



Mantua PTA Alert News October 16, 2012



Silent Auction: Donation Deadline THIS Friday!

If you want to donate to the Mantua online auction, please send in your donation by this Friday, October 19th. Remember: everyone has something to donate. You could offer something as simple as giving someone a ride to the airport or babysitting for a family. Donations could include baking cupcakes for someone's birthday celebration at school or approach a local business to see if it is willing to donate.

Whichever class donates the most number of items wins an ice cream party! We have some serious competition developing!

If you have something you'd like to donate, please fill out the form that you received in your child's Tuesday folder. Forms also are available on the [PTA website](#) in the right hand column under Hot Items. Send donations to the PTA box in the front office.

If every Mantua family donated just one item, we'd have more than 600 items! PTA fundraising pays for things like teacher training, technology, and many wonderful programs. Contact Alice Wang or Donna Hoover with any questions at mantua.pta.auction@gmail.com.

Mantua Basketball: Registration Deadline THIS Friday!

We are currently taking online sign-ups for Mantua Basketball. The Mantua Basketball League has been providing 3rd-6th graders an opportunity to learn basketball in a neighborhood environment for over 30 years. The league is organized into four divisions: grades 3-4 Boys, grades 3-4 Girls, grades 5-6 Boys, and grades 5-6 Girls. All registrations and communications are online this year at www.mantuabasketball.org.

Registration ends on Friday, October 19th. Fees are \$60 (for PTA members) and \$65 (for non-PTA members)

Please note: the 5th-6th grade Girls league has very few students registered so far (only about half as many as past years.) If your 5th or 6th grade daughter has already registered, please reach out to your daughter's friends and encourage them to join.

We are very excited about the new gym floor and hope you'll join us to make this year as successful as in years past. If you have any questions email League Commissioner [Sam Mayes](#). We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Fall Box Tops Contest Ends THIS Friday!

The Fall Box Tops Contest ends this Friday, October 19th! Keep sending in those Box Tops Labels, Labels for Education, and Tyson's Project A+ labels. Place them in a plastic zip bag with the teacher's name and grade and drop them in the collection box in the front lobby. No expired labels, please. A special prize will be awarded for the class bringing in the most labels. Look by the collection box to find out which classes are in the lead.

A list of participating products can be found at: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com and www.projectaplus.tyson.com.

You can also earn money for the school by registering at www.boxtops4education.com. Once registered, you can "Click & Earn" every month to earn money for the school. You can also go through www.boxtops4education.com to shop online at other websites and quickly earn lots of money for the school.

Counselor's Corner: Internet Safety and Red Ribbon Week Activities

Mrs. Warren and Ms. Dunfee shared information and strategies on internet safety with 4th-6th grade students. For more information and tips on how to keep your children safe, visit the [Common Sense Media Site](#).

Reminder: Red Ribbon Week

Students will celebrate Red Ribbon Week **October 22nd-26th** by dressing up in daily themes.

Monday, 10/22 - Elect to be Drug Free: Wear red, white, and blue or the American Flag pattern.

Tuesday, 10/23 - Team Up Against Drugs and Alcohol: Wear your favorite sports team clothing.

Wednesday, 10/24 - I've Got Better Things to Do than Drugs: Wear red.

Thursday, 10/25 - Too Bright to Do Drugs: Wear your favorite neon colors.

Friday, 10/26 - Say BOO to Drugs and Alcohol: Each grade levels will dress up for the Spirit Parade - information will come from your teachers.

Parenting with Purpose Parent Seminar at Canterbury Woods Elementary

Join us on **October 18th** 7:00-8:30 p.m. for the first of four parenting seminars Canterbury Woods will be hosting throughout the year. Neil McNerney, author of *Homework: A Parent's Guide to Helping Out without Freaking Out*, will be leading his Parenting with Purpose Seminar. Learn why it is important to be calm when parenting children. Visit Neil McNerney's website: <http://reducehomeworkstress.com>. Contact Jenna Dodds at jmdodds@fcps.edu to RSVP.

Attention: Take Home Readers!

The Take Home Reading (THR) program for grades K-1 will be starting for the second quarter. There will be a training session on **October 25th** at 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room. Anyone who signed up to be a THR volunteer will be receiving further instructions from their classroom's coordinator in the coming week. Any additional questions, please contact [Lori Recher](#).

Art Reflections Program

Create a dance, draw a picture, write a story or a poem! The Arts Reflections Program is here! If your child has a love of the arts, this program is for them! This competition is open to all elementary grades K-6. Categories include: dance choreography, music composition, film production, photography, literature, and visual arts. The 2012-13 theme is "The Magic of the Moment." How does it work? Have your child think about the theme, create an original piece of work in any of the above mentioned categories, and then submit that work no later than **Friday, November 9th** in the PTA office mail box. It's THAT easy!! An entry form

went home in recent Tuesday folders but if you did not receive one, please click [HERE](#) to download one. If you have any questions or need further information, please email [Lori Prendergast](#).

Kids Care Club

Mantua Kids Care Club was established in 1997 as part of the nationwide Kids Care Club. Since 1990, Kids Care Clubs have empowered children to make a better world through hands-on service projects. We give parents, teachers and youth leaders the resources they need to involve kids in the good works that will mean a brighter future for all. The mission of the Mantua Kids Care Club is to help those less fortunate and encourage Mantua students to participate in community service activities.

The Kids Care Club is a voluntary organization open to all children in kindergarten through 6th grade. We will meet on the third Thursday of each month in the upper pod right after school until 4:45 p.m. If your child is interested, please complete the registration form in the Tuesday folder by October 18th.

MATHCOUNTS program for Mantua 6th Graders

Has your 6th grader ever wanted to get better at math while having fun with friends? Has he/she ever wanted to show off math skills in a competition? Would he/she like to improve his/her chances of getting into select schools?

If you have a 6th grader who would answer "yes" to any of these questions, this is a great opportunity! Mantua alumnae Eli Lifland and Abhishek Bhargava, now freshmen at TJHSST, are starting a MATHCOUNTS program at Mantua under Mr.

Malc's supervision. The meetings will be held at Eli and Abhishek's houses.

MATHCOUNTS is a national program that involves improving your math skills and representing your school in competition. There will be a team of 10 students who will go to the competition. Details about how the team will be chosen will be given at the first MATHCOUNTS meeting.

We will have weekly meetings in which we will teach you how to solve math problems similar to those that will appear in the actual competition. These meetings will last approximately 1 ½ hours.

The first meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 22nd at 3828 Acosta Road, Fairfax (in the Mantua neighborhood). Please contact Mr. Malc if you have questions. You can find out more about MATHCOUNTS at mathcounts.org.

AMC-8 Mathematics Exam to be Administered at Mantua

Is your child a mathematics lover? If so you may want to learn about the American Mathematics Competitions 8 (AMC-8) examination. As a parent initiative, the test will be administered on Tuesday, **November 13th** at Mantua Elementary School.

The AMC 8 exam is a challenge appropriate for students very interested in mathematics that are enrolled in 6th grade, as well as 5th grade students capable of solving at least half the questions on an previous AMC-8 exam. The exam format is 25 multiple choice questions during a 40 minute period and is administered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). For additional information about the exam and a list of sample questions, click [HERE](#).

If you are interested in taking the test or have further questions, please contact

Mantua parents Jin Kang at jinkang1997@yahoo.com or László Péntek at Mr.Laszlo.2@yahoo.com or telephone (703) 725-3818. Please contact Mr. Kang or Mr. Pentek no later than Friday, October 26th to sign up for the test.

Healthy Snacking Tips from FCPS

Here are some healthy snacking tips from FCPS's Food and Nutrition Services:

Today, childhood obesity is a major national health crisis affecting about 25% of all students. Poor diets and lack of exercise are the major causes of this epidemic.

Parents are role models who must take an active role in guiding their children's snacks and encouraging physical activity. It is recommended that children exercise at least 60 minutes a day and spend less time in front of the television or computer.

- * Keep snacks small.
- * Don't eat snacks straight out of the package.
- * Snack only when hungry, not bored.
- * Limit sweet snacks such as brownies, cookies, and candy because they are often loaded with calories and sugar.
- * Offer fruits and vegetables.
- * Offer low fat cheese with whole grain crackers or pretzels.
- * Quench thirst with water, fruit juices or low fat milk, not soft drinks.
- * Read food labels carefully – if first ingredient is sugar AVOID IT.

Important Upcoming Events

Fri. Oct. 19: Deadline for Mantua Basketball Registration

Fri. Oct. 19: Box Tops Contest Ends

Fri. Oct. 19: Silent Auction Donation Deadline

Fri. Oct 26: Fall Spirit Parade (last day of Spirit Week)

How to Raise Financially Aware Kids!

Help your children appreciate the value of a dollar! Understanding how to raise financially aware kids is important so that children learn what they can do with money early in life. By forming good financial habits early, your children can apply what they learn at home as they grow to face financial expectations in the adult world. Join us on Monday, **October 29th** at 7:00 p.m. in the school library for this informative workshop. We'll discuss money values, allowances, putting your money to work, smart spending and understanding a child's needs versus wants, and how to involve kids in the family finances. Our guest speaker will be Sam Eisen, Virginia Chapter Director of the Foundation for Personal Financial Education (FPFE), a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to financial awareness in the community. More details can be found [HERE](#) and will also follow in your child's Tuesday folder. Contact [Margaret Scheele](#) with any questions.

Next Woodson Drama Night Out for Kids 1st - 6th Grade

It's not too late to sign your 1st-6th grader up for Woodson Theater Department's Drama Night Out (parent date night) Saturday, October 27th, from 6:00 p.m. up to 11:00 p.m. Your kids will have fun with others in their age group learning improvisation, musical theater and acting skills all taught by talented theater students while you go "out on the town!" Visit

<http://www.wtwdrama.org/boosters/night-out/> for more information and to

register.

Also, the Woodson Drama Department proudly presents the classic musical *Bye Bye Birdie* November 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th. Visit www.wtwdrama.org for more information and tickets!

Woodson Cavalier Varsity Precisionette Dance Camp

Want something energetic and fun for your kids to do on the Teacher workdays? Let the Woodson Dance Team provide a fun, safe, healthy experience for them. The participants will learn dances, play games, make crafts, and HAVE FUN! They will be divided by age during dance to provide the most meaningful experience for all.

DATES: Monday November 5th and/or Tuesday November 6th

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

COST: \$45 for one day, \$65 for both days (after October 20th add \$5.)

PARTICIPANTS: Kindergarten-8th grade

PLACE: W.T. Woodson Dance Room and Auxiliary Gym

BRING/WEAR: Lunch, snack, water bottle, sneakers (dance shoes optional), shorts/dance pants and shirt.

Checks payable to: Woodson Precisionettes

Come learn some dance from the award winning W.T. Woodson Precisionettes.

Space is limited so register early! All participants receive a t-shirt and crafts made at camp! Registration forms can be found [HERE](#).

Alert News Contributions

Send items via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org.

Submissions MUST be received by the Friday before distribution in order to be included.

如果您需要一份中文的曼图亚小学校园新闻周刊，请联系雷晓春女士。电话：703-425-1097

电子信箱：sabrina.lei@yahoo.com

한국어로 번역된 뉴스를 받아보시기 원하시는 분은 크리스티씨께 연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065, 이메일 choichristie@yahoo.com.

Nếu quý vị muốn nhận tin tức "the Alert News" được dịch ra tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc sonha60@hotmail.com

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor llame Gabriella Numbela a 703-573-6375 or e-mail a ganumbela@hotmail.com.

2012-13 FCPS & PTA Calendar at a Glance [HERE](#)

Mantua Parent Handbook [HERE](#)

* Stay informed all year long by visiting our website: www.MantuaPTA.org

* Are you on Facebook? Stay informed by joining us: [HERE](#)

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

