



September 2, 2014 | Issue No. 1

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Important Upcoming Dates

September 2: First Day of School, 9:10 a.m.-3:50 p.m.
September 5: Pizza & Ice Cream Social, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
September 12: PTA Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Reading Room
September 12: Volunteer Interest Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
September 15: Drama Club Interest Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
September 15-24: Boosterthon Fundraiser
September 16: Back to School Night, Grades 4-6
September 18: Back to School Night, Grades K-3
September 22: Academic Competition Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
September 29: Student Holiday - No School

Notes from the Open House

There were edits that were inadvertently left off of the Raccoon Folders that you received at Open House on Thursday, August 28th.

- The Deaf program is no longer at Mantua but is now at Canterbury Wood Elementary School.
- Students should arrive at school at 8:50 a.m., not 8:55 a.m. as previously stated on the folder.

PLEASE return all forms from the Raccoon Folder by **Friday, September 9th.**

Back to School Pizza & Ice Cream Social: Friday September 5th

Please join us as we kick off the 2014-15 school year with our popular and really fun Back to School Ice Cream and Pizza Social! It will be held at the school playground on **Friday, September 5th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** This is a great way to meet new parents and students and to get involved with the school right away! You can buy tickets for \$1 each and use them to buy ice cream sundaes and pizza (for 2 tickets each) and water bottles and glow necklaces (for 1 ticket each.)

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success so please consider helping for an hour. If you would like to help, please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084cadab2f4-back>. Contact Denise Gavilan at denise@gavilanmarketing.com with any questions.

First PTA Meeting

Come to the kick-off PTA meeting on **Friday, September 12th at 9:30 a.m.** in the reading room. Meet the Board, hear from Principal Mrs. Fernandez, and get information on upcoming activities.

The PTA would like to thank the volunteers who showed up to help us stuff those folders you received at Open House: Lieberman Family, Gantt Family, DeCarlo Family, Fran & Alyssa Riley, Chanda McCarthy, Suzette Xenos, Kylie Chavarria, C & Layla Middleton, and Peri & Sydney Farling.

Volunteer Information Meeting

The volunteers at Mantua Elementary are one of the reasons why our school is so special! Do you want more information about how you can get involved with volunteering at Mantua? Join us for the Volunteer Information Meeting on **Friday, September 12th**, starting as soon as the PTA meeting is over (approximately 10:00 a.m.) Classroom and school-wide volunteer jobs will be reviewed and questions will be answered. If you can't make it to the meeting, but have a question or comment, please email Teresa LeMair at teresalemair@aol.com.

Parent and Student Information

Help us get a jump on the new year by completing the *Student & Parent Info Form* which must be submitted by **Wednesday, October 15th** for edits to be reflected in the 2014-15 PTA Student Directory. You may delete or add information as you see appropriate for your family. You can find the form here: <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15studentparentinfo>.

Join the PTA!

Our annual PTA Membership Drive is a fundraiser that helps support the many PTA services provided to you and your child. Cost is only \$15 per family (tax deductible) and in return you'll receive a copy of the Mantua PTA Student Directory, an essential tool for connecting with anyone in our school community. Your family will also receive a \$10 discount on fees for Drama Club, PTA Basketball, Chat'n'Chew, and Raccoon Runners. Perhaps most importantly, though, joining PTA gives you a vote on what we're doing on campus and how our money is spent! Please join online at <https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/2014-15membershipandsupport>. You can also complete the membership envelope you received in your child's open house folder.

Boosterthon

Our fall fundraiser will be the Boosterthon Fun Run program! This is a healthy alternative to traditional product sales. In addition to raising much-needed funds for our school, the program promotes fitness, leadership, and character. The program begins on September 15th, and the Fun Run will be on **Wednesday, September 24th** during the school day. Families are welcome to come and cheer on their children. Look for more information in Tuesday folders!

Drama Club Interest Meeting

Welcome to the 2014 Drama Club Season! We're excited to announce that students from 3rd-6th grades will be presenting an adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, by Erin Detrick, for this year's play! There will be an interest meeting on **Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/drama.html>.

Enrichment Classes

Mantua ES students are offered a variety of enrichment classes held before or after school—typically spanning three separate 8-week sessions: fall, winter and spring. Classes focus on many areas of interest including art, music, STEM and sports. Mantua Enrichment seeks to build upon our students' educational foundation by giving them opportunities to explore other areas of learning. This year Mantua PTA has partnered with Enrichment Matters, a company that shares our philosophy on enrichment, to plan a fun and diverse menu of classes for our children!

Parents can register students for our fall session on September 11th at 8:00 a.m. at this site: <http://www.enrichmentmatters.com/Mantua/>. Registration will close on September 17th at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions in the meantime, please email our enrichment coordinators, Shannon Murphy at shannon.murphy29@gmail.com or Liz Schatzman at lizschatzman@gmail.com.

Academic Competitions Meeting

Academic competitions not only encourage students to delve deeper into their favorite subjects, but they facilitate creative team-building activities that ultimately promote resourcefulness, self-confidence, problem solving and leadership. Students are not placed on teams; instead teams are largely self-forming. There will be an Interest Meeting on **Monday, September 22nd at 7:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/academiccompetitions.html>. You can also contact the Academic Competition Coordinator, Vanessa Winter Hall at mantuacompetitions@gmail.com if you are interested in forming or joining one of Mantua's competitive academic teams. Any team that is planning to run during the current school year must submit an application by Saturday, November 1st.

Mantua PTA Basketball

All 3rd-6th grade students are eligible to register for Mantua PTA's basketball league. The league embraces students with a wide variety of skill levels and emphasizes teamwork, skill development, and sportsmanship. Regular registration is **September 22nd-October 5th**, and the fee is \$50 for PTA members and \$60 for non-members. Late registration will go until October 12th, and the fee is \$70 for PTA members and \$80 for non-members. Registrations cannot be accepted after October 12. Contact the League Commissioner, Dan Lash, at commissioner@mantuabasketball.org if you have any questions about or would like to volunteer with Mantua PTA Basketball. For more information, visit our site: <http://www.mantuabasketball.org/site>. Please note: we are in need of a commissioner for the 3rd/4th grade boys division!

FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) Fall

Classes

Mantua PTA organizes language classes through FCPS's Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) program. FLEX is developed especially for elementary school children, who are at the optimal age for learning another language according to research. Students are encouraged to study basic vocabulary and phrases through stories, games, activities, and music. Mantua students are invited to enroll in one-hour language classes held before or after school spanning two separate sessions at Mantua ES. A fee covering the costs of teaching and materials is collected.

We are excited to offer the following classes this Fall:

German Level 1 for grades 1-4
Chinese Level 1 for grades K-3
Chinese Level 2 for grades 1-6
Spanish Level 1 for grades 1-4

Registration begins on **September 11th at 8:00 a.m.** For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/flex.html>.

Reflections 2014

Reflections is designed to enhance arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts. Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to their schools' local PTA. The program has six arts categories—dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts—students can use to 'reflect' on the year's chosen theme. The theme for the 2014-15 school year is *The World Would Be a Better Place If...* For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/reflections.html>.

Raccoon Runners: NEW Expanded Program

Mantua ES's Raccoon Runners is a positive youth development program for 3rd-6th graders empowering them to be true to themselves through lessons in positive body image, health and nutrition, and social awareness. Our Raccoon Runners are strengthened through various fitness activities while training for a 5K run. Raccoon Runners will participate in the Mantua Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning and the Mantua Raccoon Run in the spring. New this year, Raccoon Runners will be offering programs for both boys and girls! **Male parent volunteers needed!** Be sure to check future Alert News announcements about upcoming registration. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer with this program or have questions about the program, please contact Meri Farling at merifarling@hotmail.com.

For more information, visit our site at <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/raccoonrunners.html>.

Yearbook Club

We are very excited to offer a Yearbook Club this year! The Yearbook Club is a year-long commitment. Students in 6th grade are eligible to join. Interested students will participate in a selection process led by the club coordinators to determine audio-visual skills and ability to complete the tasks needed. Students selected will help with the collection of photos and the creative layout of the yearbook. For more information, visit <http://www.mantuapta.org/students/yearbookclub.html>.

Scouting at Mantua

In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong.

The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun.

For more information, visit our site at

<http://www.mantuapta.org/students/scouts.html>.

Advertise Your School Event

New this year: Mantua Volunteers, please complete the "Communication for Event" form to have a school- or PTA-related announcement placed in the weekly Alert News, on our Facebook page, and/or on www.MantuaPTA.org. Please understand that use of this form does not guarantee that your event will be included in our communications. Each submission will be carefully reviewed by the school administration and PTA. Mantua PTA will contact you with questions or issues regarding your submission. The form can be found at

<https://memberplanet.com/s/mantuaelementaryschoolpta/communicationforevent>

Translators

Translators comprise another vital part of our outreach efforts. We want every Mantua ES family to feel included and connected—should families need to have a document translated into their native language, our volunteers are here to help!

- للحصول على نسخة مترجمة للغة العربية، نرجو الإتصال بالأخت بدرية كفالة على هذا الإيميل: bkafala@gmail.com. If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email bkafala@gmail.com.
- 如果你需要把文件翻译成中文，请联系冯敏。她的电子邮件是 mmfeng@hotmail.com。 If you need to have a document translated into Chinese, please email Min Feng.
- Если вам необходимо перевести документ на русский язык, пожалуйста обращайтесь к Анне Жердецкой или Виктору Жердецкому по электронной почте: hannaz74@gmail.com или ViktarZ@gmail.com. If you need to have a document translated into Russian, please contact Hanna Zhardzetskaya and Viktar Zhardzetski.
- Para obtener una copia en Espanol favor de contactar a Ana Castelan. If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please email Ana Castelan.
- 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요 (skjwa7@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Seungkwan Jwa

Email Shoshi Kalderon at shoshi.kalderon@yahoo.com if you have any questions about or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.

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