



Mantua PTA Alert News

March 23, 2004

Spring Must Be Upon Us!

*Spring Break is April 5 - 9. The school office will be closed. Enjoy the break.
(But first, don't forget that Friday, April 2, is a snow make-up day -- school will be in session!)*

Nominations Time for the Mantua PTA

It is time to nominate candidates to serve on our PTA's Executive Board. The nominating committee has been selected, and its members are now soliciting nominations for President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each position has a maximum -- but not mandatory -- term of two years.

Please contact any nomination committee member with your nomination suggestions. The committee will present its slate of nominees to the PTA membership at the May PTA meeting on May 5, 2004.

The Nominating Committee members are:

- Monica Romig: 703-385-5710 or s.romig@cox.net
- Donna Yudkin: 703-641-8779 or dqy@cox.net
- Kate Marosek: 703-280-1902 or krmarosek@cox.net

This year, nominations may be made online anonymously. The link is on the PTA web site at www.MantuaPTA.org.

Help at Recess -- Just an Hour a Week!

Beautiful weather is here, but unless a parent can help out on Wednesdays from 11:15 till 12:15, a lot of students are going to have to miss out on some of it! Please help for that one hour a week. Contact Margarita Brown at 703-359-7123 or Maboberon@aol.com as soon as possible. Thank you!!

An Eagle-Scout Project -- Part II

Michael Romais and Troop 1533 would like to extend their thanks to everyone, Scouts and non-Scouts, who came out to help with Michael's Eagle Project on Saturday, March 20. The most important part of the project is this Saturday, March 27. Volunteers will be collecting the sports equipment. Please leave your donations of gently-used sports equipment out by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. If we missed your house when we distributed the bags and informational fliers this past Saturday, and you would still like to donate, or if you have any questions, please contact Michael Romais at 703-280-8127 or deromais@aol.com.

Principal's Coffee

Join us on Wednesday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Barb Suidikas, as we discuss 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 Suidi-barb@aol.com.

Sunday, Get IN-LINE to ROLLER Skate!!

It's Mantua's Skate Party -- it's going to be great fun! Skate-N-Fun Zone is all ours, so bring the whole family and friends, too! It begins at 5:30 p.m. (and ends at 8:00). Admission is only \$2. You can bring your own skates or rent for \$2.25. There will be good deals on family meals, laser tag, and rock climb, too. Directions from the Beltway: take 66 west to exit 47A business/234 south and go four traffic lights. After the 4th light, turn right between Midas and Merchant Tire. See you there! Questions? Contact Donna Yudkin at 703-641-8779.

SLEEP in Fairfax

The Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP) continues to receive support from Mantua's parents and others around the county. SLEEP is a new grassroots effort to advocate later start times in FCPS middle and high schools -- there's a large body of research that supports the finding that later start times can benefit adolescents.

Recently, SLEEP has presented information at the public hearing on selecting the new Superintendent, met with Kaye Kory, School Board Vice Chair, spoke at Glasgow MS, and is gathering research on how and why other school districts have changed to later start times.

There are many more actions/activities to come. For now, SLEEP needs coordinators in many high-school pyramids, including ours. If you would like to be a coordinator, a participant, or just want more information, please contact Phyllis Payne at dpayne6@cox.net or 703-207-9277, or Sandy Evans at EvansSandy@aol.com.

More information will soon be available at SLEEP's web site. We'll let you know when that happens!

Please see the other side for more Alert News

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.

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School Board's Budget Concerns

Members of the School Board have expressed concerns that the Virginia General Assembly did not agree on a budget this term. Their open letter to the Governor and Legislators is available at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2005/openletter.pdf.

A Mantua Basketball Wrap-Up

The 2003-2004 Mantua Basketball season has ended, but as always, *what a season!* Be sure to see Commissioner Rob Mead's summary of the season on the home page of the PTA web site, www.MantuaPTA.org.

Woodson Renovation News

Please attend the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing on March 31, 7:00 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, to show support for the renovation of W.T. Woodson High School. The renovation is scheduled to be completed for the 2009-10 school year. We are asking for renovation completion by the 2008-09 school year, which is consistent with earlier commitments made by the Fairfax school system to the Woodson community. The presidents of the Frost, Woodson, and other school PTSA's and of RENEW are scheduled to speak at the budget hearing. You can help by being in the audience and standing when asked by these speakers to show the Supervisors the strong community support for Woodson's renovation.

Please see the other side for more Alert News

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.

Public Meeting on State Budget

The next Fairfax County public meeting features Delegate Gary Reese (R-67th District). It will be on Wednesday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, on Stonecroft Boulevard in Centreville.

Education Advocacy

The Alliance for Virginia's Students has been formed to help "promote adequate public policy and funding support from the Commonwealth of Virginia ... by engaging in informational and advocacy activities with the general public and state policy makers." Learn more about the organization at www.vastudents.org.

Mantua Home and Garden Tour

Coming Soon! 2004 Mantua Home and Garden Tour. Saturday, May 1, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. All proceeds to benefit Junior Girl Scout Troop 2801's activities and community service projects. Look for pink balloons throughout the neighborhood to identify the homes on the tour. Tickets will be on sale from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Mantua Clubhouse and at some of the houses on the tour. In addition, a Home Improvement Fair and complimentary refreshments will be located at the Mantua Pool House on the day of the Tour. We are still finalizing the list of homes to be on the tour. If you would like to volunteer your home for the tour, please contact Elena Albamonte at ElenaAlbamonte@aol.com as soon as possible. Minimum \$20 donation per person. No children under 12.

MOMs of Mantua Consignment Sale

Thirty Mantua families will be selling toys, books, videos, infant gear, and spring and summer clothing (from newborn to size 14) at this year's MOMS consignment sale. Tell your friends and family! It's Saturday, March 27, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mantua Pool Clubhouse. Rain or shine!

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.

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