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Mantua PTA Alert News

May 8, 2012



Save the Date for Mantua's Farewell to Ms. Thompson

Mantua students, staff, families, alumni, and community are invited to a bon voyage BBQ on June 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. to honor our beloved assistant Principal Cheryl Thompson, who is retiring after 35 years of dedication to Fairfax County Public Schools - 21 of them at Mantua Elementary! There will be hot dogs and hamburgers, ice cream, music and lots of fun.

Correction to MCA Newsletter

Speaking of Ms. Thompson's retirement, the MCA newsletter indicated that Mr. Brian Collins will be our new assistant principal. This is incorrect. We have not even begun the interview process. Mrs. Fernandez is busy reviewing 43 applicants for this position and will be setting up panel interviews sometime in the next few weeks. Staff members, parents and administration will be panel members for this interview process.

New Bell Schedule for the 2012-13 School Year

Fairfax County Public Schools is making changes to the bell schedule to accommodate the addition of approximately 4,000 students to the school system. Fortunately, there are just minor changes to Mantua Elementary's bell schedule for next year. The opening and closing times for Mantua for 2012-2013 will be: Mondays: 9:10 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays: 9:10 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch is NEXT Monday, May 14

To honor our wonderful educators, the Mantua PTA (that's us parents) hosts the annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. This year's luncheon will be held Monday, May 14, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Teachers will enjoy a lunch full of delicious dishes courtesy of the grateful Mantua parents. This year we are celebrating the multi-cultural student body of Mantua and will be offering a buffet of foods from around the world.

If your family would like to provide an entree that represents your cultural background, we would LOVE to have it on our buffet! Any and all food items are welcome. If you are interested in preparing an entree for our buffet, please contact one of our hospitality committee members listed below.

To make this event a big success, we will need **LOTS and LOTS** of help from parents. Let us know if you're able to help set up **NEXT Monday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m.** in the library. See your Tuesday folder flier for details on what each class is asked to bring.

We also are looking for donations of \$5 and \$10 gift cards to be used as door prizes. Please refer to the flier in your child's Tuesday folder for information about donating.

Contact Meri Farling at 703-354-5750 or merifarling@hotmail.com, or Deanna Firth-Freemyer at 703-901-9031 or firth_freemyer@yahoo.com, if you are able to volunteer, prepare an entree for our buffet, donate gift cards, or if you have any questions.

Twelfth Annual Mantua Raccoon Run is THIS Saturday, May 12

Don't miss the 12th annual Raccoon Run this Saturday, May 12, at 8 a.m. All funds raised will go to support Inova's Life with Cancer program. The 1-mile Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. with the 5K race following at 8:30 a.m. The annual race honors the memory of Mantua's 5th grade teacher Roberta Romano. Registration is \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for the Fun Run. Register by Thursday, May 3, and be guaranteed a t-shirt. Register online [HERE](#). Contact Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-966-8304, or Diane Schenk at dschenk01@gmail.com with questions, or to volunteer.

Parenting in the Digital Age

This Thursday, May 10, Pamela Huffman, Fairfax County Public Schools Family and School Partnerships facilitator will present information about the latest research on

media use, a sampling of the digital marketplace (including Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, cell phones, Internet and more), an overview of our changing technological world, and your role as a parent in monitoring and guiding your child. Following the presentation, which will be at 7:30 p.m. immediately following the regular monthly PTA meeting, there will be time for parents to ask questions, and share suggestions, concerns and comments. Refreshments will be served and childcare will be offered for a nominal fee. Look for more information about this informative presentation in your child's Tuesday folder. More information can be found [HERE](#).

SHHHHHH! Don't Tell Ms. Thompson - It's a Surprise

We are putting together a scrapbook for Ms. Thompson to give to her as a goodbye present during the last week of school. Whether it is a letter to say thank you, a drawing, a poem, pictures, or a funny story, everyone is welcome to contribute. You may send already completed pages (the book will be 8.5x11) or individual items for us to include. Please send items in an envelope marked "Teresa LeMair, volunteer coordinator" to the front office. Thank you for helping us to create a wonderful scrapbook of memories that Ms. Thompson can look at over and over for many years to come! While Ms. Thompson knows about the Bon Voyage BBQ event on June 8, the scrapbook is a SURPRISE, so SHHHHHH!

Alert News Editor Needed for Next Year

Alert News is in need of a new editor beginning in September. It's a great position for anyone who likes to collect information, do a bit of light editing, and be the first in the know of any and all important news for and about Mantua Elementary. No experience necessary. Training provided. For more information, contact current editor Debbie Schwartz at alertnews@mantuapta.org or schwartz64@aol.com.

Mantua/GreenHawks Game Wrap Up

What an amazing game it was, watching Mantua staff and parents take on the GreenHawks! A big thanks goes to Ms. Thompson for setting the game up and refereeing! Another thank you to Mr. Collins for organizing the team and to the wonderful members of the Mantua basketball team! And, finally, thank you to the many wonderful Mantua parents and staff who gave their time to sell tickets, direct people, take tickets, and of course, came out to cheer!

Third Grade AAP Students Earn First Place in Math Competition

Congratulations to our 3rd grade AAP students! Ms. Graap and Mrs. Kaplan's students competed in the Continental Mathematics League this year, as do all AAP students at each grade level. The results are in and Mantua 3rd grade has some of the brightest math minds in the country! These students earned first place across all schools competing nationwide. Congratulations on a job well done.

Mantua Creationeers Medal in Three Virginia Science Olympiad Events

The Mantua Creationeers, a team made up of Amartya Banerjee, Catherine Tadlock, Sarah Tadlock, and Todd Tran, competed in the Virginia Science Olympiad Division A held May 5. This included seven subject-specific events, in which they received medals in three events - short circuits, simple machines, and pentathlon. They competed against more than 30 other teams of students. The same group of students also won first place for their research in the First Lego League tournament held last fall in Washington, D.C.

Sixth Grader Jemimah Rajack Virginia PTA Essay Finalist

Congratulations to Jemimah Rajack, a 6th grader in Mr. Malc's class, for becoming a finalist in the Virginia PTA Citizenship Essay Project. Jemimah's essay was chosen to represent the Northern Virginia District.

End of Year Events

May

- 7-11: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8: Spring Band Concert
- 12: Mantua Raccoon Run (5K)
- 14-18: Principal Appreciation Week
- 18: Spirit Day - wear your sports jersey
- 21: Spring Choral Concert
- 24: Spring Strings Concerts
- 25: Regular School Day - No Early Dismissal
- 28: Memorial Day Holiday

June

- 4: 6th Grade Musical (Secret Garden)
- 5-7: Field Days
- 8: Spirit Day - wear your sunglasses
- 8: Cheryl Thompson Celebration, 5 to 7 p.m.

- 13: 5th Grade Play (Magic School Bus)
- 14: 5th Grade Medieval Day
- 14: 6th Grade Award Ceremony Rehearsal
- 14: Patrol/GMM Picnic at Eakin Park
- 15: 6th Grade Awards Ceremony/Party
- 15: Last Day of School/Final Report Cards sent home

Sol Testing Schedule

May

- 14: SOL Grade 3 -Reading Part 1
- 15: SOL Grade 3 - Reading Part II
- 16: SOL Grade 4 - Reading
- 17: SOL Grade 5 - Reading
- 18: SOL Grade 6 - Reading
- 21: SOL Grade 3 - Social Studies
- 22: SOL Grade 4 - Math
- 23: SOL Grade 5 - Math/Advanced Math Take Grade 6 SOL Test
- 24: SOL Grade 6 - Math/Advanced Math Take Grade 7 SOL Test
- 25: SOL Grade 3 - Science
- 29: SOL Grade 4 - Virginia Studies
- 30: SOL Grade 5 - Science
- 31: SOL Grade 6 - U.S. History

June

- 1: SOL Grade 3 - Math

Note: There are no scheduled SOL makeup days. Every effort will be made to test students who miss their scheduled testing days. However, all tests must be completed by June 1.

Important Upcoming Events

- Thursday, May 10: PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10: Parenting Seminar, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 12: Mantua Raccoon Run
- Monday, May 14: Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Yard Sale to Support Frost Destination Imagination Team

This is a banner year for Mantua related problem-solving creativity teams! Not only has Mantua's Odyssey of the Mind team qualified for their international competition known as Worlds, a Frost Middle School Destination Imagination (DI) team, made up of all Mantua grads have has qualified for their equally exciting event known as Globals. The team, which includes Mantua alumni Blake Phillips, Chester Kowalski, Brian Contreras, and Nick Puzanghera, will compete in the worldwide competition in Knoxville, Tenn., May 23-26. To help fund their trip, the team is holding a yard sale this Saturday, May 12, at 9121 Santayana Dr. from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Surprise Your 6th Grader with Frost Spiritwear

Brand new Frost Middle School spiritwear is now available. Surprise your 6th grader with this fun clothing as a graduation present. T-shirts are \$15. Sweatshirts and flannel pajama bottoms are \$30 each. Call or email Jacquie Heller, your friendly neighborhood Frost PTA rep, for more information at eeblessed@aol.com or 703-691-8085.

Woodson Turns 50

Like Mantua, Woodson H.S. reaches a very important milestone next year - it turns 50. Many activities are being planned throughout the year, starting off with Homecoming weekend (Oct. 5-6). A special Homecoming parade is planned for that weekend. More information to come as the event gets closer.

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 받아보시기원하시는분은 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

