



Mantua PTA News

www.mantuapta.org

FEBRUARY 2006

Mary Jo Kavjian President's Message

It is hard to believe that we are at the 100th day of school. Although I have been enjoying the unusually warm weather, I think winter is finally here – maybe we will even see some snow soon.

The auction is almost a distant memory. The hard work and generous bidding of so many of you made it possible to reach the budgeted goal of \$25,000. Thanks to all of you who played a part in making that happen. A portion of that income was used to purchase items from the Principal's wish list. Please check the website in a few weeks to review the February PTA meeting minutes to see what was approved.

The next big fundraiser is the carnival. The carnival is not only a fundraiser but also a great time for the children and parents to enjoy themselves. Please sign up to work a shift at your class booth/game. You will be receiving information soon from your class booth coordinator. All we are asking is for one hour of your time. Check the Tuesday Folder each week for all the latest information.

The County has announced this year's recipients of the Outstanding Interpretation Awards for the Reflections Program. I am pleased to announce that Joshua Smoot and Sarah Smoot have both been chosen to have their photography entries sent to the state level. Sarah's entry in the visual arts category finished in third place. Brette McPhilomy and Tessa Heller both received second place awards for their literature entries. Congratulations to all of you.

I invite you to come to the monthly PTA meetings. It's never too late to get involved. We meet the first Wednesday of the month in the library beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MANTUA CARNIVAL 2006

Get ready for silver screen extravaganza with **Mantua Goes Hollywood**, Mantua's annual spring carnival. There will be class games and booths, the ever-popular cakewalk, a moon bounce, a gift basket silent auction, great raffle prizes, cotton candy, Kettle Corn and more. You may browse through Change of Scenery for those one of a kind treasures or obtain a variety of food at the Concession Stand. This is a wonderful event for the whole family and kids of all ages.

Change of Scenery – The Change of Scenery needs quality toys, books, household items and more for this attraction. (Please no clothing, shoes, exercise equipment, or large furniture.) If you want to make a donation, contact Nancy Robinson, (352-0510 or mrsrobinson@cox.net) or Nanci Pedulla (280-0783 or nanci_pedulla@yahoo.com).

Poster Contest – All students from preschool to sixth grade are invited to enter the poster contest. Students must work independently at home and be about this year's theme "Mantua Goes Hollywood". Entries are due in the front office by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 3rd. All entries will win a prize!!!

Cake Decorating Contest – Theme decorated cakes will be judged and the winners awarded prizes. There are age categories from K to Adult. For further details watch the alert news and flyers on the WEB.

Check out the WEB – Full details on how to volunteer, advance sale of raffle tickets and event tickets may be found at the PTA WEB site www.mantuapta.org. Just click on the carnival location to find out full information and to obtain flyers for all of the events.

Jan-Marie Fernandez, Cheryl Thompson, and Tina Tingler...

Message from the Mantua Principal's Office

During the past quarter, Mantua, along with all other schools in FCPS, completed their *School Improvement Plan*. This year our plans were required to be two-years in length and had to have a continued focus on student achievement in four core areas: Math, Language Arts, History/Social Science and Science. At Mantua, we are committed to addressing the needs of the whole child; therefore, our School Plan establishes objectives for all aspects of our school program.

All grade level teams and specialist teams were involved in determining the School Plan objectives through analysis of their students' formal and informal assessments to determine areas of need. Our School Plan focuses on specific objectives in the following areas: reading readiness skills, reading non-fiction material, writing in the content areas, compacted math, use of visual images for Social Studies, and review of Science strands for fifth grade. Additional objectives encourage our students to make connections between classroom curriculum and areas studied through the Arts and through languages, to develop healthy living habits and to demonstrate understanding of Boyer's Core Virtues.

We have established lofty goals for ourselves and your children. Parental support is essential to meet these goals. Many of our parents of our younger children are doing this with their follow-through in the Bag of Books Program, reading to their children and by practicing math skills. It is extremely helpful for parents to actively check with their children regarding homework, supplies and organization of their work. Establishing a set place in your home where your child completes homework and leaves their schoolbag for the next day is very useful. Encouraging and expecting an appropriate level of responsible follow-through on tasks by your child(ren) is also an essential precursor to becoming a successful adult.

Some specific suggestions on how you can support development of your children's writing skills are taken from *Reports to Parents*:

Make time for writing just as you need to make time for reading.

Have the tools on hand, like pen and paper, a special notebook, or a home computer with word processing programs.

Write in front of your children because children learn what they experience.

Make a big deal about their writing successes by praising and displaying what they have accomplished.

Make a book using pictures with captions or short stories.

Our children are technologically savvy – but remember while IMs are quick and fun they do nothing to help children become a better writer. E-mails are better because they allow time and space for children to express themselves.

Check out a wonderful Internet site geared for children. (www.writingfix.com/forkids.htm)

Keep an eye on the weekly *Alert News*, which will have additional suggestions from the administration in each of the other objective areas within Mantua's School Plan.

Application Process for Elementary Magnet Schools

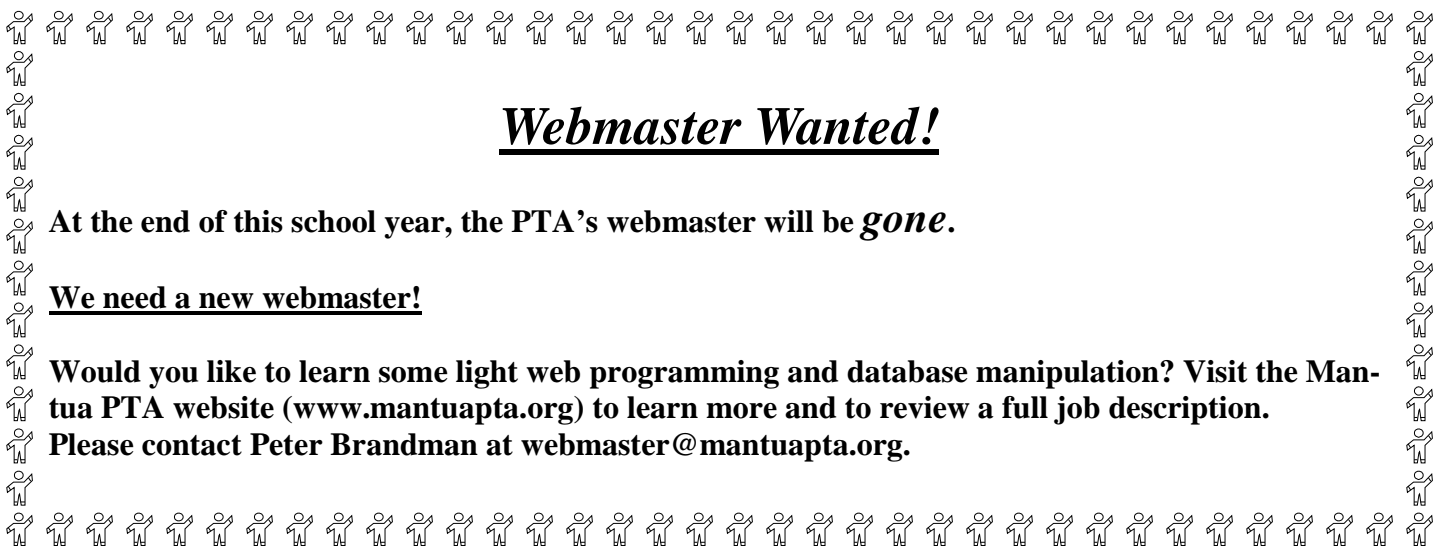
The following information will explain the 2006-2007 magnet school application and lottery process for Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and for Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences.

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences offers an interdisciplinary, concept-based instructional program with an added emphasis on technology, science, math, and the arts. Bailey's resources include a technology lab, a science discovery lab, an electronic music lab, a performing arts theater, a math exploratorium, a fine arts studio, and a communications center consisting of a television studio with video production capabilities. Resource teachers staff the resource areas and collaborate with classroom teachers to coordinate and integrate learning activities.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences offers an interdisciplinary, concept-based instructional program with an added emphasis on fine and performing arts, science, and technology. A science specialist, a technology resource teacher, and additional art classes provide opportunities for all students to enhance their learning. The arts team includes music, art, drama, and film studies teachers. Resource teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to coordinate and integrate learning activities with classroom instruction.

To be eligible to apply, a student must be on or above grade level in language arts and math and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. Applications will be screened for eligibility, and a lottery will be conducted in mid-March.

Applications are available at your child's school. They are also be located at the following web sites, <http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OEIAS/magnet.htm> <http://www.fcps.edu/HuntersWoodsES>, and <http://www.fcps.edu/BaileysES> . Parents must complete the appropriate school application and return the form to the Office of Elementary Instruction at Lacey Center. **Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2006.**



Webmaster Wanted!

At the end of this school year, the PTA's webmaster will be *gone*.

We need a new webmaster!

Would you like to learn some light web programming and database manipulation? Visit the Mantua PTA website (www.mantuapta.org) to learn more and to review a full job description.

Please contact Peter Brandman at webmaster@mantuapta.org.