



# NIGHTHAWK NEWS

*The Official Monthly PTA Newsletter Of Northwest Elementary School*

16438 Hutchison Road Tampa, FL 33625 | (813) 975-7315 | [www.northwestpta.org](http://www.northwestpta.org)

Translation of this newsletter may be requested in the Northwest office

## 2022-2023 School Year \*

**Fri, Feb 10**  
Daddy-Daughter Dance

**Fri, Feb 17**  
Non-student day

**Mon, Mar 6**  
Non-student day

**Mon-Fri, Mar 13-17**  
Spring Break

**Fri, Mar 31**  
Spring Fling, 4-8p

**Fri, Apr 7**  
Non-Student Day

**Fri, Apr 28**  
Mother-Son Night

**Mon-Fri, May 1-5**  
Teacher Appreciation  
Week (more to come)

**Thur, May 25**  
5th-Grade Celebration

**Fri, May 27**  
Last Day of School

**\*February Astronomy  
Night has been  
canceled.**

## Northwest PTA Site

Tickets, merchandise,  
PTA news, & more

<https://northwestpta.org>

## DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

*Fathers and Father Figures*, put on those dancing shoes and spend a special evening with your daughters. This Feb 10 event is open to *grades 3-5, only*. In addition to dancing, there will be games, food/beverages and of course, photos. \$20 for each father-daughter duo (\$5 per addition to the duo). Advance tickets - <https://northwestpta.org/> Contact: [billdonish@gmail.com](mailto:billdonish@gmail.com). Electronic flyer -



### Daddy-Daughter Dance

## MALEE BROOKBANK: ONE OF A KIND

*A Northwest mainstay* for 28 years, Malee Brookbank is a unique soul. After teaching gifted classes and 2nd grade for nearly 18 years, Brookbank moved to 3rd grade. She fondly recalls the early years at Northwest when the school was surrounded by orange groves. So fragrant were the blossoms that Brookbank sometimes opened the door of the portable, in which she taught, to enjoy the aroma. There is a smile in Brookbank's voice as she speaks about the horses that were exercised across the street where now stands a large residential area. Says Brookbank with her familiar humor "I loved the portables. I could control my own air conditioner!" But, this fun, vocal and popular teacher's route to being a teacher was not as simple as it sounds. After a couple of years in college, Brookbank masterfully convinced her parents, both educators, to allow her to travel to Martha's Vineyard where she worked caring for a glamorous property!



Still, no matter the fun times there, Brookbank could not escape the "calling" to teach. It was what she had to do. Upon graduation from FSU and with the exception of one grading period, Brookbank has not ventured far from the "Northwest Nest". Well, that's not completely true as this lady has traveled! During her summers, Brookbank explored Panama, Thailand, Japan, Germany, and the Caribbean. She even went to Mexico for 2 weeks to hone her Spanish-language skills in preparation for a class. "I can't imagine teaching anywhere else", says Brookbank just before confiding that another school attempted to steal her away years ago. Lucky for us. This energetic teacher is also an animal lover and cared for rescue pugs, with various issues, for nearly a decade, pre-pandemic. At one point, she had 12 pugs in her home. It's that caring heart that our students respond to in the class and school events. We can only hope that our hallways have that laugh and energy for a while to come. Thank you, Ms. Brookbank, for caring and for making us smile.



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## Northwest Business Partners



### Contact:

[acollins@fortknoxfire.com](mailto:acollins@fortknoxfire.com)

## Box Tops for Ed.

Each Box Tops collected is \$0.10 cashed in for our school.

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/>

Download mobile app "Box Tops for Education & choose "Northwest Elementary School" in your profile  
Please add grade & teacher  
Snap a photo of your receipts containing Box Tops products in the app within 14 days of purchase.

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## SPRING FLING

**Friday, March 31, 4-8 pm**

*The Spring Fling*, NWE PTA's largest community fundraiser will be here very soon. This family event will take place under the pavilion shelter, on the basketball court, near the playground and in the grassy areas. The silent auction will be held



inside. Enjoy the DJ from Bach2Rock and other entertainment under the pavilion along with several of our games & goodies for purchase. The rest of the fun will be waiting for you on the grassy areas, including the ever-popular face painting and balloon artistry. Expect 2-3 inflatables for the kids and 25+ games/activities for all! Food will include pizza, burgers and hot dogs. Advance tickets for PTA members go on sale in mid-February. Look for general sales information in early March. All pre-sales tickets can be picked up from a separate booth at the Spring Fling to get you to the fun even faster. To simplify your experience, tickets will be \$1 each, with most games & activities maintaining similar prices to last year's prices. Invite the grandparents, neighbors, and friends to join the fun. A new addition this year, will be our Spring Cleaning clothing drive to collect your *gently* used clothing and shoes, only. The items will be distributed amongst a few local non-profits in the days following the Spring Fling. Remember to engage your teens to volunteer (a separate teen sign up is coming soon). All event profits will be used to support Northwest.

Volunteer Sign Up (Give an Hour of Your Time)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044aa5a622a4f49-spring>

Contact Spring Fling co-chairs for more information: Kerrie Weltman ([kerrieweltman44@gmail.com](mailto:kerrieweltman44@gmail.com)) or Annette O'Malley ([arr2665@gmail.com](mailto:arr2665@gmail.com)).

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PTA NEWS

**Reflections** All students who submitted entries for the 2022-2023 Reflections Art Program are invited to the Ybor Reflections Celebration at Centennial Park on Sunday, Feb 26, 12-2p. This celebration is to recognize the artistic efforts of Hillsborough County students K-12 who shared their talents this year. County-level winners will be recognized. More information soon.

**Protect Tampa Water Arts Competition** Hillsborough County Public School students (K-12) are encouraged to submit their visions of how to protect source water in the Tampa Bay region. This competition is meant to raise awareness and challenge our students to think of where drinking water comes from and how to protect it. Drop off locations are in the flyer and the submission deadline is Feb 15, 2023. Judging will take place on Feb 26 at Centennial Park, in conjunction with the Reflections celebration. **Protect Tampa Water Arts Competition**