



Mantua PTA Alert News

January 28, 2004

Mantua Night at Chevy's - Monday, February 2

Earn 20% for Mantua simply by dining at Chevy's restaurant at Gatehouse Plaza (Rt. 50 and Gallows Rd.) this Monday, February 2, any time from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. No coupon is needed -- simply let your server know that you are with Mantua Elementary when you get your bill. Chevy's will donate 20% of your entire bill (margarita's included!) to the Mantua PTA. Questions? Contact Julia Margulies at 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

Homework Help

Tired of homework problems? Let some area high school students help. This is a **FREE** service for those elementary school students who just need a little extra help. These services will be available Sundays in the Mantua community between 11:00 and 3:00 p.m. (specific dates to be announced, depending on community response). For more information about Homework Helpers, please contact Mary Retting at Retting@starpower.net.

Middle School Child Care Meeting

On Wednesday, February 4, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School, there will be a meeting for the school communities of Frost, Lake Braddock, Irving and Robinson Middle Schools. The topic is: "Too Old for Childcare, Too Young to Be Left Alone." If you are a parent of a soon-to-be middle schooler, you will not want to miss this discussion of improved and expanded after school activities in the middle schools. For more information, call 703-324-5580, or email ruth.toxopeus@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Galaxy Quest Update

Volunteer! Volunteer! Volunteer!

The Carnival is a parent-run event that generates a significant amount of money towards our school's field trips, classroom equipment, and special enrichment activities for our students. If you can spare some time, bake a cake, or are over-run with treasures that will not fit in your house, let us know. A detailed flyer is enclosed in this week's Tuesday folder to highlight the many volunteer opportunities that are available. You can also access the information at the PTA web site, www.MantuaPTA.org. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Mead at 703-876-2688 or lauramead@cox.net or Pam Promisel at 703-280-9812 or ppromisel@cox.net.

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- On Tuesday, January 20, Mantua hosted the Korean Tae Kwon Do Team. This team of Korean students, ages 7-16, was visiting the United States for one week through a program established by the Tiger Eye Karate School. Our Korean visitors performed two assemblies for our students, demonstrating their excellent talents with Tae Kwon Do! They also received a tour of the school, and towards the end of the day, a reception was held in the cafeteria.
- Wednesday, January 21 was the beginning of our After-School Program for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students! The After-School Program is followed by a dinner with students and their parents and evening Sign Classes that are for parents and interested staff. Thanks to all of the Mantua staff members who volunteered their time to help our deaf students make scrapbooks, participate in aerobic dancing, and "listen" to a children's story. Also, special thanks to the Hospitality Committee of the PTA for providing desserts for our Wednesday dinners!
- On Thursday, January 22, at the Principal's Coffee, Mrs. Fernandez and Mrs. Beverly, Reading Specialist, discussed ways to help your children become life-long readers. Some highlights from this discussion were: make sure that your child(ren) have lots of opportunities to see their parents reading, keep reading books to your children even in the upper elementary years, the predictability in series books helps children to be successful with these books and see themselves as readers, and if your child is watching TV, have him turn on the captioning to expose him to print, new vocabulary, and the act of reading.
- On Friday, January 23, fifteen Mantua staff members attended an all-day inservice on *Childhood Developmental Disorders*. Fascinating recent brain research in relation to numerous right-hemisphere childhood disorders were discussed. The group returned with lots of useful information and strategies to support students.

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FCCPTA's 2nd Annual Ride to Richmond February 9



Join FCCPTA and other Northern Virginia PTA members on a bus to Richmond for PTA Day in Virginia's General Assembly. Meet and talk with local legislators for a session that promises to be **crucial** for K-12 education funding. Pre-registration is required; the cost is \$5/person. For the agenda, see the flyer at www.MantuaPTA.org/info/PTADay2004.pdf. Questions? Contact Dana Cimino at 703-266-8573 or danacimino@aol.com or Rebecca Malamis at 703-569-2099 or rmalamis@cs.com.

FCCPTA Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday

The next general-membership meeting of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs will be on Thursday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. at Jackson Middle School. Important discussion topics will include the proposed FCPS budget and the FCCPTA 2004 legislative program. For more information, see the FCCPTA web site, www.fccpta.org.

Mantua Band and Strings Concerts



The Mantua Band and Strings Ensembles will hold their Winter and Spring Concerts on February 3 and May 18. Both programs will be held at Woodson High School at 7:00 p.m. Dress code is a white dress-style shirt or blouse and black pants. Dress-style black shoes are also needed.

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.

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. Thank you!

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org, or call 703-383-1005. Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesh and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing the Alert News.

www.mantuapta.org

TC Desserts Needed

The Total Communication staff is volunteering their time and expertise to bring 10 consecutive educational and fun family nights for the TC families. The families enjoy dinner and instruction on communicating with their TC children. The PTA has volunteered to provide finger-friendly desserts to make the evening even more enjoyable. Please contact DeeAnn Jeremiah at classicconciierge@netzero.com to offer 1-2 dozen cookies / brownies / cupcakes in disposable containers to the Mantua cafeteria on any Wednesday (through March 24) by 5:30 p.m. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Wizards Half-Price Nights ...

The next half-price night is February 22, with a game against Milwaukee. Contact Jen Seidel at 202-628-3200, ext. 3867, or jseidel@washsports.com. Tickets can be mailed or picked up. Questions, contact Julia Margulies, 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

... And Two Special Wizards Nights!

We have another great offer of discounted tickets for two upcoming games! These are \$90 seats on the 200 level -- and they're available for \$25 each! The games are January 30 against Phoenix and February 22 against Milwaukee. Contact Bridget Kapcar at bkapcar@washsports.com (preferred) or 202-628-3200, x6986. Tickets can be mailed or picked up.

Mantua Night with the Capitals

The Caps will be playing the Vancouver Canucks on Saturday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. -- and it's Mantua Night! The special Mantua rate for upper-level mezzanine ends seating is \$25 (regular price is \$39). For more information, see the order form at www.MantuaPTA.org/info/capsnight.pdf.

Please see the other side for more Alert News

Soccer Clinic for Girls 6-13

The FPYC Hotshots, a U-13 girls travel team, is once again holding its annual girls soccer clinic run by GMU Women's Soccer team. This year it will be held indoors at Thomas Jefferson HS on Sunday, February 29. It is open to all girls aged 6 - 13, but limited to the first 100 enrollments. Please visit our website at www.fpsychotshots.20m.com, or call clinic chairperson Monica Romig at 703-385-5710 for more information. This is a great way to get back into the soccer season!