL DEADLINE FOR ALL COURSE REQUEST CHANGES AND/OR PARENT WAIVERS AND DRIVER'S ED. FEE.

Link to our school transition page: <http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/20783>