



# Mantua PTA Alert News

March 29, 2005

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## MANTUA'S ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS WIN FIRST AND SECOND PLACE IN THE REGIONAL COMPETITION

Congratulations to Mantua's four Odyssey of the Mind teams on their fantastic performances at the NOVA East Regional Competition on Saturday, March 12.

A team of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students including **Josh Brandman, Eric Kirkland, Hannah Patton, Betsy Ryan, Josh Schiffres, Ryan Travis and Brian Yudkin** won 1st Place for their solution to the problem, "Stunt Mobiles". Their problem was to design and build two vehicles with different power systems that would complete five obstacle courses, cross finish lines and break balloons during an eight minute team created performance. The judges were "udderly mooved" with their performance of "X-TREME COWS" during which they completed the most difficult of all the obstacle courses! The very excited team coached by Randi Kirkland will now advance to the State Finals that will be held at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia on April 16.

The Crazy Column Support Group won 2nd Place for their solution to the Problem "Crazy Columns." The 4th and 5th grade team included **Eli Hochberg, Mary Ghali, Will Matthews, Viet Nguyen, Linh Nguyen and Alec Schievelbein** and was coached by Melissa Hochberg and Loan Pham. Their problem was to build a structure of balsa wood and glue that would support as much weight as possible. Their structure was 8.25 inches tall, rested on 3 surfaces of different heights, weighed only 12.3 grams (0.4 ounces) and supported 92.5 lbs! They also wrote and performed a script to present their structure.

A team of 3rd grade students including **Adam Friedman, David Fritts, Grace Lee, Adelaine Madison, Megan Schiffries, Hannah Swanson and Matthew Rhodes** created a performance that included a dream that was at times, cheerful, non-sensical, and nightmarish. The nightmare included a monster, designed and built by the team that changed in appearance and performed various tasks. What a great performance by this first year team coached by Joyce Madison and assistant coaches Ann Meister and Lynn Swanson!

The Primary Team of 1st and 2nd graders had a wonderful performance in their FABLE US! production. **Jennifer Fink, Nicholas Hodgman, Blake Philips, Nicholas Puzanghera, Grace Swanson and Claire Swanson** worked so hard and it showed as well as paid off. The judges even complimented them on how they stuck together as a team even during the moment when things were not going as planned. The team wrote a fable with an original moral in which an inanimate object becomes animate in order to teach one of the animal characters a lesson. Coaches Melissa Hodgman and Elizabeth Wasserman could not have been prouder.

### NOTES FROM THE PREZ

**Mantua ES PTA President Needed.** It is time to start thinking about who the fearless leader will be next year. It ain't me, babe. I am asking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for the 2005-6 PTA Board. Contact me if you are interested in serving on the committee. We'll have to form the committee at the April 6 PTA membership meeting.

**Attorney Needed.** Shakespeare was wrong. Mantua PTA needs an attorney to serve as registered agent. Paul Hammack, Jr., Esq., our present agent is retiring. It is a great opportunity to meet your pro bono obligations and parental service hours at the same time! You have to be member in good standing with Virginia bar. Contact me for more information.

**Charity Selection Task Force.** At the last meeting, I asked for the membership to consider policy and procedures for considering, selecting and approving charities that the PTA may assist or endorse with activities. Send me an email if you are interested on working with others to set up a vetting process.

**Community Yard Sale.** Kena Temple officers have approached the PTA and MCA about holding a combined yard sale in the Fall. PTA would receive proceeds from selling stall space. It may be a great opportunity to kick-off next year's fundraising for the expected replacement of playground equipment. I ask for a volunteer to investigate and determine if it is a worthwhile activity for PTA participation. Contact me if interested.

Thanks,  
John Jennison

### PARENTING SEMINARS

#### **SETTING LIMITS: POSITIVE PARENTING**

Tuesday, March 29, 7-8:00 pm (rescheduled from snow day)  
Little Run Elementary School Library (Olley Lane)

\*\*Mantua parents are invited\*\*

This parenting workshop is presented by the Guidance Departments of Little Run and Old Creek Elementary in conjunction with the Jewish Social Service Agency. Mr. Andrew McGhan, LCSW, will speak on ideas and strategies for helping parents to stay positive while they provide structure for helping their children manage their behavior. Hope you can come!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Fascinating Parenting Seminar!

#### **INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS**

Jennifer Krell, the school based technology specialist at Frost Middle School, will enlighten parents and give us specific ways to keep our children safe as they explore the internet unknown.

Tuesday, April 5 from 7pm-8:45pm  
Mantua Elementary Library

Sponsored by the Mantua PTA in conjunction with the Woodson Coalition for Safe and Drug Free Youth.

Questions..contact Laura Mead FPSquared@cox.net;  
703-876-2688

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## MANTUA FROM ABOVE T-SHIRTS, MOUSEPADS & POSTERS ORDERS DUE: APRIL 1ST

The screen printing for the picture has been completed and a new order form with revised sizes has been posted on the MantuaPTA.org web site. Check it out and don't be left out.

## LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Keep them coming in!!

Participating products include: Campbell's soups, beans, juices, Spaghettios, and gravies; Franco-American gravies and pastas; Pepperidge Farm soups, breads, cookies, crackers, frozen pastries and desserts; Swanson broths and canned chicken; V8 juices; Prego pasta sauces; Pace products.

Please deposit labels in the red box at the front of the school. Questions? Call Jan Syers at (703) 876-9686.

## FLEX NEWS

FLEX confirmation forms are in today's Tuesday folder. If you registered your child (grades 1-6) for an Italian class this spring and did not receive a confirmation notice, please contact Linda Halstead at 703-503-5175 or pajusihalstead@cox.net Classes for grades 1-3 start Tuesday, April 5 at 3:30. Classes for grades 4-6 start Wednesday, April 6 at 7:45 am.

## FROST NEWS

FROST FAMILY FESTIVAL... March 31st 5:30pm-8pm

One of the primary purpose of the Festival is to acquaint rising 7th graders and their families with "middle school life".

School tours, musical performances, classroom demonstrations and other activities will provide students and their families an excellent preview of life as a middle school student.

## TECHSTRAVAGANZA

TJ Student Groups Sponsor Techstravaganza for Girls on Saturday, April 9th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, several student groups at TJ High School for Science and Technology are sponsoring a Techstravaganza for elementary and middle school girls in Fairfax County. There will be booths with hands-on science experiments as well as booths staffed by TJ students who are members of TWIST (Tomorrow's Women in Science and Technology), GEMS (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science), WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), CORE (Community Outreach Efforts), and Keyettes. In addition, there will be speakers for the girls and their parents about women who work in math, science or technology. TJ is located at 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MR. LARSEN...

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with the 6th grade musical revue scheduled for Fri, May 13th- Sat, May 14th.

Volunteers will have skills specific to theatre production and will act as a "team captain," working with a small group of 6th graders.

For more information please contact Mantua's music teachers, Ms. Dini, Ms. Northouse or Mr. Larsen.

## HELP MANTUA WITH BOTTLE CAPS

Save Those Pepsi - iTunes Bottle Caps!!!

They're worth 75 cents each to the Mantua PTA. Look for winning Pepsi - iTunes bottle caps on specially marked 20 oz. and one-liter Pepsi products (PEPSI-COLA, DIET PEPSI, PEPSI WILD CHERRY, SIERRA MIST, MOUNTAIN DEW, DIET MOUNTAIN DEW, and MOUNTAIN DEW CODE RED) Winning game pieces can also be found on specially marked 32 oz. and 44 oz. soda cups. Bring the caps to school and put them in the Pepsi-iTunes collection box. This Pepsi - iTunes promotion ends April 11th and all game pieces must be collected and sold by May 16th.

Go to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com) or [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com) for additional details on the Pepsi - iTunes promotion. Contact John Miller (703-764-1416, [johnakm@netzero.net](mailto:johnakm@netzero.net)) if you have any questions.



## HELP THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND SUPPORT GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4333

Girl Scout Troop 4333 is having an animal drive to help support the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. You can help make an animal happy by donating any of the following items:

Towels, toys, blankets, small dog beds, socks, feeding dishes, leashes, disposable litter trays, newspapers, food treats, and grooming supplies

Please help by bringing in your donation by March 29, 2005. There is a box in the school lobby for donations. Don't Delay - Donate Today.

Thank You!!!

## Alert News Contributions

Send via email to [alertnews@mantuapta.org](mailto:alertnews@mantuapta.org) or contact Mary Rustick at 703-591-7160. Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesh and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing and to Stacy Burdetsky for proofreading.