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Mantua PTA Alert News

December 18, 2012



School Closed for Winter Holiday

The Mantua Office will be closed for the winter holidays: December 24, 2012 - January 1, 2013. Wishing you a very Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!

Yearbook Committee Needs Photos – Plus, Order Your Yearbook!

Winter break is a great time to place your order for this school year's yearbook! The price of the yearbook is \$25, and orders can be placed and paid for through the [Jostens Website](#). We are also in need of candid photographs which we can use for your child's classroom pages. Holiday parties coming up are a great time to take memorable photos! All pages will be completed and submitted for print in January, so please email us what you have by the end of 2012. Please email photos marked with your child's teacher's name to mantuayearbooks@gmail.com.

Student Directories Are Here

The Student Directories were distributed. If you paid PTA dues and did not receive your copy, or if you wish to now pay your PTA dues and receive a copy, please contact Shannon Murphy at shannon.murphy29@gmail.com or Liz Schatzman at

lizschatzman@gmail.com.

Special thanks to our back page advertiser Kumon Academic Enrichment in Fairfax. Please remember to thank all of our directory advertisers and seek their business if you need their services.

Science Fair Club: Registration is Open!

Online registration for the Science Fair Club is now open for children in grades 3-6. The Club will meet on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. from January 9th to April 10th. Participating students will design and experiment with a science fair project to be displayed on Science Fun Night in April. Registration is limited to 20 children and will proceed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents who are interested should read [THIS FAQ document](#) and submit their child's information using the [online registration form](#) no later than January 4th.

Winter Enrichment Program: A Few Openings Left!

Registration for the Winter Enrichment Program began a few weeks ago, and the response has been wonderful! Some classes are full. As of now, the following are still open: MusIQ (both days) and Spa Science on Thursdays for 5-6 graders. Please go to the [PTA Website](#) to get more information about online registration.

There are also 1 or 2 spaces open in Tuesday Yoga for K-2 students. If you are interested in that class, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

Thank you so much to those of you who signed up for a program online and returned a permission slip to the Mantua PTA mailbox. If you signed up online, but

haven't sent in a permission slip, please do so, or you may lose your space in the class!

Counselor's Corner

This Friday, December 21st is our annual Winter Sing Along. We will also wear white for Peace as part of our spirit day.

Please visit PBS.org to learn how to talk with your kids about the news. You can develop strategies for discussing today's headlines with your children, and learn how to calm their fears and stimulate their minds.

Drama Club Feedback Needed

Please complete this [Mantua Drama Club survey](#) if your student was in this most recent production of "Treasure Island", a past production, or considering Mantua Drama Club in the future. Your participation will help PTA volunteers and the school administration work towards providing a desired Drama Club experience in the future. The Drama Club survey will be available through Friday, January 4th, however, your prompt turn-around is most appreciated. Please answer the survey honestly. All responses will be anonymous.

Computing Devices for Students: A Message from Mantua's School Based Technology Specialist

Dear Parents and Guardians - As the holiday season nears, you may be considering purchasing a computing device for your child. A variety of products including netbooks, tablets, smartphones, and e-book readers are available and offer many powerful tools for you to choose from.

Mantua ES has been encouraging students in grades 5 and 6 to bring their own

device to school as part of our [Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\) program](#). Although Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) does not require students to purchase their own devices, if you are considering purchasing a device that your child could use during the school day or at home, please review the specifications listed below. While we cannot recommend specific models or devices, we encourage you to buy a product that includes these features to ensure your child has the greatest possible access to the educational resources that will support and enhance their learning. You might wish to bring the list below into the store and ask the salesperson if the device, you are considering, meets these specifications.

Recommended Specifications for Student Devices

- wireless networking capability using 802.11g or n (the district provides filtered wireless access in all buildings for students bringing a device)
- a color screen
- an onscreen or external keyboard or other means of entering text
- an audio-out port and earbuds or headphones
- a minimum 4 hours of use from one battery charge
- the ability to run a full functioning, recent web browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Safari) that will allow it to access Google Apps for Education tools and other learning resources provided by FCPS
- a virus protection program (for computers running a Windows or Macintosh computer operating system)

You may also wish to consider these features:

- a camera that takes both still photos and video (front and rear cameras are most

versatile)

- a microphone
- productivity software (word processing, drawing, spreadsheet tools) that can be used when an Internet connection is not available
- the capacity to run graphing calculator software

In addition to all of the retailer incentives and promotions this holiday season, FCPS has partnered with Dell, HP, and Microsoft to provide discounted devices and software for all students in FCPS. You can access more information at our [Technology@Home site](#). Whether writing a paper, solving math problems, researching a topic, or collaborating with fellow students, portable technology can help your child better complete his or her school work and assist them in developing skills that will prepare them for their future.

Support Mantua While Shopping on Amazon

Please support Mantua when you shop for the holidays, birthdays and gifts! By using the Amazon link on the Mantua PTA website, you can shop (privately and securely) and Mantua can receive up to 10% of your purchase. To get started, simply go to the [PTA website](#) and start shopping! By accessing Amazon through the Mantua PTA website, you will be on your way to shopping and supporting your favorite school!

Important Upcoming Events

Tues. Dec 18: Winter Band Concert

Fri. Dec. 21: All-School Winter Sing-Along

Mon. Dec. 24-Tues. Jan. 1: School Closed for Winter Break

Thurs. Jan 10: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Summer Academic Programs and Enrichment Camp Fair

The Fairfax County Association for the Gifted will hold its annual Summer Academic Programs and Enrichment Camp Fair at Oakton High School on Wednesday, January 23rd from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Children are welcome.

Meet representatives from summer enrichment programs, visit exhibits, ask questions, and see what your children in K-12 can explore next summer. Academic Programs include music, chess, drama, computers, robotics, language immersion, math, science, engineering, and test prep. Enrichment Camps include TIC (Tech Is Cool), Fairfax Collegiate, Math Enrichment Services, Traveling Players Ensemble, Writopia, FCPS Institute for the Arts, Congressional Day Camp, iD Tech Camp, Potomac School, Concordia Language Villages, Interlochen Arts Camp, Madeira School Summer Camps, A Class Act: Acting for Kids, and More! For more information, visit www.FCAG.org. Oakton High School is located at 2900 Sutton Road in Vienna.

Woodson Winter Baseball Training Camps

Woodson Winter Baseball Camps provide each camper with instruction and repetition designed to better prepare them for their Little League/AAU spring tryouts and season. The camp offers overall skill development and instruction in hitting, bunting, base running, fielding, and throwing mechanics. The camp is \$140 and includes 4 sessions and camp t-shirt. It will be held on Sundays, January 13th, 20th, 27th, and February 3rd from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

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，请联系潘红女士。电话：703-939-3403 电子信箱：hpan.home@gmail.com.

한국어로번역된뉴스를받아보시기원하시는분은 크리스티씨께연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065,
이메일choichristie@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 email Ana Castelan a
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

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

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

