



Mantua PTA Alert News

November 11, 2009



In this Issue

[Picture Re-Take Thursday](#)

[Family Night Out Wednesday](#)

[Drama Club presents Peter Pan](#)

[Book Fair Starts](#)

[Advertise with Drama Club](#)

[Spirit Wear](#)

[Spanish Translators Needed](#)

[Brownie Project](#)

[Raccon Run Planning Meeting](#)

[PTA Sponsorship](#)

[Notes from the PTA](#)

[Important Upcoming Events](#)

[Alert News](#)

Picture Re-takes Thursday

November 12, 12:30-3:00 on the stage.

If students have a picture packet and want the photo re-taken, they must bring the original packet with all pictures in it. On picture day, they can pick up an envelope in the office and prepay, or they will get a proof and can order online.

PTA Family Night Out This Wednesday

Yankee Doodle went to town a-riding on a pony. He stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni. Our PTA Family Night Out is this week at Noodles & Company in Fairfax City on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11 between 5 and 9 pm. Come for a delicious dinner and lots of Mantua family fun! 25% of the proceeds will go to the Mantua PTA to support various school activities. Contact Kathleen DeCarlo at kdecarlo@verizon.net with any questions.

Second Star to the Right and Straight on 'til Morning...

The 2009 Mantua Drama Club is proud to present Peter Pan! General performances are on Friday, November 20th at 7 PM and on Saturday, November 21st at 2 PM. Doors open forty-five minutes before the show for ticket and concession purchases. DVDs of the show may be pre-ordered as well. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under twelve. Interpreters will be available at the Saturday matinee. The front row on the right hand side will be reserved for our guests who will need interpretation. Student performances are on Monday, November 23rd for K through 3rd graders and on Tuesday, November 24th for our 4th through 6th graders and TCC students. Please see the fliers in your Tuesday folder or on the Mantua PTA website for additional information. Please come out on November 20th or 21st and support our Drama Club! We hope to see you there!

Book Fair Starts this Week!

The PTA Book Fair opens on Friday, 11/13 at 8:30 a.m. Students will be visiting the book fair as a class and will have the opportunity to write a wish list to bring home. For younger

[Contributions](#)

Quick Links

[PTA Website](#)

[Parents Info Center](#)

[Alert News Articles](#)

[PTA Webmaster](#)

students, volunteers will assist students with writing (don't forget to volunteer to help!). Book Fair hours are 8:30 to 4:00 Monday through Thursday next week, with extended hours on Tuesday, 11/17 until 8 p.m. to accommodate more parents. For our last day, the hours are 8:30 to noon, and then we will pack up the books and return the library to its normal state. Please contact Claire Fritzingler (703-205-9033 or plntclaire@cox.net) if you can volunteer your time, especially for pack-up. Don't forgot to stop by while you are enjoying your Thanksgiving luncheons!

Advertising Available for Drama Club Program

If you are interested in advertising in the program Mantua's drama production of Peter Pan, please contact Mary Thyfault Clark at Mary@SomethingAboutRealEstate.com by no later than noon, Thursday, November 12.

Mantua Spirit Wear Delivered

Mantua spirit wear has been delivered to the classrooms. Thank you for supporting the PTA through your orders. If you have any questions about your order contact Jacquie Heller today at eeblesses@aol.com 703.691.8085.

Spanish Translators Needed for Alert News

Thanks to parent volunteers, the Alert news is being translated into Korean and Chinese. We need Spanish translation as well. Contact kenmoles@cox.net if you can assist in this process. The Alert News keeps us connected as a school community.

Brownie Project: Welcome Baby Baskets

Brownie Troop 2416 is collecting baby items for the Healthy Families and Early Head Start Home Visiting Programs. We are putting together Welcome Baby Baskets. Please consider donating the following items for the baskets:

- * laundry basket to contain items
- * infant outfits (ages 0 - 6 mo)
- * diapers (sizes newborn - 6 mo)
- * diaper wipes
- * diaper cream
- * burping cloths
- * baby washcloths and towels
- * baby swaddling blankets

- * digital thermometer
- * infant nail clippers and mitts

We will be collecting through the month of November. Thanks much!

Raccoon Run--10th Annual Planning Meeting

Join us at GLORY DAYS GRILL (Pan Am Shopping Center) on THURSDAY, November 12 @ 7pm to help plan for our 10th anniversary of the Raccoon Run supporting Life with Cancer in memory of Mantua's teacher, Roberta Romano. Questions, Concerns, Interested? CONTACT Jennifer Lewis-Cooper jalcooper@aol.com or 703.966.8324

PTA Sponsorship

If your company would like to donate a service (such as printing an activity program), or contribute funds toward any of our club or program costs, please contact the PTA President at NicoleAArmstrong@aol.com or 703-573-1216. The PTA will gladly acknowledge your company's generosity, and contributions are tax deductible. Please note that all sponsorships must be reviewed individually for approval by the Board, and that, in accordance with PTA bylaws, sponsorship does not denote PTA endorsement of any company or product.

Notes from the PTA:

'PTA Bylaws' Committee Members Needed

The PTA must update its bylaws every 5 years, which means that we must update and vote on those updated bylaws by our February 2010 meeting in order for the PTA to continue operating. We need a few volunteers who can help out. The PTA will provide step-by-step instructions and full support. Please contact Nicole Armstrong at NicoleAArmstrong@aol.com for more information.

Please Give Front Office a Copy of All Activity/Program Flyers

Do you help or run a committee or activity in the school? Please note that not only must all flyers be approved through the front office, but you also must **leave** a copy of your final flyer at the office. They must maintain copies of all flyers for parents who stop by and request one.

A Reminder to Parents...

Mantua Elementary is well known and regarded highly for many things, but one of our biggest treasures is our amazing teaching staff. As you communicate and collaborate

with your child's teacher throughout the year, please remember that your child is only one of the *many* wonderful students each teacher is working to support the needs of, all while teaching a full day of school and fulfilling numerous other obligations. Our teachers do a tremendous job keeping personal levels of service high, but as we all know as parents, there are only so many hours in each day.

Last 'Community Dialogue' Opportunity to Discuss Upcoming Budget Cuts

The FCPS is hosting one more 'Dialogue' gathering for public input on the tremendous budget shortfall facing us in FY 2011. They are looking for constructive ideas & input. Some of the items on the list of potential cuts: full-day Kindergarten, increasing class sizes *again*, elementary school Band & Strings, and FLES. You can either call the Budget Hotline at 703-324-9400, or register and attend a meeting on Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m. to noon, at Kings Park Library, Sherwood Regional Library, or George Mason Regional Library. More info at: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/community.pdf> .

Special Education Liaison

The PTA would welcome any parent interested in becoming a liaison to the various Special Education resources within the school and PTA community. For example, there is a Fairfax County Council of PTAs committee dedicated specifically to Special Education issues. Please contact Nicole Armstrong at NicoleAArmstrong@aol.com if you are interested.

Thanks to Mrs. Fernandez for a wonderful presentation on Brain Research and how Mantua Elementary staff and teachers are implementing those research methods in our school! Stay tuned for our next PTA meeting 'mini-presentation' after the New Year...

Welcome back to Assistant-Principal Tina Tingler, who has just returned from maternity leave. She has a beautiful new son, Aidan. Mrs. Shibles did a great job holding down the fort while she was gone, but the school is very happy to have our own Mrs. Tingler back with us.

Important Events for November

Wed 11/11: Community Spirit Restaurant Night: 'Noodles & Company' in Fairfax

Fri 11/13: 8:30 am-4 pm, Annual Book Fair Opens (library)

Fri 11/13: Deadline for Thanksgiving Luncheon Reservation Forms (forms available online at MantuaPTA.org)

Mon 11/16 - Fri 11/20: Book Fair Open (library): Mon-Wed 8:30am-4pm, Thu 8:30am-8pm, Fri 8:30am-Noon

Wed 11/18: Thanksgiving Feasts: Preschool-3rd Grade

Thu 11/19: Thanksgiving Feasts: 4th-6th Grades

Fri 11/20, 7pm: Drama Club Presents "Peter Pan"

Sat 11/21, 2pm: Drama Club Matinee

Mon 11/23 - Tue 11/24: Drama Club production for school classes

Wed 11/25: 2-Hour Early Release

Thu 11/26 - Fri 11/27: School Closed: Thanksgiving Holiday

Alert News Contributions

Send items via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org.

Submissions appreciated by the Friday before distribution.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.MantuaPTA.org

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA



Community Events

Seussical the Musical at Woodson Starting this Weekend!

The Woodson High School drama department is putting on a great production of "Seussical the Musical" with weekend evening and matinee performances beginning Friday, November 6th through Sunday afternoon, November 15th. The musical is based on the stories of Dr. Seuss and is perfect for kids ages 4-99!

For show times and information, including how to purchase tickets on line, please visit

www.wtwdrama.org .

WT Woodson Rededication Ceremony & Tour Sat 11/7, 10am

Now that remodeling is complete, all are invited to the WTW Joan Bedinger Auditorium. The program will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, performances by the Woodson Performing Arts Department, and a video presentation of Woodson: Then and Now. Tours and a reception will follow.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Don't miss the 17th Holiday Happenings Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, November 14 from 10 am to 4 pm at WT Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA where you'll find exquisite, one of a kind handcrafted jewelry, pottery, quilts, holiday items and more, all made by local artisans. Come shop for holiday gifts...or treat yourself!

There is no admission fee so take this opportunity to come see our beautifully renovated WT Woodson High School and pick up some one of a kind treasures at the same time!

FCAG (Fairfax County Association for the Gifted) Upcoming Events:

November 17, 2009 - AMC 8 Math Contests

A team of FCAG volunteers will travel from school to school during the day and administer the AMC 8 math contest at multiple locations on Tuesday, November 17. While the test is generally intended for students in Eighth Grade, FCAG is not imposing an age/grade requirement in order to take the test. If you are interested in having the AMC 8 administered at your school or community center, please contact Jeff Steele at treasurer@fcag.org.

November 17, 2009 - FCAG Speaker Series - Thomas Jefferson HS Admissions Officer Judith Howard at 7:30 p.m. at McLean High School in the Lecture Hall (Room 187).

January 12, 2010 - FCAG Summer Camp Fair

Back by popular demand, the FCAG summer camp fair will be held at 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Oakton High School cafeteria. We will also be compiling our FCAG Summer Enrichment Camp Guide.