



October 20, 2015 | Issue No. 7

In This Issue:

[Important Dates](#)  
[Family Fun Night](#)  
[Wish Fund](#)  
[Volunteer!](#)  
[Spirit Wear](#)  
[MATHCOUNTS](#)  
[Reflections](#)

Quick Links:

[Not Receiving  
the AlertNews?](#)  
[Update Your  
MP Info](#)  
[MP Invitation](#)  
[Request  
MantuaPTA.org](#)

Compiled by:  
[Amy Halstead,](#)  
[AlertNews Editor](#)

## Important Upcoming Dates

October 22: MATHCOUNTS Interest Meeting, 7:45-9:00 p.m., Room 23  
October 23: Family Fun Night - Pokemon Cards & Games Night, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
October 23: Spirit Wear Deadline  
October 23: Reflections Contest Deadline  
October 30: Box Tops Contest Ends  
October 30: Fall Spirit Parade, 9:30 a.m.  
October 30: 2-Hour Early Release

## PTA Family Fun Pokemon Night

Mantua PTA's annual Family Fun Pokemon Night will be held **THIS Friday, October 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. Collect all your Pokemon cards and bring them for an evening of card trading and game playing with Mantua families and friends. If you are new to Pokemon, then come and learn about trading and how to play the game with our expert game guide, Tim Foley and his staff. There is no fee to attend, however children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Kathleen DeCarlo at [kdecarlo@verizon.net](mailto:kdecarlo@verizon.net) with any questions.

## Wish Fund Program and Application

Mantua PTA is happy to announce the opening of the 2015 WISH FUND program application period! The generous support of Mantua Elementary School families, community supporters, faculty, and staff enables the Mantua PTA to operate an internal grant-making program called the Mantua PTA Wish Fund. We are pleased to announce the second year of the Wish Fund with an invitation to submit proposal applications seeking to fund projects with impact for our elementary school. Mantua Elementary faculty, staff, and PTA members in good standing are invited to submit proposals. Complete applications should be submitted **by noon on Tuesday, November 2nd**. More information, including submission options and instructions can be found here: [www.mantuapta.org/wishfund.html](http://www.mantuapta.org/wishfund.html). The Wish Fund will be seeking volunteers to review proposals and make recommendations to the PTA membership for funding. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Jennifer McFadyen at [jmmcfadyen@aol.com](mailto:jmmcfadyen@aol.com).

## Volunteering at Mantua: A GREAT Way to Get Involved! Just Click [Here!](#)

What is a great way to get involved with your child's school experience? To get to know his/her peers and teachers while supporting the students and staff? To meet other

families in our community that you'll see for the next 10+ years while your child is in FCPS? Volunteering! There is a job for everyone - parents who work full time, parents who travel, parents who work from home, parents who work at home as a stay at home, parents with younger children, and parents with older children!

Thank you to those parents who have already signed up to help this year. Your signature has been inputted into a Signup Genius website that has been created with all of the Classroom jobs, as well as the School-Wide jobs. The great news is that using Signup Genius allows parents to continue signing up for new opportunities throughout the school year.

To sign up, click here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/53175D704A1Cfamily>. Find the appropriate tag for your child's class or for school-wide activities.

Right now, our focus is on finding a Room Parent and Fall Party Coordinator for each classroom. Room Parents are the organizers and contact points for the class. They send reminders about parties and help contact parents as needed for an event. You don't have to create anything to do this job: reminders, ideas, and sample texts will be sent to you as each event nears.

Fall Party Coordinators coordinate the day and time of the party with the teacher. Each party often includes one game, one craft/activity, and one treat, but there are lots of different versions of parties, depending on what the teacher prefers, the amount of time you have, etc. Sample flyers and ideas are sent to the coordinators. You may ask for help from other parents as you wish. It is great if you can be present for the actual party, but you can also designate one of the party helpers to run the show and you can organize ahead of time.

If you have questions about any of the jobs, please feel free to contact Teresa LeMaire at [teresalemair@aol.com](mailto:teresalemair@aol.com) or 703-862-8702.

Note for Room Parents: you will be contacted this week with more information about how to get started if you haven't already. Fall Party Coordinators will also be contacted, but we are getting near to party time so please feel free to contact your teacher to find out day and time and get started on the party. Thank you again for volunteering!

## Order Your Spirit Wear Today

The deadline for all spirit wear orders is **Friday, October 23rd**. Please place your orders today. Samples of t-shirts, performance shirts, tie dye shirts, sweat jackets and pants, pajama pants, and a fleece jacket are on display in the school cafeteria. In addition to the traditional Mantua design found on all garments, a Rocky the Raccoon 2016 design is available on a white t-shirt for this year. Order forms have been sent home in Tuesday folders and can be returned with payment to the PTA mailbox, but if you prefer to shop online, then please visit

[www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2015-16spiritstore](http://www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2015-16spiritstore). Items will be delivered by November 20th. Show your school spirit! Please contact Kathleen DeCarlo at [kdecarlo@verizon.net](mailto:kdecarlo@verizon.net) with any questions.

## Mantua PTA Student Directory Opt-Out Form

Please complete this short form by **October 20th** if you do NOT wish to be published in the Mantua PTA Student Directory:

[www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/directoryoptout](http://www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/directoryoptout)

Please understand that Mantua PTA lacks the volunteer resources to manage change to parent data as we have done in the past. We are only offering families the ability to opt-out this year. More information about the annual directory is provided by visiting the link above.

## MATHCOUNTS at Mantua

Mantua alumnae Eli Lifland and Abhishek Bhargava, Seniors at TJHSST, are running a MATHCOUNTS program for 6th graders at Mantua. MATHCOUNTS is a national program that involves improving your math skills and representing your school in competition. More details will be given at the first MATHCOUNTS meeting on **Thursday evening, October 22nd from 7:45-9:00 p.m. in Room 23** at Mantua ES. This meeting is for interested students and will include information for parents as well. Future weekly meetings will be spent learning how to solve math problems similar to those that will appear in the actual competition.

Please contact Eli at [uvafan173@gmail.com](mailto:uvafan173@gmail.com) or Julie Lifland at [julielifland@yahoo.com](mailto:julielifland@yahoo.com) if you have questions. You can find out more about MATHCOUNTS at [mathcounts.org](http://mathcounts.org).

## Parent Education Workshop at Mantua

Please join us on **Thursday, November 12th from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** in the Mantua Library for a FREE parent education workshop "A Dash of Play." This workshop will be presented by Mantua staff members Laura Thieman and Richard Hang and will show you how mindful play can lower anxiety, invite calm, build your child's attention span, sharpen focus, strengthen parent-child relationships and much more. It's FREE and refreshments will be provided. Invite your friends! Contact Kathy Phillips, PTA Parent Ed Coordinator at [kathyphysics@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyphysics@hotmail.com) or 703-573-0146 with any questions.

## Box Tops Contest is Still On!

October is Pizza-for-Box-Tops Month! During the month of October, the class that submits the most Box Tops will earn a pizza party! Make sure your Box Tops are in date, not damaged, and in a bag CLEARLY marked with your teacher's name. Also, before you submit, please cut the box top on the cutting line. If you have any questions, please contact Yoshiko Barzdukas at [danius@cox.net](mailto:danius@cox.net).

## National PTA Reflections Contest

Let your imagination fly and unleash your inner artist! Choreograph a dance, produce a film, write a poem or story, compose a song, take a picture or create a piece of visual art and tell us what the theme: "Let Your Imagination Fly" means to you. The entry deadline is **Friday, October 23rd**.

Entries should represent students' unique creativity—adults are welcome to encourage students but are asked not to assist in any way with their interpretation of the theme or artistic expression. Families can support their children's participation by creating time and space for students to work on their entries, providing encouragement and needed materials and volunteering to support the Reflections. Please email Karen Cheng at [cheng703@gmail.com](mailto:cheng703@gmail.com) for more information or to answer any questions that you may have about this program.

## Enter the National PTA Reflections Theme

## Search Contest for 2017-18 year

Your student has the opportunity to enter to create next year's National PTA Reflections Theme. One exceptional concept may be chosen to inspire thousands of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create original works of art in dance, film, literature, music, photography and visual arts.

The Theme Search Contest Winner receives \$100 and recognition at the Annual National PTA Convention. The entry form can be found here: [www.vapta.org/n-unit-document-package/doc\\_download/4381-17-18-theme-search-entry-form.html](http://www.vapta.org/n-unit-document-package/doc_download/4381-17-18-theme-search-entry-form.html). Please submit entries by **Friday, October 23rd** to Karen Cheng at [cheng703@gmail.com](mailto:cheng703@gmail.com).

## Fairfax County Association for the Gifted (FCAG) Meeting

FCAG will host a Meet, Greet and Strategize on **October 28th**, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library. There will be a brief presentation on the proposed budget cuts and how it will impact our community, and then some discussion of FCAG strategies to maintain programming for gifted kids. More generally, we want to hear your ideas for FCAG priorities going forward! Topics of conversation include AAP Centers and generally AAP programming, TJ admissions, FCAG events for the public, efforts to obtain and analyze data on Fairfax students, and more. Come meet others in the community and enjoy some light refreshments! We hope to see you there. RSVP to Rebecca Goldin, President of FCAG, at [president@fcag.org](mailto:president@fcag.org) or 703-994-3762.

## Receiving or Unsubscribing from the Alert News

Mantua PTA distributes paper copies of the Alert News to all families for the first month of school only. If you aren't receiving your copy by email, complete this form [www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/alertnewsdi](http://www.memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/alertnewsdi) so we can add you to our distribution list. If you do not have a valid email address or access to a computer, you will continue to receive the newsletter in each week's Tuesday Folder.

If your student has graduated and/or you have moved away from the Mantua ES community, you can help us to maintain a current distribution list by unsubscribing from the Alert News list. It is as simple as clicking on the word "unsubscribe" at the very bottom of this newsletter. Thank you for your assistance!

## 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).
- 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 Hannaz Zhardzetskaya and Viktar Zhardzetski.
- 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요

([lisa.a.libby@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.a.libby@gmail.com).) If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Lisa Libby.

- Para obtener una copia en Español favor de contactar a Lisa Libby at [lisa.a.libby@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.a.libby@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please contact Lisa Libby.

Email Lisa Libby at [lisa.a.libby@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.a.libby@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.

Mantua Elementary School PTA  
9107 Horner Court  
Fairfax, VA 22031

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