



# ALERT NEWS

Mantua PTA

June 5, 2017 | Issue no. 37

## In This Issue

[Important Dates](#)  
[Parent Input for '17-'18](#)  
[Field Day](#)  
[Field Day Volunteers](#)  
[PTA Meeting](#)  
[Global Plus Survey](#)  
[Lost and Found](#)  
[Online Shopping](#)  
['17-'18 School Calendar](#)

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Compiled by:  
[Helen Keil-Losch,](#)  
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6:00 p.m. Friday

## Important Upcoming Dates

**June 8** (Thursday): PTA Volunteer Reception 6:30pm followed by the PTA meeting at 7:00p.m.

**June 14 & 15** (Wed/Thursday): Field Day.

## Deadlines

**June 30** (Friday) - Deadline for Parent Input for Class Placements.

## Field Day 2017

Field Day has been organized as a grade level activity day, a culmination of the student's Physical Education program. Parent volunteers run the activities for primary classes and there are also assistance from the 6th Grade classes. There is one session: students participate in 16 events. The session ends with a popsicle treat for all the participants and parent volunteers.

### Organization:

June 14th - 9:30am - noon - 3rd & 4th Grade

June 14th - 1:00pm - 3:30pm - 5th & 6th Grade

June 15th - 9:30am - noon - Kinder & 1st & 2nd Grade

### No Crocs, Flip Flops or Sandals!

- Please put names on water bottles and towels
- Please bring sunscreen if needed and hats
- No bathing suits are allowed solely however you can wear them under a t-shirt or short
- Please bring a change of clothes to leave in the classroom for after because you will get wet!

## Field Day 2017 Volunteers

Volunteers Needed for Mantua Field Day 2017! Field Day is an exciting event at Mantua ES that all of the children look forward to! In order to have Field Day work, we need volunteers for every class! Check the [SignUpGenius](#) to make sure your child's class is covered, if not, consider taking a shift! Dates are June 14th morning for 3rd-4th Grade and afternoon for 5th-6th Grade and June 15th morning for grades K-2nd. Volunteers walk from station to station with the students, help encourage sportsmanship, clarify rules if needed, and keep score. It's a very fun time to spend with your child and his/her classmates! Please sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/lfgcq4y>

## Input from Parents in Regards to the 2017-2018 Class Placements

Dear Parents,

First, let me explain the classroom placement process at Mantua Elementary. Our K-5 classroom teachers fill out cards with detailed information on each student in their classroom. We then meet with each grade level or Family and the teachers are involved in the initial class placement decisions. During the summer, Mr. Rousos and I work many hours to finalize class placement decisions. Therefore, please do not feel that it is critical for you to send me an email.

Next year, we are making some changes to our K-2 Families. Due to the increased rigor required in our second grade curriculum, our two multi-age teachers have chosen not to continue to teach multi-age this coming year. Ms. Morrison will be teaching first grade next year and Ms. Loveday will be teaching second grade. In addition, we are in the process of moving to four Families, with a Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade teacher in each of the four Families. We are hopeful that these changes will allow more students to stay in their same K-2 Family for their primary years. If you would like to share specific information regarding your child's placement needs for next year please send an email to [jmfernandez@fcps.edu](mailto:jmfernandez@fcps.edu). It is useful to write a letter if your child has specific learning needs that were recently identified, you feel that your child would benefit from a specific teaching style, or needs to be placed apart from a particular student. Parent requests for specific teachers can throw off the dynamics of this process and cause a classroom to be filled with too many students with similar needs, therefore it is not

helpful to state the desire to have a specific teacher. Please understand that we take all parent input into consideration but cannot guarantee that we can fill all requests due to the need to build balanced classes that meet the social and academic needs of your children. If you do feel the need to share information, please remember that I must receive this email by **Friday, June 30th**. Have a lovely summer,  
Jan-Marie Fernandez  
Principal

## Last PTA Meeting of the Year

The last PTA meeting of the school year will be held on Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. In addition to hearing about end of the year activities, we hope you will attend and participate in important decisions for next year. PTA Volunteer Reception 6:30p.m. followed by the PTA meeting at 7:00p.m.

## GLOBAL PLUS Language Program – Interest Survey

What extracurricular language classes would you like to see offered at Mantua next year? Please complete this very short survey to share your opinion. The Mantua PTA offers world language classes before and after school through FCPS's GLOBAL PLUS Language Program. The goal of the GLOBAL PLUS program is to offer high quality language classes to elementary students when they are at the optimal age for language acquisition. Past offerings include Chinese, German, and Spanish. Other possibilities include American Sign Language, Arabic, and more, so please complete the survey today. <https://goo.gl/forms/se1JKQT27s1SbiHH3>

## Eco Tips

It's June, almost the end of the school year, and time to start thinking of the end of year parties! When planning your classroom party, please consider incorporating at least two or more of the following tips. This will help protect the environment and save some \$'s along the way:

- Ask kids to bring their own reusable water bottles. Plastic water bottles are expensive, require a large amount of resources to produce and transport, and the plastic can leach harmful chemicals in the water.

There are lots of reusable bottles on the market today to reflect your child's personality! -Stick to finger foods! Cut up fruit, chips, crackers and cheese. Avoid using plastic utensils which will never degrade in landfills. For something sweet, consider mini-cupcakes, popsicles or cookies.

- Please don't use any Styrofoam products, which contain styrene which can cause adverse health effects. Styrofoam is lightweight and floats, so over time a great deal of it has accumulated along coasts and waterway and become a large component of marine debris. -If you need plates, buy small compostable and biodegradable ones. You can find them on Amazon, and also earn \$'s for the school.
- For activities, consider an outdoor event or using recyclable materials for craft projects. Forgo plastic tablecloths and decorations, the kids will have fun either way! Minimize the amount of trash produced - it will make set-up and clean-up afterwards much easier!

## Garden News

Schoolyard Habitat (near SACC) Before the planting day two weekends ago, there was a "prep day." Ms. Sullivan would like to thank the many volunteers who came out on short notice (after the original day was rained out) to tackle the entrenched grass and recalcitrant Virginia clay! Our hardy volunteers dug, hoed, tilled, wheelbarrowed, weeded, mulched, and did what was needed to create a fertile, welcoming spot for the new native seedlings. Many thanks for your hard work!

**Gardens Wish List** If you have extra garden supplies at home that you would like to contribute, we can put them to good use during recess as our student gardeners have fun helping out in the Mantua gardens. For questions, please contact Ms. Sullivan at [masullivan@fcps.edu](mailto:masullivan@fcps.edu). Donation of garden supplies can be dropped off at the Front Office or Ms. Sullivan's classroom (Room 244, in the lower pod). We would be grateful to receive the following items to help maintain our new garden: -

- 3 to 4 large "log chunks" (to sit on) – like the log piece that is already there, which the kids love to sit and jump on.
- 2 used trellises – we plan to grow honeysuckle and wisteria in the garden spot next to the building.
- 2 large sturdy ole' watering cans (plastic or metal)

- Trowels – looking for 5 to 6 used hand trowels for the kids (metal or plastic).
- Gardening gloves – looking for 7 to 8 pairs of gloves (kid- or adult-sized).

Summer Watering Check back next week for a link to the Mantua Gardens Summer Watering Sign Up Sheet! We will be looking for volunteers to water the courtyard pollinator garden (typically during the summer “building open” hours of 9am to 3pm, Mon to Fri) and the bioretention basin garden and schoolyard habitat near SACC (both of which are outside the school). Also, if you are interested in volunteering to manage the Summer Watering Schedule, that would be fantastic. Please contact Ms. Sullivan at [masullivan@fcps.edu](mailto:masullivan@fcps.edu). You would be contacting the families the day before their turn and also trying to fill in spots where no one had yet signed up. I anticipate that watering will be needed 2 to 3 times per week, for 8 weeks. (For week 9, Ms. Sullivan will be back on school grounds and will hydrate the gardens.)

## Lost and Found Reminder

There is a large collection of coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, lunch bags, water bottles and other personal belongings in the lost and found. Unfortunately many of these items will never be claimed because they have no name on them. Please be sure to label all personal items with at least your last name before they come to school. If you want to check the lost and found it is now in the cafeteria.

## Shopping Online?

Anyone (parents, family and friends) who shops on Amazon can effortlessly earn money for Mantua ES by simply using a special Amazon link on Mantua PTA website. No sign-ups or codes required, no loyalty cards to manage - just click, shop, and watch the contributions to Mantua ES come in! Help us cast a wider net by sharing the links with friends and family. Go to <http://www.mantuapta.org> and click either Amazon or 4ourschool.

## 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](mailto:bkafala@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email [bkafala@gmail.com](mailto:bkafala@gmail.com).
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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.

Mantua Elementary School PTA  
9107 Horner Court  
Fairfax, VA 22031

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