

# Mantua PTA Alert News

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*December 4, 2007*

This week's PDF version of the Alert News is available at the Mantua PTA web site, [www.MantuaPTA.org](http://www.MantuaPTA.org). Please be sure to use the address [AlertNews@MantuaPTA.org](mailto:AlertNews@MantuaPTA.org) when submitting items to the Alert News.

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## **1. NEXT PTA MEETING – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm – MANTUA LIBRARY**

**All are welcome to attend!! The next big event is the Mantua Auction in January so come learn more about volunteer opportunities with this program. PTA information can be found at [MANTUAPTA.ORG](http://MANTUAPTA.ORG). Hope to see you on Wednesday evening!**

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2. A special thank you to all of you who have volunteered in years past and are volunteering this school year! Mantua Elementary maintains its high standards in large part because of our active parent and family member involvement. As you all know, our school depends on many, many volunteers each day and on special events. This is a call to all parents and family members once again to jump into our wonderful school community to share your talents, special interests, hobbies, or to just come help out in our many PTA sponsored activities. Yes, we need you!! There are a variety of activities that friends, family members and siblings can participate in within the classroom and also outside the classroom. For example, you can help out in the Art room for an hour, read to kindergartners, help in the library, take home things from the teacher that need to be cut and pasted and colored, and much, much more. In support of special events like the carnival you could help set-up a booth, serve at the food stand or help set up the Rummage Sale. So many ways to help, so little room to write them all. For in classroom volunteer opportunities, contact your Room Parent and Teacher. Yes, it's entirely O.K. to email your teacher and ask him/her if they need support of any kind throughout the year. To serve on a committee for a PTA Event like the Carnival or PTA Program like FLEX, please go to the Mantua PTA Website and look up the PTA Board for contact information. They'll be happy to include you!

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## **3. Kids Care Club**

The Kids Care Club will be collecting NEW winter hats and mittens for needy families. The collection will be held for the first two weeks of December. A collection box will be in the foyer. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

Final warning! The Kids Care Club is also collecting the lost and found items THIS WEEK to wash and send to the Clothing Boutique at Bailey's Elementary.

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## **4. Holiday Gift Idea**

The PTA is pleased to once again offer families Type to Learn, the software package Mantua uses to teach children typing. The software is just \$13 and is available in time for the holiday season.

Students embark on zany time travel missions to learn keyboarding skills in this animated update of Type to Learn. Built on a proven curriculum of sequential, skills-building instruction, Type to Learn 3 helps students master keyboarding by engaging them in lesson/practice sequences that include:

- Home Position: A friendly reminder on proper positioning at the keyboard
- Warm Up: Loosen up fingers in a home row review
- Check Point: Quickly review previously learned lessons
- Learn New Keys: Animated 3D hands introduce keystrokes on a color-coded keyboard
- Exercises: Direct keyboarding instruction with automatic review and plenty of practice
- Final Challenge: Ensure skills are mastered with a test after each lesson

Each of the 25 lessons in Type to Learn 3 is followed by a set of skills-based practice games. With new art, more teacher control options, and a captivating world history theme, them new games provide fun practice for students! Grades 2 - 12.

To order your copy(ies), please enclose a note with your child's name, child's teacher and number of copies along with a check made payable to "Mantua PTA" in an envelope labeled "PTA Box - Type to Learn". The software will be sent home with your child in a sealed paper bag (in case the software is a gift).

Please contact Carole Thomas at [caroleandjay@aol.com](mailto:caroleandjay@aol.com) if you have any questions.

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### 5. **Carnival Co-Chair Needed**

We have a wonderful and fun opportunity to co-chair this year's Carnival with the PTA President's wife Missy Green. There are lots of historical files on hand to assist. (And, a special thank you to our year's past co-chairs Elizabeth Wasserman and Cherie Curry for their work in past years and supporting us with this year's transition!!!!) Please step forward and contact Missy at [missyfay76@msn.com](mailto:missyfay76@msn.com) to help make this another great school carnival.

### **Online Auction Help Needed**

We also need people to help with the Online Auction. This is in the planning stage and we still need people to help with solicitation letters, follow up phone calls to local businesses, and other assorted jobs. The Online Auction will run from Jan9- Jan30th 2008. Please contact Mary Jo Kavjian at [sixkavjians@aol.com](mailto:sixkavjians@aol.com) to help or donate an item or service.

### **We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do...**

Like to be social and bring folks together? We have the job for you! The School Spirit Coordinator sets up social activities to bring families together outside of the school environment. In the past, we've had a Pizza Night, an ice skating party, Chuck E. Cheese party, and a paintball war! The possibilities are limitless. You can choose to work with a partner or as a committee if you prefer. You can coordinate one or two events for the rest of the school year or however many you have time. Your call! Most of your work is coordinating with the establishment and then sending a flyer out to the school thru Tues. Folders announcing the essentials (time, date, place). If this sounds like a job you could have fun with please contact Trish Williams at [trishdowney@gmail.com](mailto:trishdowney@gmail.com) or call 703-865-8855.

If you would like to serve on the PTA Think Tank Committee, please contact Bob Greene, PTA President, [rgreene@afponline.org](mailto:rgreene@afponline.org) If you have ideas, recommendations for improvements or new programs, we'd love to hear them! We are looking forward to working with you!

For further information on the above, please feel free to contact Monica Cameron [monica.cameron@cox.net](mailto:monica.cameron@cox.net) and/or Trish Williams at the #/address listed above. Talk to you soon!

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### 6. **IT TAKES A VILLAGE...** to run a book fair.

Thank you all for your generosity both in time and treasure. Your support has once again made the book fair a great success. We want to express special thanks to our fantastic coordinators, Claire Fritzinger and Carrie Clawson, and the legions of volunteers who helped from beginning to end. We literally couldn't do it without you. Your contributions go a long way to enhance Mantua's library program.  
Sheila Cronin & Ana Rojas

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7. **Mantua Night at Pizza Hut** – Join your friends and neighbors Tuesday, December 11, anytime between 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Pizza Hut located at the corner of Prosperity and Little River Turnpike. Pizza Hut will donate 20% of all proceeds during this time to the Mantua PTA. This is good for dine-in or carryout. Look for the flyer in your child's Tuesday folder or visit the website at [www.mantuapta.com](http://www.mantuapta.com).

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8. **On-line Auction:** There's still time to make a donation to this year's on-line auction. Donate a gourmet dinner, weekend at a vacation home, gutter cleaning, etc. Making a donation is easy: either send your information to Mary Jo Kavjian at [kavjianPTA@aol.com](mailto:kavjianPTA@aol.com) or visit the website at [www.mantuapta.com](http://www.mantuapta.com).

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9. **PTA Membership** has been a huge success this year! With your support, the PTA has funded and contributed funds for many items throughout the school as well as some fabulous programs, some of which are only offered here at Mantua. If you have not joined, now would be a perfect time to show your school support by becoming a part of the PTA. **All families with at least one PTA member receive a Mantua School directory.** Send in cash or write a check to "Mantua PTA" for \$14 for a family membership or \$7 for a single membership. Include "PTA Membership," member(s) name(s), your child's name, and his/her class on the envelope. You may also mail your check to:

PTA Membership  
9335 Tovito Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031

**THANK YOU!**

Donna Stelling McGrath, PTA Membership

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10. **Lunch Money** – Welcome to December! With the holiday season in full swing, life has become even more chaotic. In case your student forgot their lunch or ran out of money on their card during November, this would be a great time to reimburse the office for any borrowed funds. By doing this, funds will be available for the next person who needs to borrow for a day. Thanks for your help.

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11. **CLINIC REQUEST:** The clinic will no longer keep clothing for emergencies. If you have a young child at Mantua, you are encouraged to keep a change of clothing in their backpack. Please contact Ms. Lindholm by stopping in the Clinic or by e-mail at [Neita.Lindholm@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Neita.Lindholm@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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**12. Last Week for Book Drive**

Junior Girl Scout Troop 4333 is sponsoring a book drive for the children at Como Elementary School in Como , Mississippi . Como Elementary has 460 kids from pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. The school is one of the poorest schools in Mississippi , with 39% of the families living below the poverty level. The goal is to send each child a book of their very own for Christmas. All books should be new or very gently used. Consider bringing in some books to make room on your shelves for the books at the Mantua Book Fair. Look for the signs and box at the front entrance to the school. If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Johnson, 703-383-1412 or e-mail at [elizabeth.johnson@usdoj.gov](mailto:elizabeth.johnson@usdoj.gov) .

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13. **Congratulations to First Lego League 577**, the Terrabots, who received a first place Project Presentation Award and a second place Robot Performance Award for Division I at the Regional FLL Tournament today in Ashburn on November 18, 2007. The team also qualified to advance to the Virginia State Tournament in Harrisonburg on December 8th-9th. The team members are: Michael Campion, Adam Friedman, Joseph Kannarkat, Adelaine Madison, and Emily Schneider.

Many thanks to the Mantua community for its support during the teacher workdays when the team sold compact fluorescent light bulbs, coffee and biscotti. The team raised over \$850 for its project to install motion sensor light switches to conserve energy. FCPS has generously decided to expand the project to all of the classrooms in the school.

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| <p>Information on Unsubscribing</p> <p>This email version of the Alert News is available to all Mantua families. If you do NOT want to receive the Alert via email, please use our Parent Database to modify your listing: Go to the PTA web site at <a href="http://www.MantuaPTA.org">www.MantuaPTA.org</a>, and click the "Parent Database" tab.</p> | <p>Miss an Issue?</p> <p>If you don't receive your regular email Alert News by the end of Tuesday of any school week, drop a line to <a href="mailto:alertnews@mantuapta.org">alertnews@mantuapta.org</a>, and we'll forward you a new copy.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Alert News Contributions</p> <p>Send via email to <a href="mailto:alertnews@mantuapta.org">alertnews@mantuapta.org</a>.</p> |
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