



Mantua PTA Alert News

March 30, 2004

*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 nominating-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 kmarosek@cox.net

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

Carnival and Basketball Wrap-Ups

As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, it's nice to take a moment and look back on the fine times we've had recently at Galaxy Quest, the 2004 Carnival, and the 2003-2004 Basketball Season! For your enjoyment, we've reposted Poster Contest winners and pictures of the winning cakes from the Cake Decorating Contest. And to supplement Commissioner Rob Mead's summary of the Season, we've managed to post a few pictures we think you'll like. As always, everything's available on the PTA home page, at www.MantuaPTA.org.

Spring and the Raccoon Run

Spring is here!! And you know what that means. It's time to start preparing for the annual **Raccoon Run**. Our 4th annual race will be on Saturday, May 8, at 8:00 a.m. for the *Mile Fun Run* and 8:30 a.m. for the *5K Race*. Once again, we are donating all proceeds to Life with Cancer in memory of Roberta Romano. We encourage everyone to sign up, help along the course, and/or be a sponsor. The deadline for early registration is May 3. See the registration form in this week's Tuesday folder or visit us at MantuaPTA.org and sign up online. Questions, or want to volunteer? Contact Jennifer Cooper, jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490.

Literacy Night is Coming

Literacy Night will be on Thursday, April 29. We would like to invite the parents of our Mantua students to come and visit all the classrooms so that they may see the "Experience, Exposure, and Expression" in the classrooms. Many different projects will be showcased this night. It will be an open house from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is not open to the community -- only to our Mantua parents.

Pepsi and iTunes

Pepsi is having a promotion that gives away iTunes when you buy a 20 oz. bottle of Pepsi (one out of three bottles is a winner). If you have won any iTunes, but don't listen to iTunes, please send the winning bottle caps to the PTA box at school. One of our fabulous parent volunteers has seen them offered successfully on eBay and has volunteered to coordinate auctioning them off on eBay. The promotion lasts until the end of April, so drink up!

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- On Saturday, March 13, students and staff enjoyed our annual Spring Carnival, *Galaxy Quest*. Many thanks to the hard work of our wonderful parent and staff volunteers. Special thanks to the Carnival Co-Chairs Pam Promisel and Laura Mead!
- Tuesday, March 16, our fifth grade students were busy learning about brass rubbings as part of their study of Ancient Cultures.
- On Thursday, March 18, all of our students and staff enjoyed listening to author, Eric Kimmel, read excerpts from his books and talk about being a writer.
- On both Thursday, March 18, and Friday, March 19, our fifth grade students completed some practice SOL testing to help their teachers determine areas that students may need support in before the actual SOL testing in May.
- On Friday, March 19, Family 2 (K-2 students) created a Mexican Marqueta, complete with delicious Mexican foods and creative crafts and wares that the students made. The students practiced bartering and buying items using "pesos" for incredibly reasonable prices (SMILE).
- On Wednesday, March 24, at the Principal's Coffee, Mrs. Fernandez discussed the upcoming SOL testing and explained many of the other formal assessments that are given to students.
- On Thursday, March 25, the Family Life Education unit on Human Growth and Development began with our fifth and sixth grade students. They will be receiving five days of one-hour lessons during these last few days before Spring Break.

Mantua PTA Alert News (Page 2)

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.

BoS Budget and Woodson Renovation

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.

Frost's Book Fair

The Frost Spring Book Fair is Monday, March 29, through and including Friday, April 2. Each day, hours are 7:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. (Friday until noon). The special evening hours on Thursday night are from 5:30 until 8:30 during the Frost Family Festival. Come pick up some of your family's spring break great reads and support Frost!

Please see the other side for more Alert News

Thank Your School Public Health Clinicians During National Public Health Week

National Public Health Week is April 5-11. Although this will be Spring Break, please take time to thank your school's public health nurses and clinic room aides when you return on April 12, 2004.

Public health plays an important part in all Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In fact, public health nurses and clinic room aides – employees of the Fairfax County Health Department – can be found in every school health clinic. By working closely with FCPS and families, public health nurses and clinic room aides play a vital role in ensuring that each student achieves the most from his or her education.

Public health nurses do this by identifying health conditions that may impair a student's ability to learn, and developing a plan to minimize the condition's impact on the school day. They are the central link among parents, school, and community in promoting healthy behaviors. Clinic room aides provide basic care to sick and injured students. Both the nurses and clinic room aides assist the school with vision and hearing screenings. Equally important, public health nurses and clinic room aides provide schools a seamless connection to the Health Department – the agency that monitors communicable disease trends within the schools, and assists in reducing the spread of disease.

The vision of the Fairfax County Health Department is "Healthy People in Healthy Communities." This also means healthy students in healthy schools, and cannot be accomplished without the tireless work of the school public health nurses and clinic room aides.

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.

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.

Underage Drinking: Truth or Consequences

Find out the truth and consequences of underage drinking as the Woodson Community Coalition presents an evening for parents. Fairfax County Judge Gayl Carr will preside over a mock trial, similar to the one at the Fairfax Chocolate Festival, of a student charged with possession of alcohol. Following the trial, Judge Carr will have a presentation and lead a panel discussion about the realities of underage drinking. Additionally, FCPS Guidance counselor Tanga Nyika Jackson will give a presentation on drug and alcohol paraphernalia and the dangers to our children. It's all on April 20 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Woodson cafeteria B. Questions, please contact your Woodson Community Coalition Coordinators, Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490 or Leanne Stynchula stynchula@cox.net or 703 273-5742.

Next WTW Coalition Meeting

It's April 15 at 10 a.m., place to be announced soon. Please join us, and share your ideas for what programs you are interested in for next year and help us to make our community safe and drug free. Questions, please contact your Woodson Community Coalition Coordinators, above.