



Mantua PTA News

www.MantuaPTA.org

Back To School 2003

Carole Thomas President's Message

On behalf of the Mantua PTA Board, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to parents, students, faculty and staff. I would especially like to welcome families who are new to Mantua. You will find that you are now part of a very special community. Our values and desires are evident in the effort we put into our school community. Mantuans realize that the more we give to our school community, the more our children receive in terms of an enriched education. As we gear up for a new school year, there are four things I encourage you to do:

1. **Keep in Touch:** I encourage you to stay up to date and informed about the many happenings at Mantua by utilizing the PTA's five main communication vehicles:

1. The **Mantua PTA website** (www.mantuapta.org) contains information about upcoming events and PTA-supported activities, calendars, and valuable links.
2. The **Alert News** is a weekly news bulletin.
3. The **Mantua PTA Newsletter**, with information regarding programs, activities, services, and issues, is published monthly.
4. The **Mantua PTA Handbook**, which will be distributed to new families and to "old" families upon request, is a wonderful resource that provides answers to many practical questions.
5. Periodically, **Flyers** reminding parents of special events are sent home via student Tuesday folders.

These are all valuable one-way communication devices. However, one of my goals is to increase the two-way communication between the PTA Board and its members. How do we open up the lines of communication? One method I hope the school community will take advantage of is the "Suggestion/Question Box" on the PTA Website. Please share any idea you may have on improving the effectiveness of the PTA or enriching the educational environment of our children by using the "Suggestion Box". Perhaps the best means to keep informed and share ideas with the PTA and the school staff is to attend the monthly PTA Board meetings that are open to all PTA members. These meetings, typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library, provide an opportunity to discuss school happenings and allow parents to ask questions of the PTA board members, school administrators, and teacher representatives. Finally, the PTA Board members are personally committed to assisting all parents with issues or questions. Please do not hesitate to email me or one of the members of the PTA Board with any question you may have. (Email addresses are listed on the website)

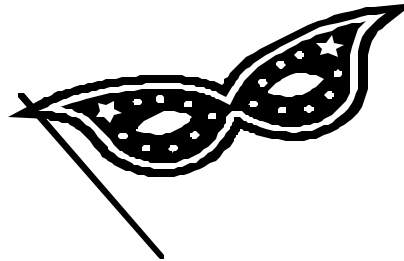
2. **Lend a Hand:** Mantua is special because of the incredibly talented and dedicated teachers and staff. It is also special because of the tradition of strong parental support and involvement. Involved parents are critical to a successful school year. Being available to discuss your child's day at school, overseeing homework and volunteering show your child how you value education. Volunteer opportunities come in all "shapes and sizes"...something for everyone regardless of their interests or time availability. I urge you to review the Volunteer Form in your Back to School folder and commit to at least one volunteer position or if you can't find a volunteer opportunity on the form that interests you, please contact me to find something that better meets your interests.

Coming Up

September 5	Teacher's Breakfast
September 9	Newcomer's Coffee
September 10	PTA Board Meeting
September 12	Ice Cream Social
September 17	Back To School Night Grades K—3
September 18	Back To School Night Grades 4—6
September 25	Principal's Coffee

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SAVE THE DATE!
October 19th
Mantua Elementary PTA's Fall Fund-Raiser
"A Taste of the Town Masquerade"



Held at the Kena Temple, Route 50, Fairfax from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Early Bird Tickets: \$20 per person through September 30th

Hors d'oeuvres & cocktails, Live and Silent Auction items (make terrific holiday gifts), Raffle, and more

Help make this event a great success by volunteering for committees such as decorations, raffle, set-up, clean-up, solicitation, close-out, etc. You can also donate items or services for the silent and live auction. For more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, please contact: Faye Henris at 703-280-1080 or faye@henrisff.com or Laura Mead at 703-876-2688 or lauramead@cox.net.

President's Message

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3. **Join the PTA:** The annual PTA membership drive is underway. Please take a moment to complete the membership form in your child's Back to School folder. Your child is touched both directly and indirectly by the work of the Mantua PTA. The PTA produces the above mentioned publications and sponsors many programs throughout the year that your child can benefit from, including visiting artists/performers, Drama Club, Basketball, foreign language experiences, Hands on Science and the Book Fair. The PTA supports the Mantua Staff through our Volunteer program and funding of various curriculum needs (e.g., computers, library resources, etc.). I urge you to join the PTA showing your commitment to this organization.

4. **Participate in the Fall Fundraisers:** It may seem as if the PTA is "always" trying to raise money for the school. I assure you that the PTA's mission statement includes nothing about fundraising, but it is a harsh reality in times of school budget cutbacks that many of the things we want for the education of our children are not provided for in the school budget. In addition to the traditional programs the PTA supports financially, the PTA Executive Committee worked very closely with the school administration last Spring to develop a prioritized list of items/programs to be purchased with PTA fundraising proceeds. While the PTA was not able to provide for each and every item on the "wish list", it was able to fund nine new computers/teacher workstations, several staff development programs, 30 reading program tapes to improve fluency and reading comprehension at all grade levels, three portable sound systems, musical instruments for both the Music Department and Strings, and numerous field trips. This year we will continue to work with the Administration to maintain and fund this prioritized "wish list" with the objective of providing our children an enriched, educational environment. There are two major fundraisers this Fall, the Sally Foster gift wrap drive and the Taste of the Town auction. Please support your child in his/her sales effort in the Sally Foster gift wrap drive. And please support the Auction by volunteering to help with the event, donating goods or services to the Auction, as well as attending and bidding generously at this fun-filled evening event.

My warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and successful year at school! Let's work together to provide an enhanced educational experience for our children.

Fundraising News

Four Great Ways to Raise Money for Your School

1

Get Hooked on Sally Foster!



It's Sally Foster time again! The Mantua PTA begins its annual Sally Foster gift-wrap fundraiser on **Tuesday, September 9**. Remember that 50% of every sale goes directly to Mantua and pays for important school activities. Again this year, out-of-town family and friends will be able to **order online** and have their products shipped. Your child will receive prize credit for these orders. For safety reasons, we strongly discourage door-to-door selling to strangers.

In addition to the high quality gift-wrap you've come to expect, you'll be able to choose from a variety of wrap accessories, unique gift items, delicious Harry London Chocolates and more! Stop by the display and see some of these items and swatches of gift wrap. Don't miss the tall stack of boxes wrapped using just one roll of Sally Foster gift-wrap. Your friends and family will thank you for the opportunity to order these terrific products. **Order forms will be due back to your child's teacher by September 29**. You will receive your orders during the Parent-Teacher conferences early in November (in plenty of time for the holidays). For more info, contact Lynn Richmond at 703-280-0220 or lynnrichmond95@cox.net or Jeannine Davies at 703-383-1256 or j9davies@cox.net.

2



Shop at Office Depot & Earn Mantua Free Office Supplies

Office Depot will rebate 5% of qualifying purchases, excluding computer or furniture, to Mantua for future supply purchases. This offer applies to purchases made in the store and online at www.officedepot.com. Identify Mantua at the end of the transaction.

3



Shop Online to Earn Easy Money for Mantua

Raise funds for your school while avoiding the crowds and long lines...SHOP ONLINE! Mantua is registered with www.schoolpop.com. Schoolpop will rebate a percentage (roughly 3 - 5%) of every purchase without hidden costs to the shopper or school. Schoolpop has over 250 participating vendors and is organized by categories. Using this web site to shop is "easy, free money". And customers can support Mantua by shopping in select local stores and with catalogs using cards registered with Schoolpop. Go to www.schoolpop.com for more details.

4



Save Grocery Receipts & Box Tops

Mantua will once again participate in the Giant & Harris Teeter grocery receipts program and General Mills Box Tops for Education fundraising programs. These programs enable Mantua to purchase computers, software and other educational material. **Don't forget to re-register for these programs** and designate Mantua Elementary to receive credit for your shopping. You can register on-line at the following web sites.

- ◆ www.giantfood.com (click on A+ Bonus Bucks) (Mantua Code: 01887)
- ◆ www.harristeeter.com (Mantua Code: 4458)

And continue to send in your General Mills Box Tops for Education with your children. These are collected all year. If you have any questions or would like to help with these programs, please contact Nancy Robinson at mrsrobinson@cox.net.

Welcome our Teachers back!

It's time for the Welcome Back Breakfast for our wonderful teachers and staff! The date is **Friday, September 5 from 7:30 – 9:00 am** in the Mantua Cafeteria. Help show the teachers and staff how much we care for them by getting involved with this event. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up and bring juices, fruit salads, bagels or muffins, and breakfast casseroles and quiches. *(Please volunteer to bring hot items only if you live near the school or can deliver the item at the start of the breakfast).* Please e-mail DeeAnn Jeremiah at classicc@erols.com or call 703-383-8393 to volunteer to help or bring one of the above items. Be sure to include your name and telephone number. Each year the teachers look forward to this lovely breakfast at the end of a tiring first week! And your help makes this welcome back event a success.

Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) Program

The Mantua PTA in conjunction with the Office of Adult and Community Education, plans to offer language classes if there is sufficient interest. French, German, Spanish, and Sign classes will be held once a week before and after school beginning October. If you are interested, please complete the Interest Survey form in the Tuesday folder and return to your teacher by Sept. 17. Please contact Linda Halstead at 703-503-5175 or pajusihalstead@cox.net if you have any questions.

FLEX Teaching Opportunities Habla espanol? Parlez-vous francais? Sprechen Sie Deutsch? If you speak another language, enjoy working with children, and are available before and after school hours, give us a call! This is a paid part-time position. Curriculum is provided by FCPS. If you or someone you know might be interested in teaching, please contact Linda Halstead at 703-503-5175 or pajusihalstead@cox.net. Classes begin in October.

Reflections is an arts program sponsored by the National PTA to provide students with an outlet for creative expression. Students prepare original works in the fields of art, photography, music, or literature. These works are reviewed by a panel of volunteer judges and put on display for the enjoyment of the school and parent community. This year's theme is "I'm really happy when.....". Entries will be due in November 2003. For more information, contact Deanna Woo at 703-352-9419 or dtwoo@aol.com or go to www.mantuapta.org.

Newcomers to Mantua

New to our school? Loaded with questions? Looking for a friendly face to help you on your way? Eager to get involved and meet new people? Then don't despair, because the Mantua PTA has just the program for you! The PTA is offering a program suited to the needs of newcomers — be you new to the community or old-timers just newly enrolled at Mantua Elementary School.

The Newcomer's Program will take place on **Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00pm - 8:30pm** in the Mantua school library. Check your child's Tuesday folder for more details.

Cool Off at the Ice Cream Social

Want to enjoy one last "scoop" of a summer pleasure? Look no further than Mantua Elementary School when the Ice Cream Social returns, **Friday, September 12 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. The annual event is fun for the entire family. The social takes place on the playground behind the school (or in the gym if it's raining). Ice cream sundaes and light sticks/necklaces will be on sale. Remember, the playground does not have lighting for evening use, so bring a flashlight if you're planning on staying late. To volunteer to help contact Julia Margulies at 703-987-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

Principal's Coffee

The first principal's coffee of the year will be at the home of Barbara Suidikas on **Thursday, September 25th**. All are welcome. The topic is "Being Good News Ambassadors". Our Principal, Jan-Marie Fernandez will explain the superintendent's focus on sharing the good news about our schools with the surrounding community. Please RSVP to Barbara at 703-385-0358 or Suidi-barb@aol.com.

Woodson Coalition

The Woodson Coalition is looking for volunteers to assist with several projects. The coalition is part of the Fairfax County Safe and Drug-Free Youth. If you have a spare hour or several hours per week and would like to be part of the solution for drugs and violence in our community, let us know. Currently two positions that receive a stipend are available. For more details, contact Leanne Stynchula at 703-273-5742 or stynchula@cox.net