



January 19, 2016 | Issue No. 18

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Important Upcoming Dates

January 19: No School, Student Holiday
January 20: Winter Strings Concert, 7:00 p.m.
January 21: Frost MS Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation
January 26: Technology Parents Night, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
January 28: 4th Grade Human Growth & Development
Preview Night, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Cafeteria
January 28: Frost MS Orientation Snow Date
January 28: Parent Education Workshop, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
January 29: Parent Education Workshop, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
January 29: Family Fun Night, Fairfax Ice Arena
February 3: LJMS Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation
February 12: Talent Show Auditions Deadline

PTA Family Fun Skating Night

Join the PTA for a Family Fun Ice Skating Night on **Friday, January 29th from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at the Fairfax Ice Arena. It's a fun winter activity for the whole family! Plan to come and skate with Mantua friends. Admission fee to skate is \$5.50. Ice skate rental is \$4.00. Dress for cool temperatures and remember the mittens! Beginners should bring a bike helmet. Take some time during the event to visit the PTA hospitality table for a complimentary cup of hot chocolate while supplies last. Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions. We'll see you there!

FCPS Budget Information

Last week, Dr. Karen Garza announced FCPS' FY 2017 Proposed Budget totaling \$2.7 billion. It begins reinvesting in our schools and reverses the impact of the significant cuts sustained since 2008. Key priorities focus on the classroom:

- Investing in employees, with an emphasis on teacher

salaries

- Reducing class sizes in elementary schools

There is so much information available about the FCPS budget and what it means. Please take a minute to educate yourselves about this issue as it is very important for our schools and our children.

- FCPS website: www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml

- Facebook Pages: SAVEFCPS and IAMFCPS

- Consider sending letters supporting Dr. Garza's proposed budget using this handy website:

<http://bit.ly/iamfcpsadvocacy>

Mantua Talent Show Information

The Mantua PTA is proud to present the 2016 Mantua Talent Show! Do you play an instrument, sing, or dance? Do you like to perform magic? Do you want to demonstrate your martial arts prowess? Then, why not try out for this year's show?

Just head over to the [Talent Show Web Site](#) for instructions on how to enter and to submit a video and complete an audition form.

Here are the important dates and times you need to know:

- Video Auditions and Audition Forms Due: **Friday, February 12th**
- Dress Rehearsal in the Gym: **Thursday, March 10th, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**
- Talent Show in the Gym: **Saturday, March 12th, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Talent Show, please sign up [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ted Donat at tdonat@gmail.com or 703-629-0128. Good luck preparing your acts!

Fourth Grade FLE Information

The 4th Grade Human Growth and Development lesson will take place on February 12th from 11:50 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Opt out forms went home in students' Tuesday Folders on January 12th. The Human Growth and Development Parent Information Night will be on **January 28th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the Cafeteria. All students will receive the lesson, in gender separate groups, unless an opt-out form is returned to the school prior to February 12th. For any

questions please contact your child's teacher.

Technology Programs at Mantua: Parent Information Night

Please join us on **January 26th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** for a technology demonstration in the library and Q & A sessions for parents on Dreambox, MyON, and the Typing Club programs that are used at Mantua. Parents will receive information on how to help their students effectively use these tools at home to support their learning and have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information, contact Ms. Dunfee at pjdunfee@fcps.edu.

Frost Middle School Rising 7th Grade Orientation for Parents

Sixth grade parents are invited to attend the Frost Middle School Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation Night on **Thursday, January 21st**. The main program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. will include the registration process for 7th grade, core curriculums, and an overview of Frost. There will be presentations for parents who have students who receive services through the Special Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Advanced Academics Programs from 5:15-5:45 p.m. Elective class teachers will also have displays and be available to answer questions from 5:15-6:15 p.m. These sessions are for parents. Students will have the opportunity to receive this information when Frost counselors visit the elementary schools in January and when students visit Frost in February. In the case of inclement weather, the Orientation Night will take place on January 28th.

Jackson Middle School Rising 7th Grade Orientation for Parents

Sixth grade parents are invited to attend the Luther Jackson Middle School Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation Night on **Wednesday, February 3rd**. The main program from 7:00-8:40 p.m. will include information about academics and electives as well as an overview of Luther Jackson. There will be presentations for parents who have students placed in the Advanced Academics Programs Center from 5:30-6:30 p.m. There will be a Special Education Information Session from 6:30-7:00 p.m. These sessions are for parents. Students will have the opportunity to receive this information when they visit Luther Jackson in February.

Stop Defiance, Disrespect, and Yelling!

Ready to try some new strategies in the New Year? The Mantua PTA is thrilled to present the next parent education workshop with Kirk and Casey Martin from Celebrate Calm. These dynamic speakers will present strategies for parents with kids from age 2-22. Kirk will demonstrate 10 ways to:

- Get your kids to listen the first time.
- Stop defiance, disrespect, and yelling.
- Stop whining, tantrums, and sibling fights.
- Get kids off video games/screens without a fight.
- Create stress-free mornings, homework time, and bedtime.

Join us in the Mantua Library for EITHER workshop:

Thursday, January 28th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. OR

Friday, January 29th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Contact

Kathy Phillips at kathyphysics@hotmail.com with

questions, and watch the Video Clips and learn more [HERE](#).

Box Tops Contest

Start clipping those pink Box Tops again! The next Box Top Contest is coming! During the month of February - starting Monday, February 1st until Friday, February 26th - the class that submits the most Box Tops will earn a great pizza party! Make sure your Box Tops are in-date (not expired), cut on cutting line, and in a bag CLEARLY marked with your teacher's name. If you have any questions, please contact Danius@cox.net. Start collecting now, and submit in February!

Thank You!

The Mantua PTA would like to thank everyone who was able to join us for our Flippin' Pizza fundraiser. It was a great success, and we appreciate your support for our kids and our school! Mrs. Loach's 2nd grade won the Pizza contest...stay tuned for details.

Meeting: Normal Teen Behavior vs. Warning Signs – Will You Recognize the Difference?

Fewer than half of teens with major depression and even fewer with substance abuse problems actually receive treatment. It can be difficult to differentiate between typical teenage behavior and problems and the symptoms of unhealthy levels

of stress, drug or alcohol abuse, or serious emotional difficulties. Come improve your understanding of when your teen might require professional help and learn what to do next. This meeting will be at Woodson High School in Cafeteria A, **Wednesday, January 27th, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

FCAG Evening of Music

The Fairfax County Association for the Gifted (FCAG) is hosting The Beauty of Music: Reaching for the Stars. Come enjoy an evening of music and conversation about music education. What are the benefits to studying music? Should we do private lessons? How much should kids practice to be good? How far can a student get with music? Should I do strings, orchestra, band or chorus? Will music change the way my child thinks and learns? Panelists include award winning musicians and teachers, Marjorie Lee (piano), Dennis Stokes (band), and some young musicians, who will share short pieces reflecting their enormous talent. The Beauty of Music will be held **Tuesday, February 2nd** at Luther Jackson Middle School, 7:00-8:15 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Thank You to Our Friends of Rocky and to Local Business Supporters!

Thanks to all who made a “Friends of Rocky” Donation – the PTA appreciates your support!

Sriram Peri: Diamond Level

Yangling Liu: Gold Level

Thanks to local businesses who made a donation, as well - the PTA appreciates your support!

Anne and Sarah Harrington, Long & Foster: Platinum Level

Cathy Pongmalai, Realtor: Gold Level

Fisher Group: Gold Level

My Pest Pro: Gold Level

Kumon: Silver Level

Dr. Jones, Orthodontist: Silver Level

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.

• 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.

• 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요(lisa.a.libby@gmail.com.) If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Lisa Libby.

• Para obtener una copia en Espanol favor de contactar a Lisa Libby at lisa.a.libby@gmail.com. If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please contact Lisa Libby.

Email Lisa Libby at lisa.a.libby@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.

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