



September 9, 2014 | Issue No. 2

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Important Upcoming Dates

September 11: Registration for Enrichment Classes, 8:00 a.m.
September 11: Registration Begins for FLEX Classes, 8:00 a.m.
September 12: PTA Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Reading Room
September 12: Volunteer Interest Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
September 15: Drama Club Interest Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
September 15-24: Boosterthon Fundraiser
September 16: Back to School Night, Grades 4-6
September 18: Back to School Night, Grades K-3
September 22: Academic Competition Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
September 29: Student Holiday - No School

Parking at the School

Cars parked on the Horner Court cul-de-sac that are parked in the fire lane (the yellow area from the curb to the fire hydrant) may be ticketed. Please do not park in this area. You may park past the yellow area; however, you must keep 10 feet from any driveways or mailboxes. In addition, if you are parallel parking in front of the school, please park in the direction of traffic or you may be ticketed.

After School Hours

Please note: for security reasons, no one is allowed in classrooms after 4:45 p.m. If a student has forgotten homework, he/she will have to call a classmate.

Transportation Home From School

At Mantua we have a pass system established for when your student is not going home from school by the assigned method. This system has been set up to safeguard your children and is required by the FCPS transportation office. To arrange a change in transportation, please email mantuaesattendance@fcps.edu and your student's teacher. If you can't email, call the office. Notice needs to be received by 1:00 p.m. every day. Starting in October, your student can receive a pass to take a bus home with a friend, however the office needs notice from both families before a pass can be issued. There are no passes to ride buses with a

friend in September.

First PTA Meeting THIS Friday

Come to the kick-off PTA meeting on **Friday, September 12th at 9:30 a.m.** in the reading room. Meet the Board, hear from Principal Mrs. Fernandez, and get information on upcoming activities.

Volunteer Information Meeting

The volunteers at Mantua Elementary are one of the reasons why our school is so special! Do you want more information about how you can get involved with volunteering at Mantua? Join us for the Volunteer Information Meeting on **Friday, September 12th**, starting as soon as the PTA meeting is over (approximately 10:30 a.m.) Classroom and school-wide volunteer jobs will be reviewed and questions will be answered. If you can't make it to the meeting, but have a question or comment, please email Teresa LeMair at teresalemair@aol.com.

Parent and Student Information

Help us get a jump on the new year by completing the *Student & Parent Info Form*, which must be submitted by **Wednesday, October 15th** for edits to be reflected in the 2014-15 PTA Student Directory. You may delete or add information as you see appropriate for your family. You can find the form here: <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15studentparentinfo>.

Join the PTA!

Our annual PTA Membership Drive is a fundraiser that helps support the many PTA services provided to you and your child. Cost is only \$15 per family (tax deductible), and in return you'll receive a copy of the Mantua PTA Student Directory, an essential tool for connecting with anyone in our school community. Your family will also receive a \$10 discount on fees for Drama Club, PTA Basketball, Chat'n'Chew, and Raccoon Runners. Perhaps most importantly though, joining PTA gives you a vote on what we're doing on campus and how our money is spent! Please join online at <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15membershipandsupport>. You can also complete the membership envelope you received in your child's open house folder.

Boosterthon is Coming: September 24!

Our fall fundraiser is the **Boosterthon Fun Run**. This program is a healthy alternative to traditional product sales that will raise much-needed funds for Mantua Elementary School. In addition to raising money, the nine-day program also promotes fitness, leadership, and character during this fun-filled experience. **Students will be asking for pledges between September 15th and September 24th** to support their participation in the Fun Run. Show your support and help Mantua raise funds to aid programs, field trips,

teacher development, materials, and technology for our school. The Fun Run will be held on **Wednesday, September 24th** during the school day. All parents are welcome and encouraged to cheer on their children. Please check your child's Tuesday folder for more detailed information. Questions? Contact Meri Farling at merifarling@hotmail.com.

Enrichment Classes

Mantua students are offered a variety of enrichment classes held before or after school—typically spanning three separate 8-week sessions: fall, winter, and spring. Classes focus on many areas of interest including art, music, STEM, and sports. Mantua Enrichment seeks to build upon our students' educational foundation by giving them opportunities to explore other areas of learning. This year Mantua PTA has partnered with Enrichment Matters, a company that shares our philosophy on enrichment, to plan a fun and diverse menu of classes for our children!

Parents can register students for our fall session on September 11th after 8:00 a.m. at this site:

<http://www.enrichmentmatters.com/Mantua/>. Registration will close on September 17th at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions in the meantime, please email our enrichment coordinators, Shannon Murphy at shannon.murphy29@gmail.com or Liz Schatzman at lizschatzman@gmail.com

Start Thinking About Academic Competitions

There will be an Academic Competitions Interest Meeting on **Monday, September 22nd at 7:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. Parents and children are invited to come hear about competitions traditionally offered at Mantua and to sign up on interest lists/network with other parents wishing to start teams this year. If you are starting a team and are looking for members, please contact mantuacompetitions@gmail.com. Competition costs vary and are shared by participants. Families for whom competition fees constitute a hardship should contact Mrs. Fernandez directly to discuss financial assistance.

A few competitions with early deadlines need to start ASAP and cannot wait until the meeting. For more information, click on the following links: [Division I Science Olympiad](#) (early winter event for 6th graders; 5th graders can select Division A or B) [Future Problem Solvers](#) (first event in October; 4th-6th grade) [Seaperch](#) (January event; 6th graders, or selected 5th graders) For additional questions, please consult the [PTA's Academic Competitions web page](#) or email mantuacompetitions@gmail.com.

Any team that is planning to run during the current school year must submit an application by Saturday, November 1st.

FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) Classes

Mantua PTA organizes language classes through FCPS's Foreign Language

Experience (FLEX) program. FLEX is developed especially for elementary school children, who are at the optimal age for learning another language. Students are encouraged to study basic vocabulary and phrases through stories, games, activities, and music.

Mantua students are invited to enroll in one-hour language classes held before or after school. The Fall Session begins in October and continues for 15 weeks. The tuition cost is \$199 and includes materials and instruction.

This fall we are excited to offer the classes below. Click on the course title to register, and please make sure to select the course taught at Mantua. Registration begins on **September 11th at 8:00 a.m.**

[Chinese Level 1](#) for grades K-3

[Chinese Level 2](#) for grades 1-6

[German Level 1](#) for grades 1-4

[Spanish Level 1](#) for grades 1-4

For links to the classes, you can also visit the Mantua PTA site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/flex.html>. Have questions? Contact Susanne Fitch at swunner@yahoo.com.

Drama Club Interest Meeting

Welcome to the 2014 Drama Club Season! We're excited to announce that students from 3rd-6th grades will be presenting an adaptation of The Wizard of Oz by Erin Detrick, for this year's play! There will be an interest meeting on **Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/drama.html>.

Raccoon Runners: NEW Expanded Program

New this year – Two Teams: Raccoon Runners for Boys and Raccoon Runners for Girls

The Mantua Raccoon Runners is a positive youth development program for girls and boys in 3rd-6th grades. This program will empower young boys and girls to be true to themselves through lessons in positive body image, health and nutrition, and social awareness. This will all be done while we strengthen ourselves through various fitness activities as we train for a 5K run. Any student is eligible to participate.

The Raccoon Runners is an eight week program that will meet before school. **The Girls team will meet Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the gym starting October 6th. The Boys team will meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:00-8:50 a.m. in the gym starting October 7th.** Both teams will start the mornings with some sort of physical activity. Exercise will consist of a variety of activities, such as yoga, boot camp, strength training and flexibility, and 5K conditioning. After our workout and stretch, the students will have a healthy snack while we cover our lesson for the day. There will be a new lesson each time we meet. Lessons will

cover a variety of subjects including health and nutrition, safety, hygiene, emotions, team building, self-esteem, gratitude, and social issues.

At the end of the program, the Raccoon Runners will participate in Mantua's own Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning.

You can find information about the Raccoon Runners program and a permission slip at <http://mantuapta.org/documents/programs/rr/fall2014/raccoonrunners.pdf> and <http://mantuapta.org/documents/programs/rr/fall2014/permission.pdf>.

Please contact Meri Farling at merifarling@hotmail.com with questions.

Counselors' Corner

Welcome back to school! We have some changes in the counseling department at Mantua. Mrs. Warren has relocated to Centreville Elementary School. Mr. Hang joins us and he will be working with Family 1 and grades 3 & 5. Ms. Kim will continue to work with Family 2 & 3 and grades 4 & 6. We hope you all had wonderful summer.

Teen Bereavement Workshop

Haven of Northern Virginia is sponsoring a FREE Teen Bereavement Workshop on Thursday, October 9th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Haven (4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale.) To register, call 703-941-7000 or email havenofnova@verizon.net.

African American Culture Parent Program

Fairfax County Department of Family Services, through the Parenting Education Program announces an African American Cultural Focused class for parents of students ages 5-11 at Heritage Fellowship Church in Reston. Classes will be held every Monday from September 15 to December 15. For more information, contact Natalie M. Bailey, M.Ed, Fairfax County Department of Family Services at 703-324-3617 or Natalie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Social Media Tips for Parents

A resource was recently posted to MyFCPS Family to support parents as they help their children successfully navigate the ins and outs of social media. For more information, visit:

http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/myfcps/family/2014_05_28/socialmedia.shtm

Ice Cream Social a Success!

Thank you for making our Pizza & Ice Cream Social fabulous! Despite the heat, you came out in force and helped the PTA collect **over \$3,500**. A special thank you goes to SuYoung Iverson and Denise Gavilan for organizing this year's event. And, thank you to all of you who spent time scooping ice cream and handing out pizza. If anyone would like to help plan this fun event next year, please contact Meri Farling at merifarling@hotmail.com.

Translators

Translators comprise another vital part of our outreach efforts. We want every Mantua ES family to feel included and connected—should families need to have a document translated into their native language, our volunteers are here to help!

- للحصول على نسخة مترجمة للغة العربية، نرجو الإتصال بالأخت بدرية كفالة على هذا الإيميل: bkafala@gmail.com. If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email bkafala@gmail.com.
- 如果你需要把文件翻译成中文，请联系冯敏。她的电子邮件是 mmfeng@hotmail.com。 If you need to have a document translated into Chinese, please email Min Feng.
- Если вам необходимо перевести документ на русский язык, пожалуйста обращайтесь к Анне Жердецкой или Виктору Жердецкому по электронной почте: hannaz74@gmail.com или ViktorZ@gmail.com. If you need to have a document translated into Russian, please contact Hanna Zhardzetskaya and Viktor Zhardzetski.
- Para obtener una copia en Espanol favor de contactar a Ana Castelan. If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please email Ana Castelan.
- 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요 (skjwa7@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Seungkwan Jwa

Email Shoshi Kalderon at shoshi.kalderon@yahoo.com if you have any questions about or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.