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Mantua PTA Alert News January 17, 2012



Message from the Principals

Wishing each of you all the best in the New Year! We wanted to share the following thank you and reminders with you:

Many thanks to the PTA and each of you for the funds that remained following our wonderful October 50th anniversary fall festival. We want to make sure that parents know that we have used most of the \$10,000 raised to purchase five classroom sets of response systems. These are handheld devices for each student in the classroom that allows them to choose a response for multiple-choice questions, respond to a Yes/No question etc. This device allows teachers to check for understanding on any concept with each individual student without other students knowing their results. The additional funds were used to purchase four document cameras for those teachers who still needed this tool. These were wonderful gifts to assist teaching and learning!

We are very appreciative of our many parent volunteers. However, just a reminder - teachers count on their before and after school time as an opportunity to plan for their students. Parents, please do not have impromptu meetings with teachers. Please set up a meeting time so that teachers can plan accordingly for their limited and precious planning time. Thank you!

Students do not have school Monday or Tuesday, Jan. 30-31. Jan. 30, is a teacher workday and Jan. 31 is a countywide in-service day.

On Jan. 23, the school and office will be closed after 2 p.m. for an off-site function. Please leave a message at 703-645-6300, and your call will be returned the following day. Call 571-423-2000 if there is an emergency.

Late Arriving Students Must Go to the Office

Students who arrive after 9:05 a.m. are considered tardy and must be brought to the office to get a tardy slip. They no longer will be allowed to enter any other door after 9:05 a.m. (i.e. modular or kiss & ride). Parents of late students must accompany them into the building and sign them in.

Super Teacher Awards

Do you know a super teacher? It's time to let your child's teacher know you think they are great. The Virginia PTA and Virginia Lottery are teaming up again this year for the Super Teacher Awards. Please take a few minutes to write a short (500 words or less) nomination letter. The process is easy and can be done completely online. Your nomination letter should address the teacher's:

- * Passion and commitment to the teaching profession
- * Innovation and creativity in the classroom
- * Efforts to involve parents and families in their student's education

Visit http://www.valottery.com/promotion/teacher/nominate_teacher.asp for the complete rules and nomination information. A copy of all nomination letters should be sent to Jan-Marie Fernandez for placement in the teacher's file and recognition at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Nominations are due Feb. 14. Contact Lori Recher at lorirecher@hotmail.com with questions.

Winter Wear

Children must be dressed appropriately for outdoor activities during the cold weather season. Many students are arriving at school without coats or jackets. If your child does not have a warm coat or jacket they will not be allowed to go outside for recess.

Yearbook Photos Due Friday; Price Increases in February

Mantua's yearbook is going to be great this year but it can't be completed it without your help. The yearbook committee urgently needs you to submit your class' candid pictures by Friday, Jan. 20. Classroom pages will be submitted for printing on Jan 23. Please send five to seven of the best group shots of your child's class or school events to mantuayearbooks@gmail.com.

Place your yearbook order as soon as possible through the jostensyearbooks.com site or by phone at 1-866-282-1516. Checks also can be sent to Jostens Yearbook Service Center, P.O. Box 17609, Denver, CO, 80217. Make sure include your child's account number and his/her name. The yearbook is \$25 through the end of January, at which time it will increase to \$35.

Auction Update and Deadline Extension to Friday, Jan. 20

Thank you so much to those of you who have already donated to the auction. We have received some wonderful items so far, but more items means a more exciting auction that will raise even more money for our fabulous school! In addition, there is now some serious competition for that ice cream party! Will your child's class be the winner? As of Thursday, the classes in the lead are Baker and Swales, with the classes of Allison, Boyd, Greene and Sottolano only one point behind!

We are extending the deadline by one week. All donations are now due to the school by Friday, Jan. 20. Contact Teresa LeMair at teresalemair@aol.com with questions about donations.

Mantua Faculty Basketball Game Scheduled

Mantua faculty will take on the Green Hawks (a local version of the Harlem Globetrotters) <http://gogreenhawks.com/> in a basketball game as part of the school's year-long 50th anniversary celebration. The game will be April 27. Watch for more details soon.

Mantua Family Night Out

The Mantua PTA has organized a family Night out for Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 4 to 10 p.m. at Baja Fresh in the Pan Am Shopping Center. Everyone is invited to an evening of delicious Mexican grill cuisine and Mantua fun. Make sure to mention to the cashier that you are with Mantua and Baja Fresh will donate 15 percent of the proceeds to Mantua's PTA. Come dine, have fun and raise money for our school. Contact Kathleen DeCarlo at kdecarlo@verizon.net with questions. Go to <http://www.mantuapta.org/documents/2012BajaFreshFlyer.pdf> for more information.

Bookmark/Poster Contest

FCPS is sponsoring its annual Student Safety and Wellness Bookmark contest this month. This is a voluntary program in which students design a poster on a theme

to promote safety and wellness. This year's theme is "Making My School and Community Drug and Bully Free." If your child would like to participate they can get the regulation size poster board from school and a list of rules for the contest. The posters are then made at home. Remind your child to follow the rules closely or the poster can't be considered for submission. The school will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and honorable mention ribbons to the winners in the K-3 and 4-6 categories. First place winners will be sent to the county for consideration to be made into actual bookmarks. Posters are due Jan. 25. Students will hear more about this on the Good Morning Mantua news show. We hope that many students will participate.

Attention all 6th grade Writers!

The Virginia PTA is sponsoring an essay contest. The theme is *Community Responsibility*. There will be three awards given in the 6 to 8 grade group. The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 savings bond; second place will receive a \$500 savings bond and third place will be award a \$250 savings bond. Criteria information and the application can be found on the PTA website. mantuapta.org. Entries are due Jan. 30. Send entries (must be accompanied by the application form) to PTA mailbox, attention Lori Recher. Contact Lori at lorirecher@hotmail.com with questions.

January's Fungi Award goes to...

Anbu Vijay received January's Fungi Award for all of the work she has done to coordinate Mantua's first Destination Imagination team. A big thank you to Anbu for getting this wonderful program started at Mantua.

Important Upcoming Events

Tues. Jan. 24: PTA Restaurant Night at Baja Fresh, 4 to 10 p.m.

Mon.-Tues. Jan. 30-31: Teacher Workdays, School Closed

Sat. Feb. 4: Talent Show

Feb. 7: Online Auction begins

Feb 10: Family Fun Night

Application Process for Elementary Magnet Schools

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Science has a broad array of programs to help each student continually grow and thrive in his or her ability to create,

inquire, and connect. The school has both classroom teachers and additional specialized educators who focus on the sciences, the arts, and technology so that these areas are integrated and complement one another as children learn in all fields. Additionally, some students have the opportunity to participate in the Spanish immersion program.

Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences offers in interdisciplinary, concept-based instructional program with an added emphasis on fine and performing arts, science, and technology. Kindergarten and first grade students are assigned to multiage classes. 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, and dance teachers. Resource teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to coordinate and integrate learning activities with classroom instruction.

If interested in either school, parents must complete the appropriate application and return it to the Pre K-6 Instruction and School Support office at Fairfax Ridge. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1.

Applications and information can be found here: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>.

Contact Sofia Arias, Bailey's Elementary School magnet liaison, at 703-575-6800 with questions about their program. Contact Diane Beers, parent liaison, at 703-262-7405 with questions about Hunters Woods Elementary magnet program.

Woodson Musical Revue, Dessert on Broadway

Enjoy a showcase of song and dance, as Woodson choral students display their impressive talents. Indulge in dessert and coffee at your elegant table in a posh cabaret setting, complete with dazzling skyline view! The annual show is Jan. 26-28, with both matinee and evening performances. Go to www.woodsonchorus.org for more information and to download a ticket order form.

Woodson Teacher Workday Dance Camp

The Woodson Dance Team again is offering a teacher workday camp for girls in kindergarten through 8th grades. Come learn some dance moves from the award

winning W.T. Woodson Precisionettes. Participants will learn dances, play games, make crafts, and most of all, have fun! Girls will be divided by age during dancing to provide the most meaningful experience for all. All participants receive a t-shirt and crafts made at camp. The camp will be Monday and/or Tuesday, Jan. 30-31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Space is limited so register early. Download a registration form [HERE](#). Contact camp coordinators Madelyn Weaver or Anne Foster, at dancecamp11@yahoo.com, for more information.

Therapeutic Recreation for Preschoolers

Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation Services is offering Saturday Morning Integrated Leisure Experience (SMILE), an integrated play experience for 3 to 5 year olds with disabilities and their non-disabled peers on Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The program emphasizes opportunities for individuals to participate in focused play activities designed to increase social and leisure skills. The program includes small group activities, pretend and imagination activities, activity centers and other age and ability appropriate activities.

There is a \$60 registration fee for the session. Scholarships are available to those unable to participate due to economic reasons. For more information call 703-324-5532.

Space is limited and a waitlist is likely. The registration deadline is Feb. 1, or until the program is full.

Alert News Contributions

Send items via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org.

Submissions MUST be received by the Friday before distribution in order to be included.

如果您需要一份中文的曼图亚小学校园新闻周刊，请联系雷晓春女士。电话：703-425-1097

电子信箱：sabrina.lei@yahoo.com

한국어로 번역된 뉴스를 받아보시기 원하시는분은 크리스티씨께 연락주세요. 전화 703-865-

8065, 이메일 choichristie@yahoo.com.

Nếu quý vị muốn nhận tin tức "the Alert News" được dịch ra tiếng Việt , xin liên lạc sonha60@hotmail.com

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor llame Gabriella Numbela a 703-573-6375 or e-mail a ganumbela@hotmail.com.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.MantuaPTA.org

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

