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Mantua PTA Alert News September 11, 2012



Welcome Back to School!

The Mantua PTA has been busy planning activities to get the new school year started! If you haven't already joined the PTA, consider doing so. The PTA funds and supports many of the activities and events your child will benefit from at Mantua Elementary. This includes field trips, computers, library resources and popular events such as Carnival, Family Fun nights and so much more. In addition, new this year - PTA members will receive a \$5 reduction per child for registration for the ever popular PTA programs: Mantua Basketball, Drama Club, and Chat 'n' Chew Book Club. Fill out the PTA envelope included in your Open House folder. You may send your membership envelope to school with your child. Contact Liz Schatzman with questions at lizschatzman@gmail.com or 703-256-7455.

Ice Cream Social

What an amazing turn out for the Ice Cream Social! It was a great tradition to end the first week of school. A special thank you to Denise Gavilan and Suyoung Iversen who organized the event. Hats off ladies for a job well done!

Sign Up for Keep in Touch

There is an excellent communication tool provided by FCPS that all parents are encouraged to sign up for. This is the most effective way for Mantua and FCPS to get news and information communicated to parents through emails, calls and text messages on an emergency and as needed basis. You must be proactive and sign up. Please go to www.fcps.edu and click on "Keep in Touch." Please sign up for KIT Plus

(Subscription Service) and indicate that you'd like information about Mantua Elementary.

Paper vs. Electronic - Important Update

This year FCPS has instituted a new software system which has presented the front office with challenges. This change directly impacts the functionality of the Mantua PTA website as well as our Alert Newsletter distribution, our PTA membership signup, our Volunteer Coordination, and a timely distribution of our Student Directory. For instance, the Alert News, the school and PTA's weekly communication, is often sent via paper copy for the first few weeks of school in the Tuesday folder and then transitioned to electronic copy. This year it might take a bit longer. We apologize for the delays and interrupted resources. In the meantime, if you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of the Alert News, you can email our webmaster at WebParent@MantuaPTA.org and you will receive both an electronic and hard copy of this vital piece of communication during the transition.

Advertise in Mantua Elementary School PTA Student Directory

Preparations are already underway for the new Student Directory. Everyone who joins the PTA will receive a copy of the new directory. If you are interested in advertising you can find more information [HERE](#) or contact monika.brenner@dhs.gov. Please also thank and consider giving your business to our past advertisers - especially to last year's auction winner Larry Brown for GreenHomes.

Read Any Good Books This Summer? Let the Library Staff Know!

Welcome back! Did you read something great this summer? Do you have a favorite

book you like to recommend? The library is showcasing books recommended by MES staff and students—just jot down the title and a brief message on a note and return it to the library mailbox, or send an email to kcsigle@feps.edu with "summer favorite" as the subject. Next time you're looking for something good to read, stop by the library and browse the display!

Students who participated in the "Mantua Summer Olympics Reading Program" should turn in their reading logs and pick up a prize at the library.

Fall Box Tops Contest

The Fall Box Tops Contest starts Monday, September 17 and ends Friday, October 19. Our goal is to raise \$1,500. Send in Box Tops Labels and Labels for Education labels in a plastic zip bag with the teacher's name and grade on it. Labels should be dropped in the collection box in the front lobby. Please do not send in expired labels. A special prize will be awarded for the class bringing in the most labels. Look by the collection box to find out which class is in the lead. A list of participating products can be found on: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com. Ask your neighbors, co-workers, and local businesses to help you collect.

Another great way to earn box tops is to "Click & Earn." Register at www.boxtops4education.com, go to the top of the web page to "Earn" then "Click & Earn". By viewing very short videos and answering 1 or 2 survey questions, you can earn even more box tops for Mantua. Although the online box tops don't count for the contest, they will add up for more money for the school. For any questions contact [Sandy Spector](#).

Silent Auction This Fall

This year's Mantua Elementary PTA online auction will take place BEFORE the winter holidays! Our 2-week annual online auction will open for bidding on Tuesday, November 6th. PTA fundraisers make a big difference toward supporting the school. Auction proceeds will help support educational field trips, classroom

technology, library books, and other learning opportunities for Mantua students.

You could participate in several ways:

- 1) Donate goods, services, and/or gift cards to the auction. You can drop off donation(s) at the front office starting Monday September 17, 2012 or at the auction booth on Back-to-School Nights.
- 2) Solicit donations from businesses that you patronize using the auction donation form.
- 3) Recommend businesses for the PTA to solicit on the auction website.
- 4) Bid on items during the auction between Tuesday 11/6 - Tuesday 11/20.

Visit <http://auction.mantuapta.org> to get a copy of the auction donation form and to submit business recommendations. Please contact Auction Chairs Alice Wang & Donna Hoover at Mantua.PTA.Auction@gmail.com if you have any questions. Please help make this event a success!

Drama Club is Here

AHOY, MATEYS!! The Mantua Drama Club will be performing "Treasure Island" this fall. There are acting and backstage parts for students in grades 1-6. Please come to the Information Session on Wednesday, September 12 from 6:30-7:30 in the Mantua Cafeteria. Drama Club dues are \$40 for PTA members and \$45 for non-PTA members. Auditions will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on September 17, 19, and 21 in the gym. Come out on Wednesday to get more information and bring your [Forms Packets](#) with you! Packets will also be available at the meeting. We look forward to a new school year and a new start to Mantua's Drama Club!

Interest in Academic Competitions

Does your student have interest in learning more about Destination Imagination, Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, Lego League, or We the People? There is a host of programs available for students to stretch their minds and challenge their brains. The PTA will be holding an informational meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 7pm for students to meet other students who might be interested in forming teams and getting involved with one of these very many opportunities. If you are a parent and are already familiar with any of the programs listed here or others and would be willing to share your knowledge on your program of choice please contact [Lesley Kowalski](#).

Delicious and Healthy Eating at Mantua

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act has established new federal nutrition standards for school meals. The changes involve a reduction in meat portions and an increase in fruits and vegetables. This change also encourages students to purchase a complete lunch. When students purchase items a la carte it is substantially more expensive so please be aware of this change. If you would like to learn more about the changes in the cafeteria please speak to the Cafeteria Manager at Mantua.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is back again at Mantua for 2012-13. This is a national program that develops self confidence in young girls through running. We are fortunate to have a great group of ladies coaching this program again. It is available to all girls in grades 3-6. It will be on Monday & Wednesday mornings from 8-9 a.m. All information and registration is on the local [WEBSITE](#). Registration will begin August

20. If you have any additional questions you can contact Robert Silkowitz at

Robert.Silkowitz@emerson.com.

Important Upcoming Events

Wed. Sept. 12: Drama Club Information Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. Sept. 13: Back-to-School Night for K-3rd grades, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. Sept. 20: Back-to-School Night for 4th-6th grades, 6:30 p.m.

Woodson High School - Feeder School Night Football Game

The Woodson Cavaliers will play the Lee Lancers on September 21 at 7:30 p.m. It is Feeder School Night - All students from the Woodson pyramid will be recognized before the game begins. Please meet at the scoreboard at 7:00 p.m. In addition, all students are admitted into the game when accompanied by a paying adult. Please print out and bring [THIS FLYER](#) with you.

Interested in Cub Scouts?

Looking for a great activity for boys and their families in grades 1-5? Cub Scout Pack 1533 wants you to join the fun. Come to our Join Scouting Night at Mantua Pool Clubhouse on Saturday, September 15, 4-5:30 p.m. Our first Pack meeting for the year will be September 19 at 7 p.m., and our Fall campout will be October 5-6. Check out our [WEBSITE](#) to see some of our exciting programming for the year. Contact Missy Greene with any questions at 703-407-5767 or missyfay76@msn.com.

Woodson High School's 50th Anniversary

This is a special year for Woodson High School as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Woodson Homecoming Weekend is October 5-6, and everyone in the community is invited to join the fun activities including Friday's Homecoming Parade and Bonfire and Saturday's Taste of Woodson, followed by the Homecoming game against the T.C. Williams Titans. An Anniversary Gala will also be held that evening. For more information, go to www.wtwoodsonsports.org, and click on 50th anniversary homecoming.

Cued American English - Adult Beginner Classes Now Forming

If you are the parent of a deaf child, a teacher, a babysitter, a relative, or are interested in working with deaf students in Fairfax County Schools, you are welcome to attend free classes to learn Cued American English. Introduction and First Class on Tuesday, September 18th, 2012, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Classes 1 ½ hours each and are held on consecutive Tuesdays for 8 weeks. These FREE classes are held at Canterbury Woods Elementary School, 4910 Willet Drive in Annandale.

Cued Speech is a visual system of communication which allows a deaf person access to the phonemes of a language. In Cued American English, the 40 phonemes (sounds) that combine to form all of the words in spoken English are represented with 8 hand shapes and 4 placements around the face. Cued American English is used with many deaf students in FCPS and throughout the United States. For questions or to register, please e-mail Beth.Blair@fcps.edu

Cavalier Club Discounts

Did you know that the Cavalier Card includes discounts to many Fairfax retailers and restaurants? Your \$10 purchase of the Cavalier Card gives you discounts for a

year AND helps to support the Woodson Band. Participating retailers include: Comfort & Joy Spa, Cinema Arts Movie Theatre, Einstein Bagels, Subway, Robeks, Coyote Grill, Choices by Shawn and many more! Purchase from Carol Davis 703-280-1024.

10th Annual KORUS Festival

The KORUS Festival is a three-day event with FREE admission celebrating the relationship between Korea and the United States. The Festival will run during the weekend of September 14-16 at Bull Run Park in Centreville, VA. The KORUS Festival will feature special musical performances, a taekwondo demonstration, and a talent show. Families and children will be amazed by the Wildlife Exhibit presented by the National Park Service and children can enjoy other fun filled crafts and activities in the kid zone. For more information and festival hours, please visit <http://korusfestival.com>.

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.

2012-13 FCPS & PTA Calendar at a Glance [HERE](#)

Mantua Parent Handbook [HERE](#)

* Stay informed all year long by visiting our website: www.MantuaPTA.org

* Are you on Facebook? Stay informed by joining us: [HERE](#)

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

