



Mantua PTA Alert News

January 6, 2003

The *Nano-PTA* Mission in Wake Island – 7 of 7 (continued)

The Next PTA Meeting is Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m., in the Library

We will be discussing parents' roles in Professional Learning Communities and how PLC concepts are being

implemented at Mantua to help ensure that all students are indeed learning

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Special Education Representative **Interested in SLEEP?**

Interested in SEEER? [Learn more](#) about our mission, our staff, and our services.

Special-Education Representative

The PTA would like to have an advocate for special education on its Board. Beyond simply providing representation, the Special-Education Representative can help enhance the educational experience of our special-education children by writing articles for the PTA Newsletter, creating a New-Parent Packet aimed at parents of those children, establishing a special-education library for parents, providing special-education representation at county-level PTA meetings, and in many other ways. Please see the information packet on the Fairfax County Council of PTAs web site, www.fccpta.org, or contact Margaret Fisher at jrosenthal2@cox.net or 703-968-2971. To volunteer, contact Carole Thomas at caroleandjay@aol.com or 703-978-6159.

Interested in SLEEP?

There is a new grass-roots effort to advocate later start times in FCPS middle and high schools. Five years ago, a Fairfax County Task Force studying school start times agreed that later start times would benefit adolescents.

There is a large body of research which supports the Task Force's finding. Currently, however, many adolescents in our county must arise between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. to make it to school on time.

The *Start Later for Excellence in Education Petition* is in the process of collecting names/email addresses in order to determine interest and organize the new effort. If you would like to be part of it, please contact Phyllis Payne at dpayne6@cox.net or 703-207-9277, or Sandy Evans at EvansSandy@aol.com.

Blood and Fund Drive for Cameron McClain

Mantua first grader Cameron McClain was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), Philadelphia Chromosome positive (PH+), late last year. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy in preparation for a bone marrow transplant in February. As part of his treatment, Cameron requires frequent blood transfusions.

To show our support to Cameron and his family, Mantua Elementary and Annandale Preschool are co-sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, January 22, from 11:00 - 5:00 in the social hall of the Little River United Church of Christ, at 8410 Little River Turnpike (across from NOVA). If you would like to donate blood, please contact Pam Promisel at ppromisel@cox.net or 703-280-9812 to schedule an appointment.

If you are interested in contributing to the “Cameron’s Cause” fund set up to offset costs not covered by insurance, send a check made out to “Cameron’s Cause” to school in an envelope marked: “Cameron’s Cause, PTA Box.” If you prefer, send your check directly to Pam Promisel at 8938 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax, VA 22031. For more information, see the PTA web site at www.MantuaPTA.org. Thank you!

Kids Care Club

Holiday Baskets

Thanks to everyone who made our Holiday Baskets a huge success. The families to whom we delivered all the wonderful gifts and food were overwhelmed. The Kids Care Club members who delivered these special gifts not only left happy and full of holiday spirit, but also made these families very happy and thankful. It was a wonderful experience for all. Thanks again for all the many donations and super support.

Share to Care--A Talent Show

Emails went out over the break for those who signed up to audition for the Talent Show. If you didn't hear from me and/or would like to perform in the Talent Show, **it's not too late!** Please contact Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490 to make arrangements. The show is Saturday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. This year's show is extra special -- the Kids Care Club is dedicating it to Cameron McClain. All proceeds will be donated to Cameron's Cause to help Cameron win his battle with leukemia.

Next Meeting

The Kids Care Club will meet on Thursday, January 22, to plan and advertise the upcoming Talent Show.

If you have questions, ideas, or would like to help with the Kids Care Club activities, please contact Jennifer Cooper.

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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.

Order Your Sixth-Grade T-Shirt

It's not too late to order 6th-grade T-shirts! Due to the number of 6th graders out sick the week before break, we have extended the deadline for T-shirt orders. Please send your completed order form and check for \$10.50, payable to Mantua PTA, to your 6th-grade student's homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, January 8. Questions? Contact Pam Promisel at ppromisel@cox.net or 703-280-9812.

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- During the last two school weeks, fifth grade classes have been on brief field trips to the planetarium at Woodson High School.
- On December 10, our strings students performed for residents at Sunrise Assisted Living!
- On Thursday, December 11, our office staff had their Holiday Luncheon. Thanks to our parent volunteers, who covered the front office and clinic, so that we could all eat lunch together.
- Friday, December 12, our fourth grade students, teachers, and many parent volunteers dressed in colonial attire – danced, sang, made crafts and ate foods, just like in colonial times. It was an exciting Colonial Day celebration!
- Despite the two-hour snow/ice delay on Monday, December 15, students and teachers captured the same precious hours of learning time by staying in school until 3:30 that day. After students left on Monday, staff relaxed and celebrated at the Holiday Staff Party!
- Friday, December 19, staff and students participated in the Winter Sing-Along and had class parties to celebrate the holiday season!

Carnival Planning Meeting

The first carnival-planning meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Pam Promisel's house, 8938 Glenbrook Road. We will discuss carnival theme and timeline. All are welcome! For questions, contact Pam at ppromisel@cox.net or 703-280-9812.

Mantua T-Shirts

We hope you are enjoying your new Mantua T-shirts. We saw kids wearing them immediately after they were distributed, so they must have been a hit. Even though we double and triple checked the T-shirt orders, we know it is still possible to have made a mistake (as painful as it is to admit). If you found that your order was incorrect, please email Beth Rivelis at rivelis@cox.net.

Wizards Half-Price Nights

The next half-price night is January 19, with a game against Chicago. Contact Jen Seidel at 202-628-3200, ext. 3867, or jseidel@washsports.com. Tickets can be mailed or picked up at the will-call window. Questions, contact Julia Margulies, 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

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.

Woodson Baseball Camp

WT Woodson Baseball will hold a Winter Youth Training Camp for students ages 7-13. It will be held in the Woodson gym, and there will be 3 Sunday sessions: January 25, February 1, and February 8. Ages 7-9 will go from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., and ages 10-13 from 10:30 a.m.- noon. Campers will work on hitting, base running, fielding, and throwing. The costs is \$48, and the registration deadline is January 17. For more information or to get an application, contact Varsity Baseball Coach Chris Warren at 703-250-9597.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org, or call 703-383-1005.
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