

Mantua PTA Alert News December 11, 2012



Drama Club Feedback Needed

Please complete this [Mantua Drama Club survey](#) if your student was in this most recent production of "Treasure Island", a past production, or considering Mantua Drama Club in the future. Your participation will help PTA volunteers and the school administration work towards providing a desired Drama Club experience in the future. The Drama Club survey will be available through Friday, January 4th, however, your prompt turn-around is most appreciated. Please answer the survey honestly. All responses will be anonymous.

Science Fair Club: Registration is Open!

Online registration for the Science Fair Club is now open for children in grades 3-6. The Club will meet on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. from January 9th to April 10th. Participating students will design and experiment with a science fair project to be displayed on Science Fun Night in April. Registration is limited to 20 children and will proceed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents who are interested should read [THIS FAQ document](#) and submit their child's information using the [online registration form](#) no later than January 4th.

Winter Enrichment Program for 2013

Registration for the Winter Enrichment Program began a couple of weeks ago and

the response has been wonderful! Classes are starting to fill or get close to full, so if your child would like to participate, please sign up ASAP! There are still spaces available in the following classes: Tuesday Yoga (K-2), briKadventures, Robotics, Spa Science, and MusilQ.

Thank you so much to those of you who signed up for a program online and returned a permission slip to the Mantua PTA mailbox. If you signed up online, but haven't sent in a permission slip, please do so, or you may lose your space in the class!

More information about the program and permission slips can be found on the [PTA website](#). If you have any questions, please email [Teresa LeMair](#).

Counselor's Corner: Bookmark Contest and More!

Student Safety and Wellness Bookmark Contest

Entries must promote the theme, "Making My World Beautiful by Being Drug and Bully Free" and convey a positive message against violence and alcohol and other drug use. Materials and contest rules are available in the library. All completed bookmarks must be submitted on or before Friday, January 17th at 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Stress

APA (American Psychological Association) offers these tips to help parents deal with holiday stress:

- *Set expectations - Talk to your kids about expectations for gifts and holiday activities. Be open with them if money is an issue. Depending on a child's age, parents can use this as an opportunity to teach their kids about*

the value of money and responsible spending. And, be realistic. Take small concrete steps to deal with holiday tasks instead of overwhelming yourself with goals that are too far reaching for a busy time.

- *Keep things in perspective* - Try to consider stressful situations in a broader context and keep a long-term perspective. Avoid blowing events out of proportion and teach your kids how to keep things in perspective, including what type and the number of gifts they receive.
- *Make connections* - Good relationships with family and friends are important. So, view the holidays as a time to reconnect with people. Additionally, accepting help and support from those who care about you can help alleviate stress. Even volunteering at a local charity with your kids is a good way to connect with others, assist someone in need and teach your kids about the value of helping others.
- *Take care of yourself* - Pay attention to your own needs and feelings during the holiday season. Engage in activities that you and your family enjoy and find relaxing. Taking care of yourself helps keep your mind and body healthy and primed to deal with stressful situations. Consider cutting back television viewing for kids and instead, get the family out together for a winter walk. It promotes activity and takes kids away from sedentary time and possible influence from advertisements.

Creationers Win Third in State!

Team Creationers attended the state-wide FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competition this past weekend and scored Third Place overall out of 98 teams for Robot

Performance.

For the past three months, Mantua 6th graders Todd Tran, Sarah Tadlock, and Amartya Banerjee, 5th grader Catherine Tadlock, 4th graders Danielle Joseph and Nicole Joseph, and Poe Middle School student Jacob Gushue worked to create a multi-purpose LEGO robot and programmed it to solve various missions to earn points. Additionally, they did research for this year's topic, "Senior Solutions," which addressed the needs of senior citizens and developed an invention to present to judges.

They traveled to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and spent the weekend presenting their months-long research project and invention proposal, demonstrating their teamwork, and explaining their robot's design. The event was capped off by an exciting final day of head-to-head robot competitions. **Team Creationeers' robot scored higher than all the teams in the older grade division!**

The Virginia/DC region has the largest number of FLL participants in the world, with over 3,000 students in more than 600 teams.



Support Mantua While Shopping on Amazon

Please support Mantua when you shop for the holidays, birthdays and gifts! By using the Amazon link on the Mantua PTA website, you can shop (privately and securely) and Mantua can receive up to 10% of your purchase. To get started, simply go to the [PTA website](#) and start shopping! By accessing Amazon through the Mantua PTA website, you will be on your way to shopping and supporting your favorite school!

Important Upcoming Events

Mon. Dec 17: Winter Choral Concert

Tues. Dec 18: Winter Band Concert

Fri. Dec. 21: All-School Winter Sing-Along

Dec. 22-Jan. 1: School Closed for Winter Break

Woodson Winter Baseball Training Camps

Woodson Winter Baseball Camps provide each camper with instruction and repetition designed to better prepare them for their Little League/AAU spring tryouts and season. The camp offers overall skill development and instruction in hitting, bunting, base running, fielding, and throwing mechanics. The camp is \$140 and includes 4 sessions and camp t-shirt. It will be held on Sundays, January 13th, 20th, 27th, and February 3rd from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Woodson High School: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, and cheat. Now they have taken over the church's annual Christmas pageant! The entire town has gathered in anticipation, waiting to see the Herdmans ruin Christmas – or will they? This funny, heartwarming, holiday tale has become a classic and is good for the entire family.

This production will benefit the work of "The Young Hearts", a group of students from Woodson High School students who raise funds to battle blood cancers and other diseases. A portion of all proceeds from this production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation in pursuit of their important mission. The production will be in honor of Madame Nelson, a valuable Woodson teacher who recently passed away from blood cancer.

Performances will be at the James Lee Community Center Theater on December 13th, 14th, and 15th at 7:30 p.m. AND on December 15th and 16th at 2:00 p.m. Ticket price is \$15. For tickets or information, please go to www.providenceplayers.org or www.youngheartstn.org.

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，请联系潘红女士。电话：703-939-3403

电子信箱：hpan.home@gmail.com.

한국어로 번역된 뉴스를 받아보시기 원하시는분은 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 email Ana Castelan a anav49@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

