



Mantua PTA Alert News

November 25, 2003

Reflections Results!

Congratulations to the students who participated in the PTA's 2nd Reflections Program. 23 entries from the categories Visual Arts, Literature, and Photography were judged based on this year's theme, "I'm Really Happy When...".

Great job to the following students!

Kindergarten

Sarah Smoot, Kyle Fisher, Yalini Prabhakaran

1st grade

Reese Fisher, Hannah Fritzinger

2nd grade

Mari Berger, Emily Cox

3rd grade

Ariella Richmond, Joseph Novak

4th grade

Rachel Goldstein, Christina Kim

5th grade

Johannah Gehman, Rola Elamin,

Cristina Shin, Amanda Woo

6th grade

Rowan Elamin, Charlyn Castillo

In addition, Sarah Smoot, Mari Berger, Johannah Gehman, Charlyn Castillo, Emily Cox and Christina Kim placed 1st in their category/division. Their entries will be sent to the Council level and will be judged with students from other area schools. These results should be available in February 2004.

Reflections entries will be displayed in the Mantua library for all to enjoy!

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- A Principal's Coffee was held on Wednesday, November 12, at Barbara Suidikas' house. Mrs. Fernandez discussed Professional Learning Communities (PLC).
- Students and staff had an adventurous afternoon on Thursday, November 13, when the power was out in the building for a few hours due to the high winds.
- Fifth and sixth graders on Friday, November 14, attended an assembly where an actor became Edgar Allen Poe and performed some of Poe's works in dramatic readings and shared a bit about his life!
- On Tuesday, November 18, Dr. Rod Paige, Secretary of Education, Dr. Noel Dempsey, Minister of Education for the Republic of Ireland, and Congressman Tom Davis were all here at Mantua visiting our school. Each of our distinguished guests brought other people with them, so we all squeezed into the Distance Learning Center for Good Morning Mantua, and then we had a videoconference with St. Joseph's School in Dublin, Ireland. This is the same school that we videoconferenced with last year on the last day of the school year, when Secretary Paige was in Ireland visiting. Minister Dempsey and his group from Ireland stayed after the videoconference to tour the building. They were very impressed with our integration of technology, the inclusion of our special-needs students, and the level of thinking that our students were demonstrating!
- A few hours after our guests left on Tuesday, the Fire Marshall arrived unannounced for our State Audit. Fortunately, we passed with flying colors!
- On Wednesday, November 19, we had a lovely Thanksgiving Luncheon with the students and parents within our K-2 families. On Thursday, November 20, we did it all again for our 3rd through 6th grade students. Over the two days, we served 1,559 turkey dinners. It was our pleasure to have you join your children for lunch!
- Friday, November 21, and Saturday, November 22, the PTA Drama Club performed their Shakespeare Festival! It was a huge success!
- Happy Thanksgiving to all of our families! We are thankful for your wonderful children and for the incredible parent volunteers that support our school in so many different ways!

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!

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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: Nov. 29 vs. Detroit, 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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The Frost Book Fair

In case you missed the Mantua Book Fair, the annual Frost Book Fair will be held Monday, December 1, through Friday, December 5. This is a great opportunity to get your readers (and reluctant readers!) a book or two in preparation for the cold winter months, while supporting our Woodson pyramid at the same time! Available books will include gift books for all ages, as well as a focus on books for middle-school students. Book Fair hours are 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Additional hours on Thursday evening are from 6:30 until 8:30 (this coincides with the Frost band concert). Friday's last-chance-to-buy hours are 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Come browse, and bring a friend! This is a great opportunity for Mantua sixth grade families to check out Frost! Thanks for your support! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Beverly Popek at griffpo@gte.net or 703-978-3626.

Additional Hands on Science Leaders Needed for Grade 2-3

Leaders are needed for "Chemistry Creations," Mondays 1:35 - 2:35 p.m. 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 to share! Please contact Randi Kirkland at 703-208-2262 or randi_kirkland@yahoo.com.

Kids Care Club

The next Kids Care Club meeting is Thursday, December 4, right after school in the cafeteria. We will be discussing our December project of providing a holiday basket/gifts for a family in need in our area and of collecting mittens and hats for the Culmore Area kids for their annual bazaar. Please contact Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490, and let her know if your child/children will attend.

Town Meeting on Gang Activity

Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova and Braddock School Board Member Tessie Wilson are co-sponsoring a Town Meeting on Gangs. The Gang Unit of the Fairfax County Police Department will be the presenters and a representative from Fairfax County Public Schools will also be there. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Little Run Elementary School, 4511 Olley Lane, Fairfax. The meeting is free and open to the public. Language translators will be available if needed. If there are specific topics you'd like to have covered or if you need a translator, please contact Tessie Wilson's office, 703-246-4781.

Watch Your Step!

We've recently had a pet or two leaving reminders of their visits to the playground. So here's a reminder back. *Please, pet owners: animals are not permitted on the playground.* Thank you!

Collection for the Culmore Area Kids

Every year the Culmore area group, Helping Hands, holds a Holiday Bazaar for the many families in that area that are in need. This year we are again collecting donations of new mittens, hats and scarves for the children. As you do your holiday shopping, think about picking up an extra pair of mittens or a warm hat for these children. Donations can be placed in the box in the front foyer of the school. Thanks, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. *Jennifer Cooper*

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Alert News Contributions

Send via email to brandman@erols.com. Questions? Call 703-383-1005.

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