

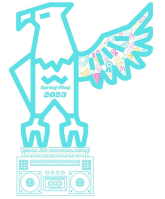


# NIGHTHAWK NEWS

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

- Mon, Mar 6**  
Non-student day
- Wed, Mar 8**  
Spring Pictures
- Mon-Fri, Mar 13-17**  
Spring Break
- Fri, Mar 31**  
Spring Fling, 4-8p
- Tue, Apr 4**  
5th-6th Grade Panel  
6:30-7:30p, Cafeteria
- Fri, Apr 7**  
Non-Student Day
- Fri, Apr 28**  
Mother-Son Night
- Mon-Fri, May 1-5**  
Teacher Appreciation  
Week (more to come)
- Tue, May 9**  
PTA General Meeting
- Thur, May 25**  
5th-Grade Celebration
- Fri, May 27**  
Last Day of School

## Northwest PTA Site

Tickets, merchandise,  
PTA news, & more

<https://northwestpta.org>

## SPRING FLING COUNTDOWN!

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

**Tickets are on sale now** for Northwest Elementary (NWE) PTA's **Spring Fling!** Tickets are \$1 each and various number of tickets are used for all food, games and activities except the Silent Auction and Merchandise. Join us at the pavilion, on the basketball court, near the playground and in the grassy areas for most of the activities. The silent auction will be held inside. The fun will include 25+ games, face painting, balloon artistry, and inflatables. Food will include pizza, burgers and hot dogs, as well as popcorn, and other treats. Bach2Rock will provide DJ services and there will be student-teacher entertainment. Advanced tickets can be purchased at <https://northwestpta.org/spring-fling> or via the order forms that your children will bring home soon. Day of, pre-sales tickets can be picked up from a separate table to get you to the fun even faster. Invite the grandparents, neighbors, and friends to the fun. Also, go through your closets and drop off donations at the event for the **Spring Cleaning clothing drive**. NWE PTA will collect *gently* used clothing and shoes, only and distribute amongst a few local non-profits in the days following the Spring Fling. Remember to engage your teens to volunteer, All Spring Fling profits will be used to support NWE. Please volunteer for an hour to set up or help during the event <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044aa5a622a4f49-spring>. Contact Spring Fling co-chairs Annette O'Malley ([arr2665@gmail.com](mailto:arr2665@gmail.com)) and Kerrie Weltman ([kerrieweltman44@gmail.com](mailto:kerrieweltman44@gmail.com)) with questions.

## REFLECTIONS WINNERS "Show Your Voice"

Congratulations to our Northwest Elementary (NWE) *Reflections* participants and school winners! We are so proud of the creativity and artistry displayed through dance choreography, music composition, photography, visual arts, literature, and film production. Special congratulations to **Logan Mellnick** and **Clayton Taylor** who have moved on to the state-level competition. Clayton, seen here, accepted his county-level award from Ami-Marie Granger-Welch, HCCPTA President, at the Ybor Arts in the Park on Sunday, Feb 26. Next school year's national *Reflections* theme will be "I Am Hopeful Because".

### Pre-K - 2nd Grade (Primary)

Literature: Saint Burgue - 1st

Film Production: **Clayton Taylor** 1st

Photography: **Logan Mellnick** 1st, Aurora Thomas 2nd, Saint Burgue 3rd

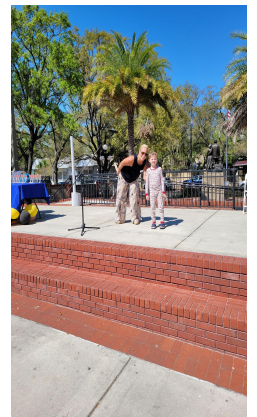
Visual Arts: Ava Wilde 1st, Logan Mellnick 2nd, Lucian York 3rd

### 3 - 5 Grade (Intermediate)

Dance Choreography: Sydney Edwards 1st

Photography: Carter Thomas 1st, Bennett Thomas 2nd, Carsen McAvey 3rd

Visual Arts: Makenzie McAvey 1st, Marcos O'Malley 2nd, Shelby Patterson 3rd





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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.

March 2023  
Issue 3509 v.10

## MELANIE SMITH: PROBATION OFFICER TO TEACHER OF THE YEAR



*Melanie Smith*, is in her fifth year at Northwest Elementary and has nine under her teaching belt. But this year's Teacher of the Year started in a very different career: that of a juvenile probation officer. What started as an internship, with her Social Work undergraduate degree, turned into a seven-year commitment supporting and guiding youth who had made poor life decisions. "I wanted to be a positive influence," she says of the kids with whom she worked. In the next phase of Mrs. Smith's interesting path, she welcomed three daughters, including twins, who are now 14; the younger daughter is 13. During this time, Mrs. Smith stayed at home to focus on her

daughters and still found the time to earn a Masters in Library Science, deciding "I'm going to school with the kids." After working elsewhere for a while, the search for a school closer to home led Smith to Northwest Elementary. "Everybody says no one leaves Northwest," says Smith. There is some truth as NWE experiences very little turnover and our staff is certainly happy that Mrs. Smith is around as they voted her Teacher of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year. Displayed humility is an understatement as Smith shared her surprise and appreciation for this honor. Adored by teachers and students alike, Smith has worked hard, in spite of the pandemic impact, to expand the Media Center's opportunities for our kids. In addition to the morning show crew, there are also the media center and technology/production crews. Smith loves working with kids. They "are open to trying new things, not fearful." It is clear that she has garnered the respect of the students as they continued to step into our interview to ask advice and comment on Smith's awesomeness. We are all excited to experience what Mrs. Smith and her media center students next bring to the Northwest family.

## AN AMAZING FOR DADS & DAUGHTERS

*Smiles, hula hoops, dancing, and dad pride* were the themes of NWE's Daddy-Daughter dance in February. Open to 3-5 grade students, these moments create indelible memories. Thanks to the Dad's club for organizing.

