



# Mantua PTA Alert News November 20, 2012



## School Hours for Thanksgiving Holiday

School will dismiss 2 hours early on Wednesday, November 21st and will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Auction: FINAL DAY!

Mantua PTA's online auction is moving full-steam ahead. There are still many wonderful items left, including our most popular section - Faculty Fun! The final two sections - Faculty Fun and Restaurant & Good Eats - will be closing tonight, Tuesday, November 20th at 11:00 p.m. Note: A few items from closed categories are still available at incredible discounts under the Bargains category.

All money raised goes to support our school. Go to the [AUCTION WEBSITE](#) to browse and bid. Bidding is very easy, with step-by-step instructions provided. PayPal payments and checks are accepted. Item pick-up will begin on Monday, November 26th. A special thank you to our Platinum Sponsor Judy Wonus of Re/Max Allegiance for 30 Years of supporting Mantua Elementary!

## Restaurant Night at Pizza Hut

Mark your calendar for a post-Thanksgiving Family Fun Night Out at Pizza Hut on Tuesday, November 27th. The Mantua PTA will host this event at the Pizza Hut on

the corner of Prosperity Avenue and Little River Turnpike from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Come dine-in, carry out or request delivery and enjoy pizza, pasta, wings, sides and desserts. Pizza Hut will donate 20% of the evening's sales to the Mantua PTA when the Mantua Fundraiser Night flyer is presented at the time of purchase. Flyers will be distributed in Tuesday folders. For additional flyers, click [HERE](#). Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions. Buon appetito!

### Science Fair Club

Are you interested in organizing a Science Fair Club for grades 3-6? Parent volunteers will guide students through the scientific process as students design and conduct a scientific experiment. The results of the student research will be presented at the Mantua Science Fun Night on April 11th. Science Fair Club will meet on Wednesdays, January 9th-April 10th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Anbu Vijay, Haydee Cooper, and Eva Bousbouras at [mantuasciencefair@gmail.com](mailto:mantuasciencefair@gmail.com).

### Science Fun Night

Interested in sharing your enthusiasm for science? Know an expert who'd like to "ignite" the love of science? We are interested in recruiting science experts for a Mantua Science Fun Night on April 11th (grades 3-6). Please contact Anbu Vijay, Haydee Cooper, and Eva Bousbouras at [MantuaScienceFunNight@gmail.com](mailto:MantuaScienceFunNight@gmail.com).

### Expansion of AAP Centers: Meeting on November 29th

The Advanced Academic Placement Task Force, which began its work in the spring, is recommending that the number of AAP Level IV centers increase so that each FCPS pyramid has a center. Currently, six pyramids are without an AAP center,

requiring students to travel out of their pyramid—and sometimes to a different cluster—to receive these services. The Task Force recommends establishing new AAP centers in the Annandale, Edison, Falls Church, Marshall, South County, and Robinson pyramids. It is also recommending that the 15 FCPS middle schools without an AAP Level IV center should establish one.

Parents, principals, staff members, and citizens are being asked to provide input about whether their schools might be ready for these changes during the 2013-14 school year or if the changes should be deferred to the 2014-15 school year. Considerations include space availability, facility readiness, teacher training, quality of the new program, timing, and community readiness.

The impact on Mantua would be the loss of our feeder schools from the Falls Church pyramid. We would be sharing the Woodson Pyramid elementary schools with Canterbury Woods' AAP Center. Therefore, both of our Centers would be reduced in size. The community information meeting for our cluster will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, **November 29th**, in the Kilmer Middle School cafeteria. For more information on this proposal and to find out about the upcoming information meetings, please go to

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=2116>.

### **Mantua's FIRST LEGO League Team Wins Champion's Award!**

Team Creationeers, comprised of six Mantua students and a student from Poe Middle School, earned the **Overall Champion's Award** and the **First Place Award** for Robot Performance at the regional FIRST LEGO League tournament on Saturday, November 10th held at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC.

For the past two months, sixth graders Todd Tran, Sarah Tadlock, and Amartya Banerjee, fifth grader Catherine Tadlock, and fourth graders Danielle Joseph and Nicole Joseph worked to create a multi-purpose LEGO robot and programmed it to solve various missions to earn points. Additionally, they did research for this year's topic, "Senior Solutions," which addressed the needs of senior citizens and developed an invention to present to judges.

Team Creationeers and their robot have advanced to compete at the state tournament to be held at James Madison University the weekend of December 8th-9th.

The Virginia/DC region of the FIRST LEGO League organization is the largest in the world, with over 2,800 students participating in more than 600 teams. For more information, visit <http://firstlegoleague.org>.

### AMC-8 Math Competition Exam

The American Math Competition-8 (AMC-8) exam was administered last week, and more than 20 of Mantua's 5th and 6th graders took the exam. The exam format is administered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

Congratulations to these math-loving students on a job well done, and thank you to the parents who helped coordinate the process!

### Mantua Yearbooks: Online Ordering ONLY

This year, Mantua yearbooks can be purchased online only. To purchase your student's yearbook, go to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). Point your mouse to the "Yearbooks" tab, and click on "Buy Your Yearbook." Enter "Mantua" in the school line, and you

will be brought to the purchasing page where you can buy your child's yearbook for \$25. Personalization is extra. You can also find a link on the [Mantua PTA Website](#). Prices go up February 1st, so order your yearbook now!

### *Book Fair – a BIG Hit!*

Congratulations to Sally Meyer, Arielle Zabihi, and Lori Recher for making this year's Book Fair a huge success. The PTA also wants to thank Kim Sigle and Avril Donat for their time and effort in selecting the resources for our fabulous library!

### *"Treasure Island" Was a Success*

Congratulations to the 75+ Mantua students involved in this past weekend's production of "Treasure Island." It was a wonderful show! Thank you to all the parents who helped with the production.

### *Counselor's Corner: Career Awareness Month & November Spirit Days*

#### November Spirit Days

- **Wednesday, November 28th** – Postsecondary Day – Dress to show post-secondary options by wearing your favorite college clothing, military clothing, or dress as a career that would attend a trade school or apprenticeship (plumber, electrician, etc.)
- **Thursday, November 29th** – Careers Related to Core Subjects – Dress as a career related to Language Arts, Math, Science, History, or the Arts. Examples: Writer/Journalist, Scientist, Artist, Actor, Musician, Meteorologist, etc.
- **Friday, November 30th** – Community Helpers – Dress as a career that helps the community. Examples: Police Officer, Firefighter, Nurse, Doctor, Teacher, Environmentalist, etc.

The Parent Resource Center help support parents of children with learning challenges, special needs or a disability. Schedule a free, confidential consultation with a [Parent Resource Center Liaison](#) or call 703-204-3941 if you need assistance. Their free [Lending Library](#) has over 4,000 books, DVDs and CDs on a wide range of topics like managing stress and anxiety, building self-esteem and promoting positive behavior.

### Military Issues: Free Resource for Families on the Move

Military families, please check out this [free organizational tool](#) from the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) called SchoolQuest. SchoolQuest gives you and your children a place to keep track of awards, volunteer hours, extracurricular activities and job experience. As you and your family move around the world and across the country, [SchoolQuest](#) stays in one place keeping track of all the information you choose to enter. This is a great way to keep up with all the activities a student will want to share on a resume, job application or scholarship essay. Information can be entered for any child in grades K-12. In addition to the logging feature there are articles about report cards, college planning, behavior problems, and much more. Here is how it works: Go to [SchoolQuest.org](#) and select "My SchoolQuest Profile". A student can choose to set up their own account which only they can use or if you have several children you can sign up as a Parent and log all your kids' information under one account so you only have to remember one password. Registering and using the site is absolutely free. School Quest is committed to students in educational transition.

### Important Upcoming Events

Tues. Nov 20: Auction closes

Wed. Nov 21: 2-hour early release

Thurs. Nov 22 & Fri. Nov 23: School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Tues. Nov 27: Restaurant Night at Pizza Hut

Thurs. Nov 29: AAP Center Expansion Meeting

### "Yes, You Can Raise Financially Aware Kids" Workshop Rescheduled

Understanding how to raise financially aware kids is important so that children learn what they can do with money early in life. By forming good financial habits



early, your children can apply what they learn at home as they grow to face financial expectations in the adult world. Join us on Wednesday, **December 5th** at 7:00 p.m. (rescheduled from October 29th) for this informative workshop. We'll discuss money values, allowances, putting your money to work, smart spending and understanding a child's needs versus wants, and how to involve kids in the family finances. Our guest speaker will be Sam Eisen, fellow Mantua resident and Virginia Chapter Director of the Foundation for Personal Financial Education (FPFE), a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to financial awareness in the community. Child care will be available for a nominal fee. More information can be found [HERE](#). Contact [Margaret.Scheele@yahoo.com](mailto:Margaret.Scheele@yahoo.com) to register or with any questions.

### *Woodson High School: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, and cheat. Now they have taken over the church's annual Christmas pageant! The entire town has gathered in anticipation, waiting to see the Herdmans ruin Christmas – or will they? This funny, heartwarming, holiday tale has become a classic and is good for the entire family.

This production will benefit the work of "The Young Hearts", a group of students from Woodson High School students who raise funds to battle blood cancers and other diseases. A portion of all proceeds from this production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation in pursuit of their important mission. The production will be in honor of Madame Nelson, a valuable Woodson teacher who recently passed away from blood cancer.

Performances will be at the James Lee Community Center Theater on December

7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, and 15th at 7:30 p.m. AND on December 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th at 2:00 p.m. Ticket price is \$15. For tickets or information, please go to [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org) or [www.youngheartsltn.org](http://www.youngheartsltn.org).

## Alert News Contributions

Send items via email to [alertnews@mantuapta.org](mailto: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，请联系潘红女士。电话：703-939-

3403 电子信箱：[hpan.home@gmail.com](mailto:hpan.home@gmail.com).

한국어로 번역된 뉴스를 받아보시기 원하시는분은 크리스티씨께 연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065, 이메일 [choichristie@yahoo.com](mailto:choichristie@yahoo.com).

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

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor email Ana Castelan a [anav49@hotmail.com](mailto:anav49@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](http://www.MantuaPTA.org)

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

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

