



Mantua PTA Alert News

March 16, 2004

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- Tuesday, March 2, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with teachers and students reading in a variety of ways throughout the day. Mr. Lenoff and our SCA President Rocky Granum were dressed in their Cat in the Hat outfits to celebrate this special day! In the evening, the reading continued with a Read Across America Celebration. Teachers, parents, and students read stories and poetry to the other students. Mrs. Fernandez, dressed in her Cat in the Hat outfit, joined in on the fun. Everyone enjoyed some treats while listening to a wide variety of literature.
- Our sixth graders enjoyed a trip to the Air and Space Museum on Thursday, March 4. They viewed the new planetarium exhibit and a very exciting IMAX movie!
- On Monday, March 8, Joe Romano presented *The Magic of Books*. It was enjoyed by all of the students and staff. Many thanks to the PTA for funding this cultural arts assembly!
- On March 8, the library was transformed back to Civil War time, as students in Mrs. Steinhilber and Mrs. Kaplan's classes celebrated a Civil War Tea. Students dressed as a famous person from that time period provided detailed biographical information, slide shows, and creative artwork. Parents graciously provided refreshments for the students.
- Wednesday, March 3, Dr. Nermien Ismail, Chief Executive Administrator of the International Schools of Egypt 2000 in Cairo, Egypt, visited Mantua Elementary. It was a timely visit, as our fifth graders were studying Ancient Egypt. Dr. Ismail was able to talk with groups of students involved in developing an Egyptian museum and met with other fifth grade classrooms to answer their many questions about Egypt. Dr. Ismail would like to set up a distance learning connection with our fifth grade students and show our students the many historical sites in Egypt.
- On Wednesday evening, March 10, the Woodson Pyramid Art Show opened at Fairfax Hospital. Some of the artwork of our Mantua artists is being displayed there. The artwork will remain there until March 30. Many thanks to our wonderful art teachers for getting these pieces displayed at this event and for encouraging the artistic talents of all of our students!
- On Wednesday, March 10, and Thursday, March 11, the PTA Mantua Basketball league had their basketball finals for both the girls and boys teams. Providence School Board Member, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and Mason District School Board Member, Kaye Kory attended the opening ceremonies on March 10. In addition, Mr. Ilyong Moon, Member at Large, sang the National Anthem beautifully to open the games. Many thanks to the parents and staff who served as coaches, organizers, referees, and interpreters for the basketball league. It is a wonderful activity for our students!

An Eagle-Scout Project

While you are doing your spring cleaning, you can also support at-risk children in need of sports equipment! For his Eagle-Scout Project, former Mantua student Michael Romais is collecting "gently used" sports equipment to distribute to students at Wyanoke Elementary, a Title I school in the Fairfax County portion of Alexandria. On March 20, Troop 1533 scouts will leave bags at your door to be filled with sports equipment, and on March 27, scouts will pick up the sports equipment. Please contact Michael Romais at 703-280-8127 or deromais@aol.com with questions.

Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

The FCCPTA invites everyone to its next membership meeting on March 25. Discussion will focus on the Academic Achievement Gap and how to close the Gap. The meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall at Luther Jackson Middle School at 7:30 p.m. For more information on this meeting, call Ralph Cooper at 703-455-9547

WTW Coalition

Just a reminder that the next meeting of the Woodson Community Coalition is Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) on Route 236. We will continue discussion of Frost after-school programs and upcoming events being planned by the Coalition. Hope to see you there.

Jennifer Cooper and Leanne Stynchula,
WTW Coalition Co-coordinators

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Principal's Coffee

The next Principal's Coffee will be on Wednesday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Barb Suidikas. We will be discussing SOLs and other standardized testing. Barb's home is at 3819 Acosta Rd. For more information or directions, contact Barb at 703-385-0358 or Suidibarb@aol.com.

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Frost-PTA News

Attention all 6th grade parents. Frost Middle School is currently accepting nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the 2004-05 school year. Additionally, we need to fill 15 committee chairs. We have something for everyone. If you're interested in running for the Executive Committee, please contact Terri Schuckman at bschuckman@cox.net. If you want to serve on one of the many committees please contact Jim Scutt, President of the Frost PTA, at 703-764-8047 or jscutt@ctc.org.

Frost Family Festival

Plan to attend the Frost Family Festival on Thursday, April 1, from 5:30 - 7:45. The Festival is for Frost students and families -- and for those who will be a part of the Frost family next year. Principal Marti Jackson and her administrative staff will be on hand to answer questions. Volunteers are needed for this fun event. Please contact MaryAnn Troyano at 703-425-1334 to offer your help.

Saturday Night in the Suburbs

Please join the Woodson Community Coalition and the PTSA for an adults-only evening of dialogue on Tuesday, March 30, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Lecture Study at Woodson HS. A panel of 8-10 seniors will facilitate a discussion regarding drugs, alcohol abuse, parties/clubbing and communication with parents. We guarantee this will be an informative evening and will give parents insight from the perspective of a teenager.

Mantua, Get Ready to Roll!

If you haven't already marked your calendar, mark this down! The Mantua PTA is sponsoring a skate party on Sunday, March 28, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Skate-N-Fun Zone in Manassas is **all ours** for two and a half hours -- and the more the merrier! Admission will be only \$2 and there will be special prices for laser storm, rock climb, and family meals! You can bring your own roller skates or in-line skates, or rent them for \$2.25. Flyers with all the details will be sent home soon. If you have any questions, contact Donna Yudkin at 703-641-8779 or dqy@cox.net.

CAAB is Expanding

Fairfax County's Community Action Advisory Board helps represent the interests of low-income citizens in our county; it's an advisory body to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Community organizations make up a third of the board, and the FCCPTA has been invited to join. If you are interested in filling this position, or if you know of someone that might be interested, please contact Carole Thomas at caroleandjay@aol.com or 703-978-6159. Find out more about the committee at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/dfs/CAAB.

Wizards Half-Price Nights

The next half-price night is March 21, with a game against Miami. 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.

Mantua Night with the Globetrotters

Come join Mantua families and friends for a fun-filled night with the **Harlem Globetrotters** on March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center at George Mason University. Discount tickets are available to us for \$18.50 (regularly \$22.50). Don't wait -- tickets sell fast! Contact Bridget at bkapcar@washsports.com or 202-628-3200, x698.

Please see the other side for more Alert News

PTA Minutes are Online

The *approved* minutes of the February PTA meeting and the *draft* minutes of the March meeting have been posted to the PTA web site, www.MantuaPTA.org. Just click the PTA Meeting Minutes link.

Alert News Contributions

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

www.mantuapta.org