



Mantua PTA Alert News

May 11, 2004

Our Last Principal's Coffee

The last Principal's Coffee of this school year will be held on Thursday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Barb Suidikas. Please join us with Jan-Marie Fernandez as we discuss our Mantua facilities and how to make the most out of our tight quarters. We also hope to have the most current information about the Woodson Renovation available. For more information and to RSVP, contact Barb at 703-385-0358 or Suidibarb@aol.com.

Lost and Found

All items still in our Lost and Found area will be donated to charity on May 14. This would be a great time to check it for your lost items!

School Board Textbook Committees

On Wednesday, May 12, the School Board is due to appoint representatives to the Social Studies and Science Textbook Adoption Committees. Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, the School Board member from Providence District (that's us!) is requesting recommendations from the public. Each committee will have a number of books to review at several grade levels. To volunteer or recommend a candidate to Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner, contact him at pnichner@fcps.edu or 703-246-8648.

Field Day Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed for Field Day! Parent volunteers walk the children around the game course and keep score. There are two sessions: morning (9:00 a.m. - noon) and afternoon (12:45 - 3:00). Each Kindergarten through 2nd grade class needs 3 volunteers for each session, and 3rd through 6th grades need 2 volunteers each session.

- Tuesday, June 1: Kindergarten thru Second Grade
- Wednesday, June 2: Third & Fourth Grades
- Thursday, June 3: Fifth & Sixth Grades

If you are interested in volunteering in your child's class, please contact Cheryl Dickison at 703-352-3026 or cheryl.dickison@cox.net for K-2, or Kathy Frongello at 703-385-3614 or robertjfrongello@cox.net for grades 3-6. Handy email links are available on the PTA home page, www.MantuaPTA.org.

4th Annual Raccoon Run a Big Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this year's Raccoon Run. It was a great event and enjoyed by over 400 runners, making about \$5000 for Life with Cancer. The Kids Care Club thanks all of you for your support.

PS. If you had dinner at Glory Days on May 2 in support of the Raccoon Run, please turn in your receipts. Thanks again!

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- On April 28, Mantua celebrated *Mrs. Jennifer Cooper* at the Volunteer Recognition Reception at Luther Jackson. Many thanks to Jennifer for all of the volunteer hours she provides for the students and staff at Mantua Elementary!
- Thursday, April 29, was Literacy Night. Students enjoyed showing their parents all of the wonderful ways they have developed their literacy skills in all areas of the curriculum!
- On Friday, April 30, an Arbor Day Celebration was held in the garden. A few classrooms participated as Brownie members shared the history of Arbor Day and recited poems about trees and sixth grade chorus students sang songs. A beautiful dogwood tree was then planted in the garden!
- On Saturday, May 1, members of Mantua's Honor Chorus joined with 600 other sixth grade students across the county to perform the All County Choral Festival at Robinson Secondary School. It was absolutely amazing to hear all of these beautiful voices at one time!
- On Monday, May 3, the Frost Area Band performed here at Mantua for our third through sixth grade students. Select students from fifth and sixth grade across all of the Woodson pyramid feeder elementary schools make up this band. They gave a wonderful performance and sparked our students' interest in band.
- On Wednesday, May 5, an after-school celebration in the garden occurred. The administration and office staff appreciated our wonderful teaching staff by providing ice cream sundaes and four new picnic tables. The tables will allow staff to eat lunch outside and for classrooms to provide learning experiences outside!
- On Friday, May 7, the library was transformed into a garden restaurant with an amazing array of culinary delights. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, *Freedom to Fly*, was a special treat for all staff. Many thanks to all of the parents who worked so hard to make this event happen. Special thanks to our brave parent volunteers who covered teachers' classrooms for an hour while staff enjoyed the luncheon.

Mantua PTA Alert News (Page 2)

Providence Players Announce June Production in Their New Venue!

Providence Players of Fairfax will be presenting its next production at the newly renovated James Lee Community Center! The Players will perform *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a classic Kaufman and Hart comedy, starting June 4 in the new venue. The whole center has been completely renovated, and the new theater is state-of-the-art, with raked seating and sophisticated light and sound technology. *The Man Who Came to Dinner* runs Fridays and Saturdays for three weekends at 7:30 p.m., starting June 4. There will be a matinee on June 13 at 2:00. The James Lee Community Center is located at 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, VA, 22042. Tickets are \$12, or \$7 for seniors and students 18 and under. Please call 703-425-6782 and leave messages to order tickets, or email us at ProvidencePlayers@cox.net. Visa and MasterCard orders can be accepted!

Glory Days Promotion Ending Soon!

If you've been collecting receipts from your visits to Glory Days Grill in the Pan Am shopping center, **now** is the time to turn them in! Please drop them into the box marked Glory Days Grill Receipts in the Mantua office. In the meantime, Glory Days will still contribute 10% of your total food purchases to the Mantua PTA when you dine any Monday - Thursday from 4:00 till midnight or any Sunday from 11:30 - 11:00 p.m. till May 15! Ask your server for a copy of your guest check (not credit card receipt), and bring it in. Questions? Contact Julia Margulies at 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

Please see the other side for more Alert News

EPA Web Sites for Kids

The EPA provides a number of environmentally related sites for kids. We've put links onto the PTA web site for your and your children's interest. Go to mantuapta.org, and click the For Students tab.

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

Next FCAG Meeting

The Fairfax County Association for the Gifted will hold its spring meeting on May 26 at Haycock ES, 6616 Haycock Rd., Falls Church, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Razel Solow, Ph.D., will speak and answer questions about the social and emotional needs of gifted students. Dr. Solow is a co-founder of the journal *Parenting for High Potential*, and is one of the co-founders of SENG (Social Emotional Needs of the Gifted). She will also be speaking on this topic at the national SENG conference in Arlington, VA, this July. Like all FCAG meetings, this meeting is free and open to the general public. Visit www.FCAG.org for more information, or call Louise Epstein at 703-917-7960.

KCC's Animal Shelter Project

Help support the Fairfax Animal Shelter by donating **blankets, towels, animal toys, canned kitten food, kitten formula, pet food and treats, leashes and collars**. Put your items into the box across from the office, now **until May 17**. On that day, the Kids Care Club will deliver them to the shelter. Kids Care Club members interested in delivering the donations, contact Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490 so that carpooling can be arranged.

The New PTA Parenting Library!

Stop by the school library to check out books on various parenting topics. The PTA allocated funds to purchase these books for our parents. The books cover a wide range of parenting topics from age-related issues to learning disabilities and study habits. Feel free to check out a few books by signing the form provided. The PTA Parenting Library can be found just inside the school library in a bookshelf on the left. Questions? Contact Pam Promisel at ppromisel@cox.net.

SLEEP Web Site and Petition are Online

Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal recently launched its web site, www.SLEEPinFairfax.org, to provide information about its efforts to get later start times at Fairfax County high schools and middle schools. The site contains information about the group and its mission, a fact sheet on adolescents and sleep, and a petition to sign for those supporting later start times at secondary schools.

SLEEP is a grassroots organization started in January by two Fairfax County parents concerned about the early start times of the county's secondary schools. Five years ago, a Fairfax County Public Schools Task Force studying school start times concluded that later start times would benefit adolescents. There is a large body of research which supports the Task Force's finding, saying that teenagers' natural sleep patterns make it difficult for them to go to sleep and wake up early. Currently, however, most county high schools begin at 7:20 a.m., and adolescents are often going to school sleep-deprived.

For further information, to comment about the effort, to sign up to get email about SLEEP news, **or even to become SLEEP's coordinator for the families of the Woodson pyramid**, please contact Phyllis Payne at dpayne6@cox.net, or Sandy Evans at evanssandy@aol.com.