



February 9, 2016 | Issue No. 21

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Compiled by:

[Amy Halstead,](#)  
[AlertNews Editor](#)

## Important Upcoming Dates

- February 10: Enrichment Registration Begins, 8:00 a.m.
- February 11: Volunteer Recruitment Reception, 6:00 p.m.
- February 11: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library
- February 12: Talent Show Auditions Deadline
- February 12: Family Fun Valentine's Dance, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- February 15: School Closed, Presidents' Day
- February 18: Frost Family Festival, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- February 25: Parent Education Workshop, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- February 26: Parent Education Workshop, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- February 26: Box Tops Contest Ends

## PTA Meeting THIS Thursday

Please join us at this month's PTA meeting this **Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. Hear from the school principals and get information on upcoming school and PTA activities. We hope to see you there!

## Volunteer Recruitment Reception Before PTA Meeting

The Mantua PTA Board is hosting a volunteer recruitment reception prior to our next PTA meeting this **Thursday, February 11th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** We still need volunteers for this school year and we have a lot of volunteer openings for next school year. Our biggest need **right now** is for volunteers to help plan and implement our annual Spring Fling on April 2nd. If you are at all curious about the opportunities, please come! The PTA has great programs, but they are only possible with the help and dedication of our parents. For more info, contact [Julie Middleton](#).

## 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](mailto:tdonat@gmail.com) or 703-629-0128. Good luck preparing your acts!

## Spring Enrichment Classes Registration Begins THIS Week!

Registration for the Spring 2016 Session will take place beginning this **Wednesday, February 10th at 8:00 a.m. and ending at midnight on February 17th**. Late registration is available February 18-19 for an additional \$40.

- Find class descriptions, program info and the registration link [HERE](#)
- Mark your calendar — late registrations are only accepted up to 48 hours after open registration closes for an additional \$40 fee
- Watch your email and backpack mail for future announcements

For more information or if you have suggestions for the program, please contact the Mantua Enrichment Coordinators, [Shannon Murphy](#) and [Liz Schatzman](#).

## Family Fun Valentine's Day Dance

Join the Mantua PTA for a Valentine's Day dance **THIS Friday, February 12th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria. You don't want to miss this one! DJ, music and dance instruction will be provided by Everything Entertainment. We'll have everyone on the dance floor. There is no cost to

attend. The whole family is invited to come. All children attending must be accompanied by an adult. Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions.

## Raccoon Runners

**Two Teams: Raccoon Runners for Boys and Raccoon Runners for Girls.** The Mantua Raccoon Runners is a positive youth development program for girls and boys in third through sixth grades. This program will empower young boys and girls to be true to themselves through lessons in positive body image, health and nutrition and social awareness. This will all be done while we strengthen ourselves through various fitness activities as we train for a 5k run. Any student is eligible to participate.

The Raccoon Runners is a six week program that will meet before school. The Girl's team will meet Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the gym starting March 30th. The Boy's team will meet on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the gym starting March 29th. Both teams will start the mornings with some sort of physical activity. Exercise will consist of a variety of activities from yoga, boot camp, strength training and flexibility, to 5k conditioning. After our workout and stretch, the students will have a healthy snack while we cover our lesson for the day. There will be a new lesson each time we meet. Lessons will cover a variety of subjects including: health and nutrition, safety, hygiene, emotions, team building, self esteem, gratitude, social issues and many others.

At the end of the program, the Raccoon Runners will participate in Mantua's Raccoon Run 5K, Saturday, May 7th. Deadline for registration is **Friday, March 11th**. The registration form can be found [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please read the information found [HERE](#) or contact [Meri Farling](#).

## 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. 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.

## It's Pizza-for-Box Tops Month

During the month of February, 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 [Yoshiko Barzdukas](#). You can submit your Box Tops now. The contest ends on **Friday, February 26th**.

## MATHCOUNTS Competition

Mantua Elementary's sixth graders were represented in the Northern Virginia Regional MATHCOUNTS competition this past Saturday, February 6th by the following selected students: Steven Chen, Ashwin Rajesh, Akash Jagdeesh, Arjun Jagdeesh, Suruthika Vijay, Prashanth Kumaran, Hari Naicker, Suchita Hadimani, Andrew Lee, and HongJin Ahn. The full results won't be available for a few weeks, but Steven Chen was Mantua's top scorer, and the kids had a great time competing with 33 other area middle and elementary schools.

This year a generous sponsor provided t-shirts for the team. Thank you to the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), the global nonprofit organization of leading graduate schools of business and management. Thank you Eli Lifland and Abhishek Bhargava for coaching the team along with assistants Jinny Choo and Kevin Liang; Ken Lifland for chaperoning the meetings and competition; and the kids and their parents for participating and supporting the team.

## Celebrate Calm Has Been Rescheduled!

Our snowed out parent education sessions with Kirk and Casey Martin of Celebrate Calm have been rescheduled! Join us either **Thursday, February 25th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. or Friday, February 26th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** in the Mantua library. No RSVP necessary. More information can be found [HERE](#).

## Last Parent Education Opportunity of the Year!

After a 6-year hiatus, Mantua is once again offering the Active Parenting Workshop. Don't miss this in-depth, 3-session class, to be held on **3 consecutive Mondays (February 29, March 7 and March 14) from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.** Former participants rave about the strategies they learned to improve communication with their kids, use positive discipline, and teach responsibility. Fee is only \$20 to cover the cost of the



parent handbook and workbook that is yours to keep. Babysitting and scholarships are available, but spots are limited, so register today! **Registration deadline is February 16th.** Flyers will come home in the February 2nd Tuesday folder, or you can contact [Kathy Phillips](#) or Mantua counselor [Susan Kim](#).

## Mantua PTA Homes Tour Set for May 15th

Nothing like being stuck at home for a few days to make you think of all the things you would like to change about your home! The Mantua PTA Homes Tour is coming on **Sunday, May 15th.** In order to make the tour another success we need your help and input. Do you know someone who has done something great to their home? Do you have a contractor that you love? This event is a lot of fun and is a great way to raise funds for the PTA and meet more of your neighbors. Contact Sharon Schechtel with your ideas and suggestions at [mantuahomes@verizon.net](mailto:mantuahomes@verizon.net).

## Attention All 6th Graders

#firsthack 2.0 is an introductory, FREE computer coding event for 6th-8th grade students, sponsored by AOL. It will be held this year on **Saturday, February 27th from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** at the AOL campus, 22000 AOL Way, Sterling. No experience necessary! The students will be paired with a high-school mentor and will receive guidance and support from idea conception and design to development and presentation. The day includes a keynote address from the TJHSST principal, Dr. Evan Glazer, and other activities from computer industry giants like Google and AOL. The event is FREE, but registration is required. Visit [www.firsthack.org](http://www.firsthack.org) to register.

## 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

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

**Anne and Sarah Harrington, Long & Foster:** Platinum Level

**Cathy Pougmalai, Realtor:** Gold Level

**Fisher Group:** Gold 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!

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Email Lisa Libby at [lisa.a.libby@gmail.com](mailto: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.