



Mantua PTA Alert News

December 16, 2003

Cameron's Cause!

As many of you know, one of Mantua's first grader's, Cameron, was diagnosed with leukemia in November. He is undergoing chemotherapy in preparation for a bone marrow transplant early next year. Unfortunately, insurance does not begin to cover all of the financial costs of treatment. A non-profit account at SunTrust called "Cameron's Cause" has been set up for those wishing to donate. If you would like to donate, please make a check payable to "Cameron's Cause," and send it to school in a sealed envelope marked "Cameron's Cause, PTA Box." If there are any donations remaining after the family has covered the expenses incurred, they will go to organizations that support children with leukemia. Questions? Please contact Pam Promisel at ppromisel@cox.net or 703-280-9812. ***Cameron and his parents invite you to share their thoughts and experiences at their Support Cameron web site.*** Please see the PTA web site, www.MantuaPTA.org, for a link.

Helping Hands Feedback

Thanks to all who contributed to help the Culmore area families and the Helping Hands Holiday Bazaar this holiday season. The mittens, hats and toys, along with all our Lost and Found items were warmly received.

Last Week to Order the Mantua Yearbook

There's still time to order the 2003 - 2004 Mantua Yearbook so that your child is guaranteed his/her own copy! Although extra copies will be ordered, they'll be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Ordering ahead is the only way to ensure your child a copy! This year's Yearbook will be the best ever! It will be packed full of the best collection of photographs -- candid, groups, individual portraits of all the students, faculty, and all your special friends having fun while they learn -- and all the events that helped to make up this great school year!

Order your Yearbook online! See the link on the PTA home page at www.MantuaPTA.org.

Share to Care -- A Talent Show 2004

Don't forget to get your participation forms in by this Friday. Auditions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, January 5 & 6. (Makeups: Thursday, January 15.) You will be notified by email (or phone call) as to your audition time slot. Lost the form? Not to worry! There's a link on the PTA website, so fill it out electronically. Once again, this year's Talent Show is extra special. The Kids Care Club is dedicating it to Cameron as he battles leukemia. All the proceeds will go to the special fund, *Cameron's Cause*, to help his family. Please contact Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490 if you have questions, concerns, or want to help with the Kids Care Club Activities.

Kids Care Club Holiday Basket Project

It's not too late to donate! There are a few snowmen left on the Kids Care Club Snowman Scene. Find one that suits you, and bring in your gift/food item or donation by this **Thursday**. See the list of items we still need on the PTA website! The Kids Care Club will be delivering the gifts and holiday meal on Thursday afternoon. If your child would like to participate, or you can help carpool, please let Jennifer Cooper know by Wednesday evening to ensure enough cars are available. Right now we have room for about 7 children with 2 drivers. This is a really great experience for our kids.

Don't Forget Winter Break!

The school office will be closed December 22 - January 2.

And so will we.

See you January 5!

Holiday Shopping Online? Schoolpop!

If you're already doing some of your shopping online, please remember to use Schoolpop.com. There is no fee whatsoever, and purchases made by using Schoolpop's site earn money for Mantua! Schoolpop provides links to many of the online stores you may already be doing business with. If you haven't yet registered with www.Schoolpop.com, please consider surfing over, checking it out, and registering!

Wizards Half-Price Nights

The next half-price night is December 26, with a game against Miami. Contact Jen Seidel at jseidel@washsports.com or 202-628-3200, ext. 3867. Tickets can be mailed or picked up at the will-call window. Questions, contact Julia Margulies, 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

Pizza Anyone???

Join other Mantua families for lunch or dinner at Pizzeria Uno at Gatehouse Plaza (Rt. 50 & Gallows Rd.) on Sunday, December 21, anytime from noon till closing. Bring the Uno coupon from this week's Tuesday folder, and Uno will donate 20% of your bill to Mantua PTA. What a great way to raise dough! Questions? Contact Julia Margulies at 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

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Mantua Band and Strings Concerts

The Mantua Band and Strings Ensembles announce their Winter and Spring Concert dates as February 3 and May 18. Both programs will be held at Woodson High School at 7:00 p.m. The students have been working very hard and progressing very well! Dress code is a white dress-style shirt or blouse and black pants. Dress-style black shoes are also needed. Parents are asked to place these two dates on their calendars now in order to avoid any last-minute conflicts.

Frost's Songs of the Season

The Frost Middle School Choral Department cordially invites you to attend its winter concert. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students, parents, staff and friends of the schools in the Frost/Woodson pyramid to get a glimpse of what their future music programs have to offer! On Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m., director Jennifer Penserga and her three Frost choirs lead us joyously into the long winter break. The concert will be presented in the Joan Bedinger Auditorium at the W.T. Woodson High School. As always, it's free of charge. See you there!

Please see the other side for more Alert News

Too Old for Childcare Too Young to be Left Alone!

Do you have a middle school student – or one who soon will be in middle school? Are you concerned about your son or daughter staying home alone after school? Are you interested in high-quality after-school programs that meet young people's needs for safe, supervised environments while you are working? Places where arts, sports, homework, tutoring, friendships, and enrichment activities take place daily? Then join us on February 4!

The Fairfax County After-School Network (FCAN), an initiative of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, is sponsoring regional workshops to involve key stakeholders in developing and implementing high quality after-school programs in your middle school. The first workshop, held on November 12th at the South County Government Center, was attended by more than 100 people!

On February 4, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., parents and members of our school communities will meet at Robinson Secondary School. Please join us for this important discussion. Help us build community capacity and support for expanded, high quality, after-school programs for all middle school youth. To register to attend, please contact Ruth Toxopeus at 703-324-5580 or Ruth.Toxopeus@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FCPS Wants to Keep in Touch

Do you want to know about school closings as soon as they're announced? Do you want to know when back-to-school information is available online, when a new edition of the Family-gram parent newsletter is published, or what the School Board is discussing? FCPS uses its Keep in Touch service to allow parents and others interested in specific information about the school system to receive updates via email. Participants receive the most up-to-date information as soon as it is available. To sign up, visit the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu, and choose the Keep in Touch link.

Cameron's Cause Blood Drive

Details will follow after the Break. For now, please mark January 22 on your calendar!

Providence Players Winter Production

Providence Players will perform *The Good Doctor*, by Neil Simon, on January 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Frost Middle School. Mantuans Beth and David Whitehead direct the Good Doctor, and featured performers include many Mantua parents, as well as two Woodson HS students. This comedy has something for everyone to enjoy. Be prepared to laugh and be moved by some memorable characters, including a sneezing theatre-goer, an incompetent dentist, young innocents experiencing some of life's trials, and older folks finding pleasure in their unique friendship. Please call our ticket line at 703-425-6782 or email providenceplayers@cox.net to order your tickets today! Single show ticket prices are \$12.00/\$7.00 for youth/seniors. Group discounts are available, and we accept credit card orders. Proceeds benefit the Frost MS PTA. And an evening of theater makes a great holiday gift!

First Carnival Planning Meeting!

Mark Tuesday, January 6, on your calendar for the first 2004 Spring Carnival Meeting. Topics to be discussed include theme selection and committee action plans. We welcome anyone interested in participating in this year's carnival planning. We need you! Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm at Pam Promisel's house, 8938 Glenbrook Road. Questions, contact Pam at ppromisel@cox.net or 703-280-9812.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to brandman@erols.com. Questions? Call 703-383-1005. Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesch and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing the Alert News.

www.mantuapta.org