

December 2, 2003

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| pta | The Next PTA Meeting is Wednesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m., in the Library | Pta |
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| Pta | Special guest Tanganyika Jackson, our Cluster's Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Liaison, will discuss drug | PTA |
| PTA | awareness. Also, Mrs. Fernandez will share key messages from a recent seminar on gangs | PtA |
| PTA | and will describe drug awareness/prevention efforts at Mantua. | |
| | You are welcome please attend! | pta |
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Internet Support Group: Emotional Disabilities

If you live in Fairfax County and are the parent or guardian of a child with the ED label (or who is being considered for that special label), please join our parent-run, email group to share experiences and discuss educational issues. We have been helping each other since 2000 to guide our children through the special education process. Scores of experienced parents from across the county can answer your questions confidentially and provide moral support. You need not face this challenge alone! To join, go to http://yahoogroups.com/ group/edfairfax, or write to Margaret Fisher, edfairfax@yahoo.com. Looking for support groups for other parenting problems? There is a listing of free Fairfax county parent support groups on www.ffxgroups.com.

Almost Covered -- Not Quite

Thank you for responding to our last plea for room parents! Almost every classroom is covered. But the following teachers *still* need room parents: Aragona, Andersen, Duryea, Endean, Serafin, and Zambrano. So close -- *and yet so unclose!* Please help!

Helping Hands Holiday Bazaar

As mentioned last week we will collect items for the Culmore Area Kids Helping Hands Holiday Bazaar. New items needed are: mittens, hats, coats, Barbies, Hotwheels, arts and crafts kits, basketballs, soccer balls, and other sporting equipment. Items can be donated to this worthy cause until Dec 14. Please leave them in the box in the foyer. Thanks. *Jennifer Cooper*

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- On Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th, our talented thespians performed three Shakespearean plays and three beautifully choreographed dance numbers directed by the Drama Club. Their performances were enjoyed by all of our students!
- On Monday afternoon, the Physical Education Department hosted a Turkey Trot for our students. Approximately 100 of our students participated in the mile run!
- On Tuesday, November 25th, our Preschool students with their families celebrated a Thanksgiving Feast complete with turkey and all the trimmings!
- On Wednesday, November 26th, Mrs. McClelland's students performed a reader's theatre version of *A Native American Welcome* and songs about Thanksgiving. Parents and all of the students and teachers in Family 3 enjoyed their performance!

Online-Calendar Updates

The online calendar on the PTA web site is again active and current! It contains entries for both school events and PTA-sponsored events. We expect it will see a lot of activity itself, so check back often! If you have or know of an event that should be listed, please let us know with the "Submit an Event" button. Simply go to www.mantuapta.org, and click the *Calendar* tab.

Wizards Half-Price Nights

Half-price tickets to selected Washington Wizards games are available to students, teachers, friends and family. The seats are on the upper deck and range from \$20 to \$25. Dates available are: Dec. 12 vs. Minnesota, Dec. 26 vs. Miami, Jan 19 vs. Chicago, Feb. 22 vs. Milwaukee, and Mar. 21 vs. Miami. Contact Jen Seidel at jseidel@washsports.com or 202-628-3200, ext. 3867. Tickets can be mailed or picked up at the will-call window. Questions, contact Julia Margulies, 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

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Soon to be <u>Cancelled</u>: a 2/3 HOS Class

Eleven 2/3-grade students will not get a chance to take the next Hands on Science class, "Chemistry Creations," scheduled for Mondays 1:35 - 2:35 p.m., because we have not been able to find a class leader. Please help them out! The 8-week session will begin the week of January 19, 2004. All materials, detailed lesson plans, and training are provided. Leaders are compensated. You do not need a science background, just your enthusiasm! *Please* contact Randi Kirkland at 703-208-2262 or randi_kirkland@yahoo.com.

The Frost Book Fair

In case you missed the Mantua Book Fair, the annual Frost Book Fair is open now, and will continue through Friday, December 5. Book Fair hours are 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday with additional hours on Thursday evening, from 6:30 until 8:30 (coinciding with the Frost band concert). Friday's last-chance-to-buy hours are 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Beverly Popek at griffpo@gte.net or 703-978-3626.

Lost and Found

All items still in the Lost and Found on December 8 will be donated to charity. Please double check for missing items!

Kids Care Club

The next Kids Care Club meeting is Thursday, December 4, right after school in the cafeteria. We will be discussing our holiday basket project. Please contact Jennifer Cooper at jal-cooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490, and let her know if your child/children will attend.

Songs of the Season

The W. T. Woodson and the Frost Middle School Choral Departments cordially invite you to attend their winter concerts. These are wonderful opportunities for the students, parents, staff and friends of the schools in the Frost/Woodson pyramid to get a glimpse of what their future music programs have to offer! On Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m., director Michael Ehrlich and the five Woodson choirs will present a multicultural blend of songs sure to get you in the mood for the winter season and holidays. If you miss that date (or like what you hear!) you'll have a second opportunity on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m., when director Jennifer Penserga and her three Frost choirs lead us joyously into the long winter break. Both concerts will be presented in the Joan Bedinger Auditorium at the W.T. Woodson High School. As always, both concerts are free of charge. See you there!

A Few Choice Spaces in K/1 HOS

...on the other hand, we're pleased to be able to let you know of a great HOS opportunity for the K/1 gang! We have space available for four more students for this popular class. Registration forms are on the shelf under the parent bulletin board at school, or contact Randi Kirkland to have one faxed to you. The class will be filled on a first-come basis. Questions? Contact Randi at 703-208-2262 or randi_kirkland@yahoo.com. **The last day to register for this class is Friday, December 5!**

Help Your Kids Take a Break

Because of their busy schedules, our fifth and sixth graders are not getting much recess time -- sometimes as little as ten minutes. But YOU can make a difference. Parents on the playground would mean that these children could come out as soon as they finish lunch. Ms. Thompson could use 2 or 3 parent volunteers on a daily basis -- Tuesday to Friday, 11:15 to 12:05. If you could give an hour or half hour of your time, once a week, you could provide your child with a longer period of activity, fresh air, and socializing -all such important aspects of a healthy life. *But we need at least 12 parents to make this work. Please help!* Please contact Margarita Brown at 703-359-7123 or maboberon@aol.com.

Providence Players Winter Production

Providence Players will perform The Good Doctor, by Neil Simon, on January 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Frost Middle School. Mantuans Beth and David Whitehead direct the Good Doctor, and featured performers include many Mantua parents, as well as two Woodson HS students. This comedy has something for everyone to enjoy. Be prepared to laugh and be moved by some memorable characters, including a sneezing theatre-goer, an incompetent dentist, young innocents experiencing some of life's trials, and older folks finding pleasure in their unique friendship. Please call our ticket line at 703-425-6782 or email providenceplayers@cox.net to order your tickets today! Single show ticket prices are \$12.00/\$7.00 for youth/seniors. Group discounts are available, and we accept credit card orders. Proceeds benefit the Frost MS PTA. And an evening of theater makes a great holiday gift!

Alert News Contributions Send via email to brandman@erols.com. Questions? Call 703-383-1005. Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesh and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing the Alert News.

Please see the other side for more Alert News

www.mantuapta.org