

Mantua PTA Alert News

October 2, 2012



October PTA Meeting

The monthly PTA meeting will be held in the Mantua school library at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, October 11th**. This year the PTA is alternating its monthly meeting schedule between day and evening meetings to help accommodate varying parent schedules. There is no better place to learn from our principal Mrs. Fernandez about today's hot school topics. Come say hello to Mrs. Fernandez and our assistant principals, Mrs. Tingler and Ms. Alley.

Bus Passes and Kiss & Ride Passes

At Mantua we have a pass system established for days when students are not going home from school by the usual method. This system has been set up to safeguard your children. Please send an email **no later than 12:00 p.m.** of the day of the change to Barbara.Hinton@fcps.edu so that she can prepare the appropriate pass. If your student is going home with a friend, both families will need to contact Mrs. Hinton. FCPS transportation will allow bus passes for students to go home with a friend beginning October 1st. Again, both families will need to contact Mrs. Hinton in this situation.

In addition, if your student is being picked up early during the school day, please notify the office as early as possible in the day. Many students have varied schedules,

and it can be time-consuming to track them down when you arrive. Please feel free to copy your child's homeroom teacher on any emails you send. Contact Barbara Hinton with any questions.

Student's Rights and Responsibilities Forms

All Mantua students received a copy of the Student's Rights and Responsibilities, which contains the School Boards Standards of Student Conduct. This included a form that students and parents must sign. If your child has not yet returned a signed copy of the Student's Rights and Responsibilities, we ask that they do this as soon as possible. Without this form, students will not have access to the school's computers nor will they be allowed to go on any scheduled field trips. Forms should be returned to student's homeroom teachers.

JCC Closed on October 2 and October 9

Important note from the Front Office: If your child goes to the JCC for childcare, the JCC will be closed on Tuesdays, October 2nd and 9th. You must make alternate plans for your child for that day.

Digital Kidz Robotics Classes at Mantua: NEW INFORMATION

As you may have heard, we had a very large number of applicants for the Monday After School Weebotics and Robotics Programs. We are very excited to see such a big interest! Students have been placed as they registered.

There was such a large number of applicants that we are planning to add more days of classes - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday - depending on the extent of interest for each day. If your child would like to join the

Weebotics/Robotics After School Program this Fall, please email [Teresa LeMair](#) with the following information no later than **Wednesday October 3rd**: child's name, grade, and which day(s) child can attend.

If you already turned in a registration for the program, you should have been contacted. If you were not contacted, please email Teresa LeMair.

We have had a few questions about the class, so here is some additional information that might answer your questions in advance:

- Checks will not be deposited until your space/day is confirmed. If you are not able to do another day, your check will be destroyed (or you may pick it up from Teresa LeMair as per request by October 8th.)
- We are planning to offer another robotics class this winter, possibly other classes as well. If your child does not get a space this time, there will be more opportunities!
- If your child has food allergies, our after school programs will not necessarily have someone on hand that is trained in the administering of EpiPens. We will be asking all families to send in peanut- and tree nut-free snacks with their child, and children will not be allowed to share snacks. However, if you are still concerned, please plan to attend the class with your child.
- Children that are normally a part of the SACC after school program that participate in Robotics (or any other after school PTA program) will be walked to the SACC room at the end of the class, unless picked up by a parent. If your child does not usually participate in the SACC program, you (or a designee listed on your registration) must pick your child up at the end

of the class.

Restaurant Night is THIS WEEK

Mantua PTA will host a Family Night Out on Thursday, October 4th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Noodles & Company on Main Street in Fairfax City. Come dine in or carry out and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner with lots of Mantua fun! For a bonus Noodles & Company will donate 25% of the evening's proceeds to Mantua's PTA when a Dining for Dollars flyer is presented at the time of purchase. All students received a flyer in the Tuesday folders. For additional copies, click [HERE](#). Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions. Buon appetito!

Spirit Wear is Now on Sale

Spirit wear with a new Rocky Raccoon design for the 2012-13 school year is now on sale! T-shirts, hoodies, sweat pants, performance shirts, pajama pants and car magnets are all in the new collection. Show your school spirit and order something today! All students received an order form in last week's Tuesday folders. Additional copies can be found [HERE](#). Please return the form with payment to the PTA mailbox by Friday, October 12. Delivery will be on Friday, November 9. All purchased items will go home in your child's backpack. Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions.

Mantua Basketball Registration

We are currently taking online sign-ups for Mantua Basketball. The Mantua Basketball League has been providing 3rd-6th graders an opportunity to learn basketball in a neighborhood environment for over 30 years. The league is organized

into four divisions: grades 3-4 Boys, grades 3-4 Girls, grades 5-6 Boys, and grades 5-6 Girls.

All registrations and communications are online this year at

www.mantuabasketball.org. We are very excited about the new gym floor and hope you'll join us to make this year as successful as in years past. If you have any questions email League Commissioner [Sam Mayes](#). We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Art Reflections Program

Create a dance, draw a picture, write a story or a poem! The Arts Reflections Program is here! If your child has a love of the arts, this program is for them! This competition is open to all elementary grades K-6. Categories include: dance choreography, music composition, film production, photography, literature, and visual arts. The 2012-13 theme is "The Magic of the Moment." How does it work? Have your child think about the theme, create an original piece of work in any of the above mentioned categories, and then submit that work no later than **Friday, November 9th** in the PTA office mail box. It's THAT easy!! An entry form went home in recent Tuesday folders but if you did not receive one, please click [HERE](#) to download one. If you have any questions or need further information, please email [Lori Prendergast](#).

School-Wide Volunteering

Forms went out in last week's Tuesday folders for School-Wide Volunteering! Please look through the form and consider how you can contribute. Most of the jobs that

have been listed are asking for volunteers to be part of a crew rather than take the lead and do not require a long-time commitment. There is a job for everyone. Some jobs can be done without even entering the building and others are more hands on. If you are interested in more information about a job, there is a job description link on the www.mantuapta.org website or you may contact Volunteer Coordinator [Teresa LeMair](#). Please return forms as soon as possible via Tuesday folders or the PTA mailbox!

Clinic Aide Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few parents to attend training to assist our clinic aide and/or to be a volunteer substitute for our clinic aide. The training is just 2 hours, and there are a number of dates to choose from. Once trained, volunteers will be able to help Mantua's Clinic Aide with health and vision screenings and other times throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to support our children and our staff! If you are interested in attending a training, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

KCC: Kids Care Club

Kids Care Club is a PTA afterschool program for children in grades K-6 that are interested in helping the community. Whether it is making cards for soldiers, collecting mittens for the homeless, creating care packages for children in a shelter, stuffing race packages for the Raccoon Run, or making bird feeders for the birds of Mantua, Kids Care Club is an important part of Mantua Elementary! KCC usually meets for one hour once a month after school. KCC is in need of a Coordinator this year. We have many parents who are willing to help, but we need one parent to oversee this important club. If you are interested in getting more information, or

stepping up to coordinate, please email [Teresa LeMair](#).

The Community Building Network Needs You!

The Community Building Network maintains a sense of school spirit and unity. This network is of great value to our students and parents alike. This Community Building Network has been created to help overcome any barriers that parents/guardians face in relation to and/or about school matters. Such barriers may be based on language differences, cultural differences, gender differences or socioeconomic differences. The Community Building Network needs a new leader! This person will help connect families by arranging a few gatherings, keeping track of families that are willing to help with translations, and responding to requests for assistance within our multicultural community. If you are interested in helping with the Community Building Network, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

2013 Virginia PTA Proposed Legislative Agenda

If you are a member of the Mantua PTA, we encourage you to take 5 minutes of your time to vote on education issues of importance to you and your children. If approved by members, the issues will become part of the Virginia PTA 2013 Legislative Priorities. The Virginia PTA will use these Legislative Priorities to advocate on statewide education issues. Please vote by October 12, 2012 to have your voice heard. To vote, please go to this [WEBSITE](#). In addition, you may access the voting ballot through Mantua's PTA [WEBSITE](#).

Registration is Now Open for Foreign Languages

The Mantua PTA in conjunction with FCPS is pleased to offer a foreign language

program before and after school. Languages will be taught through conversation using games, songs, drama, drills, dialogues, maps, and culturally-related activities. Please sign up at www.fcps.edu/aceclasses. Click on ONLINE browse/register, and choose World Languages (K-6). You can also search for the course number. The deadline is Tuesday, October 2nd. If you need a hard copy to submit via your child's Tuesday folder, you can find it on the Mantua PTA website or e-mail [Deirdre Mayes](mailto:Deirdre.Mayes).

Classes will begin the week of October 8th and continue for 15 weeks. You will receive a class confirmation notice and room assignment one week before classes begin. Classes must have a minimum of 8 students so ask your friends to sign up so the class will take place!

Tuition is \$199. For questions please contact [Deidre Mayes](mailto:Deidre.Mayes) or 703-477-8208.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>COURSE</u>	<u>SECTION #</u>	<u>DAY / TIME</u>	<u>GRADES</u>
German 1	FPO6115	0002	Thurs 8-9am	3-6
French 1	FPO5115	0002	Thurs 8-9am	4-6
Spanish 1	FPO8115	0002	Wed 4:10-5:10pm	4-6
Chinese 1	FPO4115	0001	Thurs 4-5pm	K-3
Chinese level 3*	FPO7704	0001	Fri 4-5pm	1-6

*This course is for native speakers or children who have completed a Level 2 Flex Chinese course.

Counselor's Corner: Meet Your Counselors!

Mrs. Warren works with grades 4-6 and Mrs. Kim works with grades K-3.

Together they have over 14 years of experience working in an Elementary School setting. Our Counselors regularly work with staff and parents to answer questions, provide information and resources, arrange meetings, and assist with transitions.

They also meet with individual students and provide lessons to groups and lunch bunches on a variety of topics. For more information, please visit the [Mantua Website](#).

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families: All K-12 children in National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty Military families are eligible to receive ONLINE one-to-one academic support 24/7 in math, science, English and more, regardless of the service member's branch or deployment status. Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families provides this service at no cost to K-12 military children through funding by the Department of Defense MWR Library Program, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and the Navy General Library Program. For more information, visit: www.tutor.com/military.

DVDs of Last Year's Fifth Grade AAP Performance and the Fifth Grade Flash Mob for Ms. Thompson Still Available!

There are still copies available of last year's 5th grade AAP performance and 5th grade flash mob. Cost is \$10 each. Please send cash or check to Mantua PTA in an envelope marked "Fifth Grade Performance DVD 2012" as well as your child's name and teacher's name. DVDs will be delivered through the Tuesday Folders.

Fall Box Tops Contest

The Fall Box Tops Contest ends Friday, October 19th. Our goal is to raise \$1,500. Send in Box Tops Labels and Labels for Education labels in a plastic zipped bag with the teacher's name and grade on it. You may also send in Tyson's Project A+ labels. They can be found on most Tyson's frozen chicken products.

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 that brings 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 at: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com and www.projectaplus.tyson.com.

Another great way to earn box tops is to "Click & Earn". After registering 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. New videos and surveys are added during the year so be sure to revisit the website during the school year to earn even more "Click & Earn" money. For any questions contact [Sandy Spector](#).

Yearbook Cover Contest

All 6th graders are encouraged to participate by submitting their artwork by October 9th. More than one submission is allowed.

Theme: U.S. Presidential Elections throughout History

- 8.5" x 11"
- Portrait orientation
- Any color background
- Any medium: drawing, collage, painting, etc. (no copyrighted material)
- Individual or group projects accepted (6th graders only)
- Write your name and homeroom on the back.

Also, there are extra copies of the 2011-12 50th Anniversary yearbook available for sale at a substantially-discounted price of \$15. Please contact [US](#) to purchase one.

Important Upcoming Events

Wed. Oct. 3: School Picture Day

Thurs. Oct. 4: Restaurant Night, Noodles & Company in Fairfax

Mon. Oct. 8: SCHOOL CLOSED, Columbus Day holiday

Thurs. Oct. 11: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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 원하시는 분은 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

