



Mantua PTA Alert News

October 4, 2011



Parking or Waiting in Parked Cars is Not Allowed in a Crosswalk

Please note it is dangerous for our student walkers and a ticketable offence to park or sit in a designated crosswalk.

Mantua Needs Your Help to Make 50th Anniversary a Success

Mantua Elementary is getting excited and geared up for a wonderful 50th anniversary celebration! In order to make the day run smoothly and offer lots of fun activities, we are looking for the following:

- **Volunteers:** Sign up for one or more 45-minute or 1-hour shifts [HERE](#) or email Teresa LeMair at teresalemair@aol.com to let her know when you can help!
- **Balloon Animal Makers:** Do you know how to make balloon animals or are willing to learn? We are looking for some balloon artists! Adults or older children are welcome. Please sign up at the link above, or contact Teresa LeMair.
- **Old Cars:** If you own a car built in the 60's, 70's or 80's (or know someone who does), and would be willing to be a part of a car show, please contact our coordinators at Mantua50th@hotmail.com.

Yearbook Cover Art Contest

Did you like last year's yearbook? Do you want your art to be on the cover this year? Sixth graders are encouraged to submit original artwork for this year's cover. Artwork may be colored pencil, watercolors, paint, chalk, collage, or other medium.

Entry Requirements - the artwork must be:

- On 8 ½" x 11" paper
- Completely original (no copyright materials)
- Say "Mantua," "Mantua ES" or "Mantua Elementary"

- In the theme of Mantua's 50th (golden) anniversary (party); the words don't have to be used, but a "50" would be nice
- Turned in with your name and homeroom teacher's name on the back
- Using yellow or gold-toned paper as background is optional.

The deadline is Friday, Oct. 7. Please submit your art to the PTA box in the front office.

It's Not Too Late to Turn in Fundraising Orders

Although our Entertainment Book and Sally Foster fundraiser is officially over, it's not too late to turn in your orders and get your prizes! Drop off your orders in the box in the office any day this week and they will be processed. Any prizes you have earned will be placed in your teacher's mailbox for delivery! If you still have an Entertainment Book at home that you are not purchasing, **YOU NEED TO RETURN THE BOOK TO SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY.** These were samples to help with the sale and not giveaways. They are not free items and must be returned to the company that supplies them. Thank you for cooperation with this, and for supporting the PTA. Contact Meri Farling at merifarling@hotmail.com with questions.

Chat 'n' Chew Book Club for Grades 3-6

Mantua's lunchtime book club for students in grades 3-6 is gearing up! We are looking for avid readers who would like to spend lunch/recess once a month discussing interesting books. The fee is \$20, which covers all books read throughout the year. Look for the sign up form in your student's Tuesday folder. Forms are due back to the PTA mailbox by Friday, Oct. 14.

Parents, Chat 'n' Chew also needs **YOU** to lead the book discussions. If you are able spare one lunch period a month to discuss the books with a group of approximately six students, we'd love to have you. You get to choose the day that works best for you to volunteer. The volunteer form also will be in Tuesday folders, or you can contact the Chat 'n' Chew coordinator, Kathy Phillips, at kathyphysics@hotmail.com or 703-573-0146. Thanks for supporting Mantua and reading!

Fall Box Tops/Labels for Education Contest Begins This Week

Fall Box Tops Contest starts from Monday, Oct. 3 through Friday, Oct. 28. Our goal for this year is to raise \$1,500. Please send in Box Tops labels and Labels for Education UPC labels in a plastic zip bag with the teacher's name and the grade on

it. Please don't send in expired labels. Labels should be dropped in the collection box by the front office.

Look for the large bar graph by the collection box to show which class is ahead. There will be a special prize for the class brings the most labels. Please check these websites for the list of participating products: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com.

Ask your neighbors, co-workers, church members, and community/business members to help you collect the labels. Contact Christie Choi at choichristie@yahoo.com for more information.

Help Mantua Earn Cash by Recycling

Send in your used ink jet or laser printer cartridges, cell phones, PDAs and laptops from home or work to earn money for school programs and materials. Accessories such as chargers, extra batteries, cases, headsets, etc., also can be donated. Please place all items in the gray Rubbermaid container in the school's front lobby. Mantua earns money by recycling these items through the Cartridges For Kids program. It pays to be green!

Destination Imagination, Odyssey of the Mind Meeting

Learn about Destination Imagination and Odyssey of the Mind during an informational session on Monday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. These two extraordinary, creative, problem-solving programs invite student teams from all over the world to solve mind-bending challenges and problems. These extracurricular activities require cooperation between students and volunteer adults. Students learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving. This informational session is for both students and parents! Contact Lesley Kowalski at mantuaptaprez@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Fiftieth Anniversary Spirit Wear For Sale; Orders Due Friday

Help celebrate Mantua's 50 years of educational excellence by ordering your anniversary spirit wear. Friday, Oct. 7, is the deadline for turning in orders. T-shirts, hoodies, sweatpants, basketball shorts, pajama pants and car magnets are available. Samples are displayed in the cafeteria. Order forms can be found on the PTA table in the school lobby and on the PTA website. Order should be returned to

the PTA mailbox. Delivery will be on Friday, Nov. 4. Items will go home in your child's backpack. Contact Kathleen DeCarlo at kdecarlo@verizon.com with questions.

Kids Care Club School Supplies Collection Tops 50 Pounds

Mantua's Kids Care Club's (KCC) first activity of the year is its September School Supply collection for those in need. So far we have collected more than 50 pounds of supplies -- half way to our goal of collecting 100 pounds. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a year full of opportunities to show how much Mantua Kids Care!

Mantua Chess Club

If you have a child in grades 4-6 who is looking for a fun environment to learn the game of chess and/or improve their skills, then the Mantua Chess Club is for them! The club will run October through May and meet every Tuesday. If your child is interested in joining, please contact Lori Prendergast at loripren@yahoo.com, with the following information: student name, current grade, level (beginner, intermediate, etc.) and parent contact information. PLEASE NOTE: This is a parent volunteer assisted program, so we will need parents to help our wonderful teachers/coaches! If you are interested in volunteering, please attend a parents information meeting on Tuesday Oct. 4, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Reflections Art Program

Create a piece of art, literature, photography, music, film/video, dance/choreography to the 2011-12 theme: "DIVERSITY MEANS..." Entries will be due to the PTA on Friday, Oct. 28, by 4 p.m. (deposit entries in the designated box near the PTA mailbox in front office). Please refer to the official Reflections entry rules. Additional entry forms are available at the front table in the lobby. PLEASE BE SURE TO FOLLOW RULES exactly for entries or entry cannot be sent up to the district level. All participants will receive a ribbon. All forms required for entries and rules for each category can be found on the Mantua PTA website at <http://www.mantuapta.org/activities/reflections.php> Contact Jackie DeScisciolo at jdescisciolo@gmail.com with questions.

Test your Mantua Elementary School Knowledge

This weeks 50th Trivia question:

Q: What year was the gymnasium, kindergarten suite, music room, expanded

library and teacher's dining area added to Mantua ES?

See answer below.

Important Upcoming Events

Mon. Oct. 10: Columbus Day, School Closed

Thurs. Oct 13: PTA Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 15: Mantua 50th Birthday Celebration, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PTA Members: Please Vote on Issues Related to Your Children

There is an upcoming vote on three items from the Virginia Proposed Legislative Program. A description of these items can be found on the PTA website. You may now vote on these items [HERE](#) (this link is also on Mantua's website). Your ballots are confidential, but we do require your name to verify PTA membership. Paper ballots will be available at the October PTA meeting, and voting will close the day after this meeting. Thank you for your support!

Grant Writer Needed

The Mantua PTA is interested in responding to grant proposals that are available to PTAs nationwide, but we need help! If you have any experience and/or time to help with this endeavor please contact Lesley Kowalski at mantuaptaprez@gmail.com.

The two grants currently available to PTAs are:

- Local PTAs can apply for up to \$1,000 in matching funds to support student-centered arts education programs. Units can apply at PTA.org/MLAGrant. The deadline is Saturday, Oct. 15.
- PTA Take Your Family to School grants can be used to build positive partnerships with teachers and families, connect parents to their children's school experiences, and give children fun ways to share what they are learning and doing in class with their families. Units can apply at PTA.org/familytoschool. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 28.

Trivia Answer

Mantua's gymnasium, kindergarten suite, music room, expanded library and teacher's dining area were added in 1968.

Fairfax Education Summit

You are invited to join parents, students, community members, business leaders, principals, teachers, and PTA leaders at the second annual Fairfax Education Summit hosted by the Fairfax County School Board on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Woodson High School. The summit will engage participants in a rich discussion on the topic of customizing public education. Dr. Jack Dale, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, will lead a panel discussion about the changing landscape of education from a parent, student, teacher, higher education, and business perspective. In this lively summit, all participants will be exploring critical questions and discussing how FCPS can better prepare our students for the future. Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/summit.htm> for more information and to register for the summit.

Woodson Varsity Precisionettes Dance Camp, Nov. 7-8

Want something energetic and fun for your kids to do during the upcoming teacher workdays? Let the Woodson Dance Team provide a fun, safe and healthy experience for them! Come learn some dance moves from the award winning W.T. Woodson Precisionettes. The participants will learn dances, play games, make crafts, and most of all, have fun! Participants will be divided by age during dancing to provide the most meaningful experience for all. Space is limited so register early. All participants receive a t-shirt and crafts made at camp. The camp will be Monday and/or Tuesday, Nov. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is \$45 for one day or \$65 for both days. Register early. The fee goes up after Oct. 28. Download a registration form [HERE](#). Contact camp coordinators Madelyn Weaver, at madelynweaver@yahoo.com, or Anne Foster, at dancecamp11@yahoo.com, for more information.

Merrifield Day Festival

The Merrifield Day Festival will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, however tickets (\$1 each) are needed for some activities and for food. Entertainment includes rides for younger children, pumpkin painting, a moon bounce, games, exhibits, crafts, etc. At least two bands will perform, including local band the Splinters. Ronald McDonald will be a special guest.

Parking is limited, however parking is allowed in the shopping center lot to the right of the school, as there is an agreement between the school and the shopping

center.

The Greater Merrifield Business Association is sponsoring the festival. For more information go to: www.greatermerrifield.org/festival.

Food Day

Modeled after Earth Day, Food Day is being celebrated throughout the country on Monday, Oct. 24. A kickoff meeting will be held at Wolftrap Elementary on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. Real Food For Kids, a group formed by parents to help improve school food in Fairfax County Public Schools, is sponsoring a local Food Day event. Visit Foodday.org for more information.

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

