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mantua pta newsletter

March 8, 2022 | Issue 27

Important Upcoming Dates

Tuesday/Wednesday March 9, 10: Mantua Basketball PLAYOFFS, 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM, Mantua Gymnasium

Wednesday, March 10 - Woodson High School Area Chorus, 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 11 - PTA Meeting 9:30 -10:30am in Person at Mantua ES

Thursday, March 31st - End of 3rd Quarter; 2 Hour Early Release

Friday, April 1st - No School for Students, Teacher Workday

Dear Mantua Elementary Families,

I'm writing this letter to reach out from the bottom of my heart and ask this community for help. I hope that at a minimum you'll do me one small favor and read this through to the end. I apologize in advance about the length.

For those who don't know me, my name is Kathy Timberlake and I am a full-time working mom of 5 kids – 3 current Mantua Raccoons and 2 future Raccoons. My husband Doug and I help where we can, when we can, but quite honestly we have benefited enormously from the outpouring of love through a small number of volunteers within our community that just keep stepping up. So, I would like to begin this letter with an enormous THANK YOU to every parent/guardian that has taken time off of work or out of their day to do things like stuff Tuesday folders, tend to the garden, read to Kindergarteners, etc.

Now, for my heartfelt request... [CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL TEXT](#)

Mantua PTA 2022-2023



The PTA needs YOU! It is time to pass on the torch to a new set of leaders to pave the way in support of our admin/teachers/staff and ultimately to the benefit of those tiny humans we send through those school doors each day. We need new volunteers to step up in leadership roles to continue this important tradition of partnering with admin/teachers/staff to continue helping make Mantua an elementary school that we are all so proud of and is highly sought after for the reputation it deserves. Vacant position descriptions are available [here](#). Contact Kathy Timberlake at kathy.timberlake@gmail.com for more information.

All Upcoming Kindergarten Parents,

Mantua will be holding a virtual Kindergarten Orientation meeting for parents to learn about their child's upcoming school year! The virtual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 29th from 6:30pm-7:30pm**, a Zoom link will be sent out the day of the orientation. The Kindergarten team will provide an informative video as well as be there to answer any questions you may have.

Additionally, we would like to welcome your child to their own in-person Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, March 31st from 3:15-4:15pm at Mantua Elementary. At this time, your child will be welcomed by our kindergarten teachers, tour the school, and enjoy some fun activities. While your child is with the kindergarten teachers, parents may meet outside on Mantua's playground for a PTA Meet and Greet and an opportunity to sign up for their ParentVue account.

The Kindergarten Team looks forward to seeing you and your child!



Mantua PTA Basketball Championship Week

The Mantua PTA Basketball season wraps up this week with the boys and girls championship games. This is a positive developmental league that has seen every team and player improve, grow and learn the game of basketball over the past few months.

Come out and cheer for ALL of the team and individual accomplishments!

Wednesday, March 9th

3rd and 4th Grade Girls - 6pm

5th and 6th Grade Girls - 7:30pm

Thursday, March 10th

3rd and 4th Grade Boys - 6pm

5th and 6th Grade Boys - 7:30pm

W. T. Woodson PTSO Hosting School Board Rep Megan McLaughin

T. Woodson PTSO is hosting our elected School Board Rep, Megan McLaughin, at an upcoming meeting: **Tuesday March 8, 6pm** on

Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/jan-dzyj-pkj>

Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA): Camps and Institutes

A summer exploration of the arts for elementary school students currently in grades 2-5. Space is limited, and registration is on a first-come basis until seats are filled.

E-IFTA is a weekly arts camp for elementary-aged students who love to sing, dance, act, perform, make, and create. Students take part in four classes every day related to dance, music, theatre, and visual art. They work with FCPS fine arts teachers who create classes that are fun and engaging.

Eligibility

- **Program Cost:** \$255 a week.
- **Program Dates:** July 5-29, 2022
- **Host School:** Lake Braddock Secondary
- **Program Times:** 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Registration Begins:** March 1

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/summer-learning-programs/camps-and-institutes-elementary-institute-arts-e-ifta>

Visitors Welcome

The most updated guidance from FCPS indicates that we can welcome visitors and volunteers. Our Visitor Management System is back up and running in the main office. Visitors who will be engaging with students will need to check-in using this system. Please know that the Visitor Management System requires that visitors have their licenses when checking in. Our teachers may begin to solicit parent volunteers through their parent communication.



Computer and Headphone Reminders

K-2 computers go home weekly on Fridays and 3-6 go home daily. Students should be charging their laptops overnight while the devices are at home.

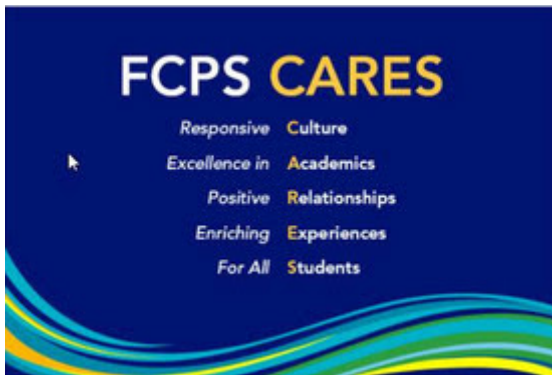
All students should be bringing a working pair of headphones to school each day and back home. Many of the programs used in school require

headphones with a microphone as well as programs that are included as part of homework.

Yearbook Sales

The 2022 yearbook is sold through the company's online portal. The information and link can be found on the [FCPS Mantua school web page](#) and in the All Parent Schoology Course.

The last day to order is **April 15**.



Nominate a Staff Member: FCPS CARES

The FCPS CARES Program is an opportunity for parents, staff, and community members to recognize FCPS employees for going above and beyond to help others and show they care. We invite you to submit your story, so we can all acknowledge

the good work of FCPS employees at Mantua Elementary.

Woodson Chorus

The Woodson High School Area Chorus, directed by Amy Moir and Meredith Lee, will present a concert on **Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM**. Mantua will have a large group of our 6th grade singers participating in this event. We hope you can make it!



Mulch Sale

The annual Woodson Mulch Sale has arrived. Freshen up your flower beds and support the Woodson High School Leadership Class at the same time. The Leadership Class is once again offering high quality shredded hardwood mulch for purchase.

Orders for 3-cubic foot bags of mulch must be received by **Thursday, March 17th** for pick-up at Woodson or delivery to your home on Saturday, March 26th. When placing an order for 10 or more bags, delivery is an option. All mulch will be delivered on **Saturday, March 26th** beginning at 8:30 AM. The proceeds benefit the Woodson High School Leadership Class and support its activities. For more details or for an order form, please [check out our web link](#).

This year you can also [order and pay on-line at MySchoolBucks](#). Browse all items and select the Mulch Sale Fundraiser.

Need more info? Send an email to DJSchaefer@fcps.edu

Family Resource Center

Supporting Early Learners: Growing the Caregiver's Toolbox: A Webinar Series for PreK-2 Families

- 3/11/22: Supporting Self-Regulation Development in Early Learners
- 4/22/22: Supporting Healthy Habits & Routines in Early Learners
- 5/20/22: Growing through Tough Moments in Early Learners

There are so many ways children learn and develop throughout early childhood. Relationships, habits, and even challenges can become rich opportunities to teach and foster lifelong learning and skills for our children. Learn more about how self-regulation, executive functioning, and routines can help your children learn and develop. [Register for Supporting Early Learners: Growing the Caregiver's Toolbox: A Webinar for PreK-2 Families](#)

WT Woodson 5K for the Trevor Project

W.T. Woodson High School is hosting a 5K Race/Walk and Fun Run to raise awareness and money for The Trevor Project. At Woodson, we have an extremely diverse student population. In raising money for the Trevor Project, we hope to support their mission to further mental health awareness for all students. This is a community 5K and Fun Run for students at Woodson High School, families, friends, and community members. The race is organized by students, and will take place on Saturday, April 30.

Price: \$25.00 Race Fee + \$2.45 SignUp Fee

Registration: Price increases to \$35.00 after April 15, 2022

Registration is here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Fairfax/WTWoodson5k>

Flier: <https://mantuapta.org/documents/dtf/2021-22/flyers/woodson-5k.jpg>

Your Views and Opinions Are Important!

This spring all Mantua parents/guardians will be contacted through email with a link to the *FCPS Principal Evaluation Parent/Guardian Feedback Form Online*. This questionnaire is part of the Performance Evaluation Program and offers parents/guardians an opportunity to provide anonymous input about various topics related to our school. These topics include instructional leadership, school climate, human resources management, organizational management, communication and community relations, and professionalism. Understanding that this has been another unusual year, the impacts of COVID-19 will be taken into consideration when reviewing the feedback.

The questionnaire will be collected online **between March 7 and March 18**. When you receive an email from *FCPS Surveys*, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. Your opinions matter!

2022-2023 Kindergarten Survey

Mantua ES needs your help in projecting the Kindergarten enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. Virginia Law, section 22.1-254, requires children who will reach their fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2022, to be enrolled in Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year unless the parent or guardian notifies the school in writing that they do not wish the child to attend school until the following year.

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 30, 2022, please complete [this form](#) and return it **no later than March 31, 2022**. If any of your neighbors have children who will be eligible for Kindergarten, please share this information with them, as we are especially interested in reaching those Mantua families who do not have children currently attending school.

The information on this survey will help the school plan for adequate facilities and personnel for the 2022-2023 school year. **Please email the completed form to Mergie Kakouris at mbkakouris@fcps.edu.** We thank you in advance for returning the form **no later than March 31, 2022**.

COVID Vaccination Status

You may wish to voluntarily share your child's COVID-19 vaccination information with Mantua ES. However, we do not require your child's vaccination information and no school employee will ask for your child's vaccination status. If you would like to provide us with your child's vaccination status, please bring your child's COVID-19 vaccination card or a photocopy of the card to Ms. Kakouris in the front office. COVID-19 vaccination documentation contains Protected Health Information and should not be emailed.

Seventh Grade Immunization Requirements

Effective July 1, 2021 all students entering 7th grade will be required to receive one dose of each of the following immunizations prior to the beginning of school: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis booster (Tdap) given at age 7 or older, and Meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) given at age 10 or older. Seventh grade students cannot begin school in August without proper Tdap and Meningococcal documentation.



Acceptable documentation to submit to Mantua ES can be one of the following:

1. An immunization record showing the month, day, and year the immunization(s) was given.
2. A note on a healthcare provider's letterhead stating the month, day, and year the immunization(s) was given.
3. A healthcare provider's written statement of a permanent or temporary medical exemption for a student who cannot receive the immunization due to medical reasons.

4. A notarized Religious Exemption Form, which is available online at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/certificate_religious_exemption.pdf

Children Ages 5-11 Now Eligible to VaxUP!

Children ages 5-11 are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. FCPS is collaborating with the Fairfax County Health Department, Inova, and the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Pediatricians to offer community-wide access to vaccines as soon as possible. Vaccines are expected to be available at mass vaccination sites really soon. Check with your local pharmacy or pediatrician for appointment availability. Up-to-date information about vaccination opportunities will be available on our website.



In the meantime, you may have questions about the vaccine. We talked with local pediatricians to answer some of the most common questions. First, we asked how the vaccine works and about its safety. Hear what they have to say in this short video.

- [Return to School - COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Ages 5-11](#)
- [Message from the Superintendent](#)
- [FCPS Nov. 3 newsletter](#)

NEW! 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Join the PTA!

Please visit our webpage at MantuaPTA.org and click **JOIN PTA NOW!** Dues are \$20 per family and get you discounts on PTA sponsored clubs. Our dues fully support our free programs so that every penny of our fundraisers goes right back into the classrooms. Follow us on Facebook to get the inside scoop on all our events and programs - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MantuaPTA/> - Can't wait to get started!



Any changes in dismissal transportation need to be requested by emailing the Mantua Attendance (Mantuaelem.attendance@fcps.edu) by 11:00am, so the office has time to relay that change to the classroom teacher. No early dismissals will be permitted after 3:30pm.



How to Submit an Announcement to the PTA News

Please [complete this form](#) to have a Mantua ES- or Mantua PTA-related announcement placed in the weekly Mantua PTA News, on our [Facebook page](#) and/or on [MantuaPTA.org](#).

The form guides you through all the pieces of information we need to put out complete announcements.

