



Mantua PTA Alert News

January 18, 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Jan. 18

New Dangers in a New Age Seminar, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

GT Parent Info Night, Woodson, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Kids Care Club Meeting, 3:30

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Yearbook Order Forms Due

Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Teacher Work Days, No School

Kids Care Club

The next Kids Care Club meeting is Tuesday, Jan 25 from 3:30-4:30. Please notify Jennifer Cooper, jal-cooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490 if you would like to attend. All K-6th graders are welcome. We will be discussing the upcoming talent show.

Share to Care: A Talent Show

All who submitted audition forms for the Talent Show have been given an audition time and date. Please contact Jennifer Cooper if you have not received information regarding your audition.

Cafeteria News

Remember that the Mantua Cafeteria is open for Breakfast from 8:30-9:10. Students may use their lunch cards to purchase breakfast. The cost is \$1. Parents, too, are welcome to join their student for just \$1.30. Please keep track of the amount on your child's lunch card. Students hands are stamped when their accounts are running low, meaning they can purchase lunch 4 more times. Please send in a check (Mantua Cafeteria) to keep accounts current. Thanks, and Happy New Year from Esmerelda and the Cafeteria Staff.

Seminar: New Dangers in a New Age

Willow Springs ES counselor Mary Davenport will be at Mantua on Tuesday, January 18, with a program to help parents learn how to monitor and protect their children (and themselves) from the constant bombardment of the many kinds of media. Ms. Davenport has done research on media sources and their effects on children. Her presentation will look at the effects of the internet, instant messaging and chat rooms, video games, movies and videos, music, and advertising can have. The results can be harmful to children, and are often at odds with the lessons we try to teach them. There will be an opportunity to discuss issues and solutions. Please join us for a lively, thought-provoking, and informative seminar sponsored by the Mantua PTA. It will be in the library, Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

TC After-School Program is Back!

The Mantua Total Communications Program is running the second annual After School Program for the deaf and hard of hearing students for the next several weeks. After hearing the amazing presentation at the PTA meeting, I'm sure all of you will want to get involved. The Wednesday evening programs are for the deaf and hard of hearing students and their families. This is a time for the families, many of whom know little English or sign language, to learn how to communicate with their child. This is a time of great joy for these students! Please volunteer to:

- Make 2 dozen goodies (non-messy finger foods in a disposable container – like cookies, brownies, cupcakes).
- Deliver them to the Mantua office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- Mark them as "TC DESSERTS."

You may send them in with your child in the morning if this is more convenient for you. The dates are as follows:

January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9. Please email DeeAnn Jeremiah at djeremiah@cox.net and let me know which date(s) you can help. We need about 4-5 volunteers each week. I thank you in advance for your kindness, which will enable TOTAL COMMUNICATION fun for families who have many obstacles to hurdle. *DeeAnn Jeremiah*

Capitol Steps Coming to Woodson

The Capitol Steps is a professional musical political satire group, offering a great evening of comedy. They will be appearing at Woodson High School on Sunday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Normally, performances are \$34, but for the March 6 performance, donations are \$22 in advance, \$27 at the door. The WT Woodson Band and the Class of 2005 Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Celebration benefit from your donation. A limited number of reserved, block seating will be available for groups of 24 or more. For advance purchase, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and check payable to 'WTW Band Patrons' to: Capitol Steps, 9318 Tovito Dr, Fairfax, VA 22031. For further information, call 703-385-4827.

See other side for more of the Alert News.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to 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.

The Carnival is Coming! Please Volunteer

The Carnival Committee has been hard at work, and plans are well under way for a terrific day of fun and community building, not to mention fundraising for our School.

The Carnival will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. inside the school, and this year's theme is "Medieval Mantua."

There are two jobs for which the organizers really need volunteers to come forward NOW. We need booth coordinators for all of following classes: Crow, Capps, Calder, Churchwell, Walrath, Temple, Leonard, Kaplan, Moore, Garneski, Fortunato, Coutcher, Aragona, and the TC Group.

The booth coordinator is responsible for choosing a game for the class booth, and naming the booth either with input of the class and/or teacher or independently. The coordinator is also responsible for working with the teacher to have the kids decorate a banner for the class game booth. He/she also either goes or secures a volunteer to go on Friday night before the Carnival to set up the booth, and finally is responsible for securing class parent volunteers to work shifts at the booth on Carnival Day.

The overall booth coordinators will be calling a meeting with the class coordinators sometime in the next couple of weeks and will provide a list of game options. The coordinators can expect a lot of support from the Carnival booth organizers as well as the Carnival Chairs.

We need folks to step up and say "yes" to this job that is so vital to making the Carnival a success for the kids. Please contact Laura Mead at fpsquared@cox.net or (703) 876-2688 if you can help with the booth for one of the aforementioned classes.

The other immediate volunteer need is that of class "theme" gift basket coordinator. *We need someone from each class to come forward and volunteer to coordinate their class' basket.* This volunteer would decide on a theme (either on their own, in consultation with the teacher or perhaps by a vote of the class), solicit contributions of either money or gift items for the basket from the class parents and then deliver the basket and its contents to the carnival basket coordinator by a date to be determined before the carnival. **THE CLASS BASKET COORDINATOR DOES NOT HAVE TO BE "CRAFTY" AND DOES NOT HAVE TO WRAP THE BASKET HIM/HERSELF.** The basket committee will be happy to either wrap your basket for you or teach you how at a small party we will host to arrange, shrink wrap and decorate the gift baskets.

If you are willing to coordinate your class gift basket, please call or e-mail Jane Love at (703) 503-2045 or jlove@aftra.com as soon as possible. Don't forget to indicate the class for which you are volunteering to spearhead this project.

The committee will help you all along the way, from suggesting theme ideas, providing sample letters for your class parents to subsidizing your basket should you have any trouble soliciting donations, so please don't be apprehensive about volunteering!

Please feel free to call or e-mail Jane Love if you have any questions about the gift basket project.