



# Mantua PTA Alert News

November 2, 2004

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, Nov. 10**  
Odyssey of the Mind-Parent Mtg
- Thursday, Nov. 11**  
Clusters III & VI Joint Meeting
- Friday, Nov. 12**  
Book Fair Begins
- Wednesday, Nov. 17**  
Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Grades K-3
- Thursday, Nov. 18**  
Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Grades 4-6
- Friday, Nov. 19 & Saturday, Nov. 20**  
Drama Club Presents "An Evening with Mark Twain"

On behalf Cluster Directors, John English and Mike Engley, it is with pleasure that they invite you to attend the following:

**Cluster III & Cluster VI  
Joint Community Meeting  
At Woodson High School,  
Cafeteria A On**

**Thursday, November 11, 2004**

Hear Dr. Jack Dale address current topics of interest and his vision for FCPS and School Board Members

There will be an opportunity for parents to participate in a question & answer session with Dr. Dale and School Board Members

### Agenda:

- 7:00 p.m. Cluster Directors  
Welcome & Intro
- 7:10 p.m. Jack Dale  
Meet the Superintendent

### Current Topics of Interest:

#### **Vision for FCPS**

- 8:00 p.m. Board Members Comments (if desired)
- 8:20 p.m. Cluster Directors Q& A

*Light refreshments will be served*

## CHECK OUT THE ON-LINE AUCTION

The 2004 Mantua PTA Online Auction is up and running. As it always has, the Auction gives you the opportunity to get great stuff at great prices. And with practically no overhead this year, almost every penny you spend on Auction items goes directly to benefit all our kids at Mantua!

All six categories are open for browsing and bidding right now. The Entertainment and Merchandise categories close on November 17, though, and what a shame it would be to let great opportunities like these slip through your fingers:

- 45-yard line tickets to the Redskins vs Philadelphia, orchestra seats at New York's Metropolitan Opera,
- Disney World park-hopper tickets, an afternoon's cruise on a wonderful, 24-foot Sea Ray Sun Deck boat,
- tickets to DC's Shakespeare Theatre, skiing and snowboarding packages, an incredible home cinema speaker system,
- power-house tennis rackets, a year's worth of delectable breads, beautiful jewelry, and so very, very much more!

Like to get started? Aim your browser at <http://auction.mantuapta.org/>, and check it out! Get a bidder number, check out the catalogs, and start bidding -- before it's all gone....

### **You Don't Need to Wear a Uniform to be a Hero...Be a Mentor! Join MentorWorks!**

MentorWorks is a countywide program now being used in Fairfax County Public Schools in order to connect as many students as possible with an additional caring adult. In this role, the mentor spends about a half hour a week with the same child over the school year. The visits usually take place during the child's lunch period (or after school at SACC if the child is enrolled there). Training provided. Help a Child! Become a Mentor!

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile program, please contact Pam Promisel at [ppromisel@cox.net](mailto:ppromisel@cox.net) (703 280-9812) or Teresa McConnel at [teresa.mcconnel@fcps.edu](mailto:teresa.mcconnel@fcps.edu) (703 645-6300).

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

•On Friday, October 29th, Mantua students were involved in mock elections for the President of the United States. The primary classrooms did a paper version in a voting booth. Third through sixth grade students participated in an on-line voting procedure. Interestingly enough both results were a 50/50 split between President Bush and Senator Kerry.

•While our students enjoyed two-days off, teachers enjoyed holding parent conferences and discussing your child(ren)'s progress.

•On Wednesday, November 3, 2004 we began the second grading period.

•This week we said goodbye to Ms. Amy Woodburn and welcomed Ms. Jacqueline (Jackie) Knodel as our new kindergarten teacher. Ms. Woodburn will be out for the remainder of the school year in order to spend time with her new baby.

•Our Parent Liaison, Mrs. Huang, has a desk in the main office. Mrs. Huang is fluent in English, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and French. The role of a Parent Liaison is to serve as a link between home and school. They appreciate the school's cultural diversity and work to foster unity, cohesiveness, and cooperation among all families.

•On Thursday, November 4th and Friday, November 5th, select students from grades 3 through 6 completed Cog At Testing.

## WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

Washington National Opera 's acclaimed school progra, the Opera Look-in, is now available for the first time to family audiences. This one hour performance includes demonstrations by members of the Washington National Opera Orchestra and production staff, and culminates with lively excerpts from Federico Moreno Torroba's zarzuela, Luis Fernanda, with full staging, costumes and orchestra.

**Event time:** Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. @ the Kennedy Center Opera House. **Cost:** youth-\$10.00 Adults \$15-35.00

For more info, visit their website at [www.dc-opera.org](http://www.dc-opera.org) or call 800.US.OPERA.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VISIT THE MANTUA ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR

The annual Mantua Book Fair will be held in the school library with hundreds of titles from Bookworm Plantation, both fiction and non-fiction for all ages, pre-school to adult. Teacher "wish lists" will be available should you want to donate books to your child's classroom. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the school library. Also, don't forget to check our librarian's wish list to donate a book to the library in your child's name.

Hours for the sale are as follows:

Friday, November 12

8:30 AM to 4 PM

Monday, November 15

8:30 AM to 4 PM

Tuesday, November 16

8:30 AM to 8 PM

**EXTENDED HOURS!!!**

Wednesday, November 17

8:30 AM to 4 PM

Thursday, November 18

8:30 AM to 4 PM

Friday, November 19

8:30 AM to 12 noon

Please note that the sale ends at noon so that we may pack up the remaining books for the vendor. Parents, please remember to visit the book fair while at the school



## DRAMA CLUB

Mark your calendars for November 19th and 20th. This year's Drama Club presents "An Evening with Mark Twain" in the form of three short plays and a musical.

The Trial of Tom Sawyer by Virginia Glasgow Kosie is a play taken from The Adventures of Tom Sawyer with such great characters as Becky Thatcher, Aunt Polly, Huck Finn and of course, Tom Sawyer.

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain adapted by Joellen Bland. This is the classic tale of switched identities of a young prince in the 1500's and a poor pauper, each wanting to know how the other half lives.

In the Garden of Eden adapted from Twain by Tim Kelly. A young Mark Twain takes us to the Garden of Eden where we meet tourists, bird watchers, animals and of course, Adam and Eve. A light hearted tale of Twain's view of Eden.

Musical Twain This upbeat musical and dance production features two original songs by John Engerman The Grandest River in the World and Tall Tales on the Mississippi.

Come join us for an evening of drama, song and dance! Show time begins at 7:00pm. Saturday's performance will be sign language interpreted.

## WOODSON COMMUNITY COALITION

AN EVENING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

In conjunction with the Woodson and Frost PTAs and the Woodson Students Against Destructive Decisions, we invite parents and students to an evening with STEVE FITZ-HUGH presenting "MAKING RIGHT CHOICES". on Tuesday, Nov 23 at 7pm in the Frost Cafeteria. Steve is a noted speaker and retired NFL player who relates a positive message on critical issues affecting our children today encouraging them to make the right choices.

NEXT MEETING:

Coalition Connection Coffee on Tuesday, December 7 at 10 am at the JCC.

## KIDS CARE CLUB NEWS

### CALLING ALL LEAF RAKERS!!!

The Kids Care Club needs your services this weekend. Meet in front of the school at 10am on Saturday, Nov 13. Crews will be assigned to rake several of our senior neighbors' yards—all with plenty of leaves. If you can't make it right at 10 o'clock, but would like to join us, check the front door of the school for a posting of where crews will be and join one if you can. If Saturday just isn't a good date, but you still want to participate, contact Jennifer Cooper, [jalcooper@aol.com](mailto:jalcooper@aol.com) 703-426-2490 to be assigned a yard to rake at your convenience. There are plenty of leaves for everyone!! See you Saturday!

### KEEP THE EYEGLASSES COMING!!

The Kids Care Club will collect old eyeglasses until November 24 to donate to the Lions Club/LensCrafters project of repairing them for those in need.

### NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, DEC 2 3:30-4:30 to discuss our December Holiday Giving project.

### ODYSSEY OF THE MIND INFORMATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Reminder- The OM information night will be this Wednesday, November 10 at 7:30pm in the Mantua Library. Come join in the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Randi Kirkland at (703) 208-2262 or at [randi\\_kirkland@yahoo.com](mailto:randi_kirkland@yahoo.com).

## PTA RECYCLING

The Mantua PTA collects and recycles empty printer cartridges and cell phones. Not only does this cut down on the amount of waste sent to landfills, but we raise money for PTA programs, as well. If you have empty inkjet, laser, fax, and copier cartridges, or used cell phones, please put them in the drop box located in the school lobby under the PTA bulletin board. (Please don't include toner bottles, toner tubes, or printer ribbons as these are not recyclable.) If possible, pack the larger cartridges in their original boxes. If you have any questions or are interested in having cartridges shipped directly from your home or office, please e-mail Donna Konigsberg at [dkk@cox.net](mailto:dkk@cox.net).

## HANDS ON SCIENCE WINTER REGISTRATION

Registration forms (bright green) for "Connectivity"...Architecture and Engineering, are in this Tuesday's folder. See the form for exciting class descriptions. The winter session will start the week of January, 31, 2005. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis so REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!. The last day to register will be Wednesday, November 24. Questions? Please contact Randi Kirkland at (703) 208-2262 or at [randi\\_kirkland@yahoo.com](mailto:randi_kirkland@yahoo.com)

## Alert News Contributions

Send via email to [alertnews@mantuapta.org](mailto:alertnews@mantuapta.org) or contact Mary Rustick at 703-591-7160.

Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesh and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing and to Stacy Burdetsky for proofreading.