



September 16, 2014 | Issue No. 3

## Important Upcoming Dates

- September 15-24: Boosterthon Fundraiser
- September 16: Back to School Night, Grades 4-6
- September 17: Registration for Enrichment Classes Closes at 12:00 noon
- September 18: Back to School Night, Grades K-3
- September 19: Basketball Registration Begins
- September 22: Academic Competition Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- September 29: Student Holiday - No School
- September 30: Take Home Reading Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

## Back to School Nights

In response to feedback received over the years, Mantua is unveiling a new model for Back to School Night this year. As you will see in the chart below, the start times for grade levels are staggered, which creates several benefits including relief of parking congestion and parents of children in multiple grade levels attendance at sessions for each of their children. Please note: there is NOT a general meeting or principals' message time before each session, and each grade level is only presenting once.

Parents will gather in the cafeteria until the start time of each session. In addition to a video greeting from FCPS Superintendent Garza and a welcome video from the Principals, teachers from Art, Music, PE, Italian, Band, and Strings, as well as other specialists will be available in the cafeteria each night to answer specific questions you may have.

Members of the PTA will also be in the cafeteria. You will be able to join the PTA as well as get any questions you may have about PTA programs answered. You can purchase Spirit Wear at BTSN as well.

### Tuesday, September 16

Grade Level	BTSN Time	Cafeteria
4	6:30-7:00 p.m.	Specialists & videos available to 5 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
5	7:00-7:30 p.m.	Specialists & videos available to 4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
6	7:30-8:15 p.m.	

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## Thursday, September 18

Grade Level	BTSN Time	Cafeteria
K	6:30-7:15 p.m.	
1	7:00-7:30 p.m.	Specialists & videos available to K & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade parents
2	7:30-8:00 p.m.	Specialists & videos available to K, 1 <sup>st</sup> , & 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade parents
3	8:00-8:30 p.m.	

## Boosterthon is Here!

The PTA 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. We also need parent volunteers to help with the Fun Run. Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e45aea82f4-boosterthon>. Questions? Contact Meri Farling at [merifarling@hotmail.com](mailto:merifarling@hotmail.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. The information you provide will be used for various school and PTA purposes, such as the aforementioned directory and the Alert News distribution list. The information will also be shared with PTA volunteers for PTA programs such as Chat'n'Chew or Raccoon Runners among others, in case they need to contact you for any reason. Please note that the form must be finished before your child(ren) may participate in any PTA-sponsored activity—important PTA permission slips are contained within. Contact Paige Rushing at [paigerushing@gmail.com](mailto:paigerushing@gmail.com) if you have any questions! Go to <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15studentparentinfo> to complete your form!

## 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.

## Basketball at Mantua

Mantua PTA Basketball early registration will open on **Friday, September 19th** and close on October 5th. Late registration will be from October 6th-12th. Please register at [www.mantuabasketball.org](http://www.mantuabasketball.org). The league is open to all 3rd-6th graders. Practices will begin the first week in December, and each team will practice once a week and play one game on weekends. Please visit [www.mantuabasketball.org](http://www.mantuabasketball.org) for more information.

## Spirit Wear for Sale

PTA's newest Spirit Wear collection is now on sale! See samples of t-shirts, sweat jackets and pants, a performance shirt, a fleece jacket, a water resistant jacket, and a knit hat displayed in the school cafeteria. Take a look while visiting the school for Back to School Night this week. In addition to the traditional screen print design this year embroidered jackets, hat and polo shirts are also available. Order forms were sent home in Tuesday folders, but if you prefer to shop online then please visit <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15spiritstore>. The deadline for all orders is **Friday, October 10th**. Items will be delivered by November 14th. Show your school spirit. Order today! For any questions please contact Kathleen DeCarlo at [kdecarlo@verizon.net](mailto:kdecarlo@verizon.net).

## 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 at this site:

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

# FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) Fall Classes

Enrollment continues for FLEX Language Classes at Mantua! Don't miss the chance to sign up for one of the remaining spots; enrollment is limited. 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.

[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](mailto:swunner@yahoo.com).

## Academic Competitions Interest Meeting

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. A few competitions with early deadlines need to start ASAP and cannot wait until the meeting. For those and other competitions, please sign up to indicate your interest in the competitions on the PTA's Academic Competitions web page:

<http://www.mantuapta.org/students/academiccompetitions.html>. If you have additional questions, please email [mantuacompetitions@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:merifarling@hotmail.com) with questions.

## Take Home Readers Program

Attention all Take Home Reading volunteers! THR training is scheduled for **September 30th at 9:30 a.m.** in the Reading Room with Ms. Puckett. If you're interested in the THR program (grades K-1) but have not yet signed up, it's not too late! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for the training, please contact Lori Recher at [lorirecher@hotmail.com](mailto:lorirecher@hotmail.com).

## Counselors' Corner

### FCPS Parent Handbook

The 2014-15 FCPS Handbook: a Guide for Parents is now available and can be found electronically at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/pubs/handbook.pdf>.

### Strategies for School Success

The following link provides resources to enhance and support parent engagement and school success. These resources are available in multiple languages as well.

<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/fam/resources/publications/index.shtml>

# Parents of Students in Grades 3–6

- All new students to Fairfax County Public Schools that don't have a cognitive abilities test on file will be administered the CogAt test during the testing window of October 15th-October 24th.
- If you are interested in the one-time retest for possible acceptance to AAP Center, please contact Eva Bousbouras at [Vaitsa.Bousbouras@fcps.edu](mailto:Vaitsa.Bousbouras@fcps.edu) by Friday, September 26th.

## 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](mailto:bkafala@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email [bkafala@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hannaz74@gmail.com) или [ViktarZ@gmail.com](mailto:ViktarZ@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Russian, please contact Hanna Zhardzetskaya and Viktar Zhardzetski.
- 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요 ([skjwa7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.