

E*News
NFC PTA
Strengthening family, school, & community partnerships

North Fulton Council
PTA[®]
every child. one voice[®]

Issue # 8

NFCPTA Newsletter: February, 2016

Important Dates

February 6, 2016 -
Conversation about
Changing student testing
and teacher evaluations in
Georgia, 10:30 - 11:30
Meeting @ Alpharetta
Public Library. [See Flyer](#)

February 7, 2016,
JOIN US Legislative
Conference
From **2 - 3pm**
From your home
Phone number :
712-432-6100
access code:
69061527

April 27, 2016 - NFC
Presidents & Principals
Luncheon, 11-1:30 @
Country Club of the South
(4100 Old Alabama Road,
Johns Creek) *Watch for*
your invitations by the end of
February

May 11, 2016 -
Transitional Training for
new local unit officers,
9-11:30, location TBD.

"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be." ~Rita Pierson

"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted." ~Garrison Keillor

Thank you to all who attended our January SoI last week! We hope you found the presentation by Dr. Rickman and group discussion informative. If you were unable to join us, you can find "The Top 10 Issues to Watch in Education - 2016" on the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education's webpage (<http://www.gpee.org/Reports-Papers.5.0.html>). With the legislative session in full swing, this information is invaluable in advocating to support our children.

We also elected our nominating committee at the SoI; congratulations to our committee members! Applications are now being accepted for the 2016-2017 North Fulton Council Board. See the article below for information on the positions and how to apply.

Our next event is on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6** at the Alpharetta Public Library from 10:30-11:30. We are partnering with the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) to have a conversation about changing student testing and teacher evaluations in Georgia. With changes in Federal laws and discussions at the state-level, there is an opportunity to change Georgia laws around this year! We need input from both parents and teachers; please invite your school community to join us for this important topic.

[Here is a flyer for you to share in PDF format](#)

[Here is the link to the JPG format of the flyer](#)

It may seem a long way off, but the end of the year will be here faster than you expect! As you work on your reports, election process, and transitions do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or need any assistance!
Thank you for all you do!

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Membership Madness](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [JOIN the NFCPTA Board](#)
- [Sally FitzGerald Scholarship](#)
- [Treasurer's Corner](#)
- [Gardening Mini Grant](#)
- [Legislative Updates](#)
- [Nominating Committees Article](#)

Membership Madness 2016

Advance to the tournament of our Membership Madness with an exciting new incentive for our local units!

Georgia PTA is sponsoring a "Membership Madness Tournament" in which your local unit can compete to win a \$1,600 cash prize and an in-school assembly with the Harlem Wizards.

<http://www.georgiapta.org/news-events/georgia-pta-membership-madness-tournament/>

Treasurer's

~ **Diane Jacobi & Vickie Riccardo**
Co-Presidents, North Fulton Council of PTAs

Legislation

As the Gold Dome Turns.....

In our continuing saga of the 2016 legislative session, we're hearing about changes to the HOPE scholarship, transparency in school finance, a change in a ballot question, and the ever present voucher bills. Want to learn more about these and other issues that will impact our students and schools? Then **JOIN US on our next legislative conference call, Sunday, February 7, 2016 form 2-3pm .**

**Legislative conference call information:
Sunday, 2/7 from 2 - 3PM**

Phone number : 712-432-6100

access code: 69061527

NOTE: We scheduled this in the early afternoon out of recognition of the Superbowl in the evening. For future calls, please let us know what time works better for you!

JOIN the North Fulton Council of PTAs Board

Have you served on your local school's PTA? Are you looking for an opportunity to share your knowledge with other schools? Work on the bigger picture? Collaborate with system administration? Fix something? Volunteer for fewer hours with a larger reach? (no, really - this takes less time than a local unit! NFC PTA only does a few programs a year!)

THEN THIS IS THE BOARD FOR YOU !

Send your interest or questions to nominating@nfcpta.com. We hope you will join us!

Elected Positions

Co-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice President of Local Unit Support
Vice President of Membership
Vice President of Communications
Vice President of Programs

Corner

Can our PTA purchase gift cards?

Answer: According to the IRS; non-profit organizations cannot purchase gift cards. The risk here is individual or member benefit, which is cause for the IRS to remove the non-profit status. Your members including teachers or individuals cannot benefit personally. The other problem is that when using gift cards, it is truly the same as giving cash. There is no itemized receipt for what was actually purchased with PTA funds.

It is recommended to find other ways to show appreciation.

In lieu of the gift cards, we would recommend directly purchasing items to hand out - flowers, food, books, classroom supplies, etc. We always want to find ways to support and show our appreciation for school faculty and staff, but we also do not want any PTA to jeopardize its non-profit status.

Another example to show Teacher Appreciation is that the PTA could provide volunteers to cover classrooms and then cater a luncheon in support of the teachers.

More Gift Card information is available on the NFC PTA website

Please contact me if I can provide more information at treasurer@nfcpta.com

Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy

Not sure if you're ready for an elected position, but still want to help? Consider joining us as a chair!

Appointed Positions - Chairs

Advocacy
Male Engagement
Reflections
Reports
Environmental Education
Social Media
Website
Community Relation

Sally FitzGerald Scholarship

Information and applications for the 2016 Sally FitzGerald Scholarship will be posted by February 10 at <http://www.nfcpta.com/scholarship/>

In recognition of PTA's "every child, one voice" tagline, we've made some changes to the application and evaluation process to make the scholarship more accessible for the average student. This year, the essay will hold the highest weight in the application process, followed by activities outside of the school day (school extra-curricular, community involvement, work, or other activities), and finally academic proficiency. Additional consideration will be given for involvement in PTA. The application will be submitted via email; hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications are due **by 11:59 PM on Friday, March 25**. Information about the scholarship will be emailed to high school counselors within the next week. Email our scholarship chair, Jane Kragh (scholarship@nfcpta.com) if you have any questions.

Gardening Mini Grant

NFCPTA promotes environmental stewardship in our public schools. This year we want to promote gardening at the schools. A school garden can serve as a multidisciplinary "living laboratory" that actively engages children in nutrition education and horticulture. In addition not only do school gardens provide an environment of experiential learning that leads to better eating habits, they have also proved to increase overall science scores in middle school students.

This year we would like to support one school that has an already existing garden and needs help maintaining and supporting its

Christine Hall

NFC PTA Treasurer

QUICK LINKS

[National PTA](#)

[Georgia PTA](#)

Nominating Committees

A Primer

It's time to read your bylaws! That's where you will find critical information about forming your PTA's nominating committee. Look for Article VI, Section 8, where it says how many people you will need (and how many alternates). That's step one in the nominating process.

Use the PTA Nominating Committee and [Elections Guide](#) on the state PTA site to navigate you through this process.

A diverse nominating committee means a diverse board, and with that comes a diversity of thought - new ideas that have a larger impact on your whole school population. Pick well-qualified people who know a good cross-section of your community. Please note that your current president may not serve on the nominating committee.

Once you have established your nominating committee,

gardening educational program. The grant can be used to grow vegetables, purchase soil, seeds, vegetable plants, Georgia native plants or flowers that attract pollinators.

One grant of up to \$250 will be awarded to a school in good standing with the NFCPTA (up to date with membership reporting, dues etc.). The deadline for applying for this grant is March 1st, 2016 and the award will be made by April 1, 2016. The grant must be expended during spring, summer or fall of 2016.

The deadline for applying for this grant is March 1st, 2016 and awards will be made by April 1, 2016. Awards must be expended during the Spring, Summer or Fall of 2016.

Please print and complete the following application form and return to: NFCPTA EE Chair, c/o Teaching Museum North, 793 Mimosa Blvd., Roswell, 30075 Applications can also be scanned and emailed to: Environment@nfcpta.com or faxed to the Teaching Museum North at (770) 552-6340

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD the Gardening Mini Grant Application Form](#)

Regards,

North Fulton Council PTA



North Fulton Community Partner



<http://www.builderbunch.com>

[Click HERE to see current flyer](#)

and set the date of your elections, the nominating committee gets to work. Have them use the guide to gather the resources needed to fill your PTA's slate of officers. The proposed slate must be posted at least ten days prior to the election.

Your PTA's nominating committee performs a vital function within your organization. The members of the slate, if elected, can help define the vision and direction of your PTA for years to come.

www.nfcpta.com