

Mantua PTA Alert News

October 9, 2012



PTA Meeting: This Thursday, October 11

The monthly PTA meeting will be held in the Mantua school library at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, October 11th**. There is no better place to learn from our principal Mrs. Fernandez about what's happening at Mantua. Come say hello to Mrs. Fernandez and our assistant principals, Mrs. Tingler and Ms. Alley.

Important Parking Information from the Police Department!

Families in our immediate Mantua Elementary neighborhood have expressed concerns to the Fairfax County Police Department regarding the following: illegally parked cars near the school which prohibit residents from accessing their driveway, parked cars blocking the flow of traffic, and adults and children not making use of the crosswalks.

As a result of these concerns, you may have recently seen a digital sign posted by the Police Department to remind drivers to adhere to parking regulations and proper use of crosswalks. In an effort to educate and enforce traffic laws, police officers may be stationed at the corner of Southwick and Kirkwood as well as near our Kiss & Ride to monitor the flow of traffic. At some point, officers will move into enforcing parking and crosswalk laws by issuing tickets to violators.

As a reminder, those of you who park in front of the school on the other side of the

grassy island need to park facing Kirkwood and not the cul-de-sac. Cars parked in the wrong direction will be ticketed. If you need to park your car on Kirkwood, be sure that your car is at least 10 feet away from a driveway. Also, please make sure you leave enough room for buses and cars to pass. If your parked car does not allow for the flow of traffic, tickets may be issued.

On a side note, during the week of October 22nd, police officers will be passing out literature regarding car seat regulations. They will also be available to help make sure car seats are installed properly for any interested parties.

Bus Passes and Kiss & Ride Passes

At Mantua we have a pass system established for days when students are not going home from school by the usual method. This system has been set up to safeguard your children. Please send an email no later than 12:00 p.m. of the day of the change to Barbara.Hinton@fcps.edu so that she can prepare the appropriate pass. If your student is going home with a friend, both families will need to contact Mrs. Hinton. Bus passes will be issued if the students plan to ride the bus.

In addition, if your student is being picked up early during the school day, please notify the office as early as possible in the day. Many students have varied schedules, and it can be time-consuming to track them down when you arrive. Please feel free to copy your child's homeroom teacher on any emails you send. Contact Mrs. Hinton with any questions.

Our Silent Auction: Here's How You Can Help!

This year's Mantua Elementary PTA online auction will take place BEFORE the

winter holidays! Our 2-week annual online auction will open for bidding on Tuesday, November 6th. PTA fundraisers make a big difference toward supporting the school. Auction proceeds will help support educational field trips, classroom technology, library books, and other learning opportunities for Mantua students.

You could participate in several ways:

- 1) Donate goods, services, and/or gift cards to the auction. You can drop off donations at the front office.
- 2) Solicit donations from businesses that you patronize using the auction donation form. Donation forms are available at auction.mantuapta.org/DonationForm2012.pdf.
- 3) Recommend businesses for the PTA to solicit on the auction website.
- 4) Bid on items during the auction between Tuesday 11/6 - Tuesday 11/20.

Visit [PTA Silent Auction](#) to get a copy of the auction donation form and to submit business recommendations. Please contact Auction Chairs Alice Wang & Donna Hoover at Mantua.PTA.Auction@gmail.com if you have any questions. Please help make this event a success!

Digital Kidz Robotics Classes Start Next Week

We are very excited to have Weebotics and Robotics classes starting next week at Mantua Elementary! If you filled out a registration form, you should have been contacted about which day your child(ren) will attend and with additional information about snacks, pickup, etc. If you have not been contacted, please

contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

Spanish 1 Class: Spaces Still Available

FLEX Spanish 1 is starting this Thursday from 4:10-5:10 p.m. for grades 3-6 in Room 12. There are more spots open in the class, so if you have an interest, please e-mail [Deirdre Mayes](#).

Order Your Spirit Wear by this Friday

Spirit wear with a new Rocky Raccoon design for the 2012-13 school year is now on sale! T-shirts, hoodies, sweat pants, performance shirts, pajama pants and car magnets are all in the new collection. Show your school spirit and order something today! If you do not have your order form, additional copies can be found [HERE](#).

Please return the form with payment to the PTA mailbox by **Friday, October 12th**. Delivery will be on Friday, November 9th. All purchased items will go home in your child's backpack. Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions.

Mantua Basketball Registration

We are currently taking online sign-ups for Mantua Basketball. The Mantua Basketball League has been providing 3rd-6th graders an opportunity to learn basketball in a neighborhood environment for over 30 years. The league is organized into four divisions: grades 3-4 Boys, grades 3-4 Girls, grades 5-6 Boys, and grades 5-6 Girls. All registrations and communications are online this year at www.mantuabasketball.org.

Please note the following information about the registration deadline and fees:

Registration ends on Friday, October 19th.

Fees are \$50 (for PTA members) and \$55 (for non-PTA members)

After October 12th, registration fees are \$60 (for PTA members) and \$65 (for non-PTA members.)

We are very excited about the new gym floor and hope you'll join us to make this year as successful as in years past. If you have any questions email League Commissioner [Sam Mayes](#). We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Art Reflections Program

*Create a dance, draw a picture, write a story or a poem! The Arts Reflections Program is here! If your child has a love of the arts, this program is for them! This competition is open to all elementary grades K-6. Categories include: dance choreography, music composition, film production, photography, literature, and visual arts. The 2012-13 theme is "The Magic of the Moment." How does it work? Have your child think about the theme, create an original piece of work in any of the above mentioned categories, and then submit that work no later than **Friday, November 9th** in the PTA office mail box. It's THAT easy!! An entry form went home in recent Tuesday folders but if you did not receive one, please click [HERE](#) to download one. If you have any questions or need further information, please email [Lori Prendergast](#).*

Counselor's Corner: Red Ribbon Week Activities

Mantua Elementary will celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 22-26. The Red Ribbon Campaign was started in 1985 to honor DEA agent Kiki Camarena, who

lost his life in the fight against drugs. Throughout the week, schools and community groups hold various activities aimed at keeping students, staff, and community members safe and drug free. Staff and students at Mantua are encouraged to dress up each day based on the themes listed below:

Monday, 10/22 - Elect to be Drug Free: Wear red, white, and blue or the American Flag pattern.

Tuesday, 10/23 - Team Up Against Drugs and Alcohol: Wear your favorite sports team clothing.

Wednesday, 10/24 - I've Got Better Things to Do than Drugs: Wear red.

Thursday, 10/25 - Too Bright to Do Drugs: Wear your favorite neon colors.

Friday, 10/26 - Say BOO to Drugs and Alcohol: Each grade levels will dress up for the Spirit Parade - information will come from your teachers.

Managing Meltdowns at Home

This workshop is intended for parents of students with the low incidence disabilities of Autism, Intellectual Disabilities or Physical Disabilities. Two sessions will be offered on October 17 and 18 at Leis Center and Gatehouse Administrative Center.

Download flier and registration information at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA>.

Directory Advertising Space Still Available

Congratulations to our Back Page Auction winner for our upcoming Student Directory: Kumon Math and Reading at 9916 Main Street! We thank all of our advertisers for their support. While it is too late to bid on the back page, you may

still show your support by placing an advertisement. You can show your support for as little as \$30 for a business card size ad, so if you have a small business, here is your chance to get your name out there. All PTA members will receive a directory, so please join the PTA, if you haven't already. Please contact Monika Brenner if your information was incorrect last year so it can be corrected for this year's directory. For information on advertising, please click [HERE](#) or contact [Monika Brenner](#).

Clinic Aide Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few parents to attend training to assist our clinic aide and/or to be a volunteer substitute for our clinic aide. The training is just 2 hours, and there are a number of dates to choose from. Once trained, volunteers will be able to help Mantua's Clinic Aide with health and vision screenings and other times throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to support our children and our staff! If you are interested in attending a training, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

The Community Building Network Needs You!

The Community Building Network maintains a sense of school spirit and unity. This network is of great value to our students and parents alike. This Community Building Network has been created to help overcome any barriers that parents/guardians face in relation to and/or about school matters. Such barriers may be based on language differences, cultural differences, gender differences or socioeconomic differences. The Community Building Network needs a new leader! This person will help connect families by arranging a few gatherings, keeping track of families that are willing to help with translations, and responding to requests for assistance within our multicultural community. If you are interested in helping with

the Community Building Network, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

2013 Virginia PTA Proposed Legislative Agenda

If you are a member of the Mantua PTA, we encourage you to take 5 minutes of your time to vote on education issues of importance to you and your children. If approved by members, the issues will become part of the Virginia PTA 2013 Legislative Priorities. The Virginia PTA will use these Legislative Priorities to advocate on statewide education issues. Please vote by **October 12th** to have your voice heard. To vote, please go to this [WEBSITE](#). In addition, you may access the voting ballot through Mantua's PTA [WEBSITE](#).

Fall Box Tops Contest

The Fall Box Tops Contest ends Friday, October 19th. Our goal is to raise \$1,500. Send in Box Tops Labels and Labels for Education labels in a plastic zipped bag with the teacher's name and grade on it. You may also send in Tyson's Project A+ labels. They can be found on most Tyson's frozen chicken products.

Labels should be dropped in the collection box in the front lobby. Please do not send in expired labels. A special prize will be awarded for the class that brings in the most labels. Look by the collection box to find out which class is in the lead. A list of participating products can be found at: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com and www.projectaplus.tyson.com.

Another great way to earn box tops is to "Click & Earn". After registering at www.boxtops4education.com, go to the top of the web page to "Earn" then "Click & Earn". By viewing very short videos and answering 1 or 2 survey questions, you can earn even more box tops for Mantua. Although the online box tops don't count for the contest, they will add up for more money for the school. New videos and surveys are added during the year so be sure to revisit the website during the school year to earn even more "Click & Earn" money. For any questions contact [Sandy Spector](#).

DVDs of Last Year's Fifth Grade AAP Performance and the Fifth Grade Flash Mob for Ms. Thompson Still Available!

There are still copies available of last year's 5th grade AAP performance and 5th grade flash mob. Cost is \$10 each. Please send cash or check to Mantua PTA in an envelope marked "Fifth Grade Performance DVD 2012" as well as your child's name and teacher's name. DVDs will be delivered through the Tuesday Folders.

Important Upcoming Events

Thurs. Oct. 11: PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 12: Deadline for ordering Spirit Wear

Fri. Oct. 19: Deadline for Mantua Basketball Registration

Fri. Oct. 19: Box Tops Contest Ends

How to Raise Financially Aware Kids!

Help your children appreciate the value of a dollar. Understanding how to raise financially aware kids is important so that children learn what they can do with money early in life. By forming good financial habits early, your children can apply what they learn at home as they grow to face financial expectations in the adult world.

Join us on Monday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Mantua school library for this informative workshop. We'll discuss money values, allowances, putting your money to work, smart spending, understanding a child's needs versus wants, and how to involve kids in the family finances. Our guest speaker will be Sam Eisen, Virginia Chapter Director of the Foundation for Personal Financial Education (FPFE), a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to financial awareness in the community. More

details to follow in your child's Tuesday folder. Contact [Margaret Scheele@yahoo.com](mailto:Margaret.Scheele@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Paying for College Information Night

Student Services Department at Woodson High School is hosting an event to educate you on paying for college and financial aid. Learn what goes into the cost of college, how to pay for college, what is financial aid and who is eligible, the ins and outs of the college financial aid process. and much more. The Paying for College Information Night will be held on Wednesday, October 10 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Cavalier Hall. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend. All are welcome. For more information, contact kaishii@fcpschools.net.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Open House

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is having their annual open house on **Saturday, October 13th**, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to learn about TJHSST's academic programs and the admissions process. You will have a chance to talk to TJHSST students, teachers, parents, alumni, and admissions staff. Visit TJHSST's classrooms and unique research laboratories. For more information, visit www.TJAdmissions.org, email TJAdmissions@fcps.edu or call 571-423-3770.

Alert News Contributions

Send items via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org.

Submissions MUST be received by the Friday before distribution in order to be included.

如果您需要一份中文的曼图亚小学校园新闻周刊，请联系雷晓春女士。电话：703-425-

1097

电子邮箱 : sabrina.lei@yahoo.com

한국어로번역된뉴스를받아보시기원하시는분은 크리스티씨께연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065, 이메일 choichristie@yahoo.com.

Nếu quý vị muốn nhận tin tức "the Alert News" được dịch ra tiếng Việt , xin liên lạc sonha60@hotmail.com

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor llame Gabriella Numbela a 703-573-6375 or e-mail a ganumbela@hotmail.com.

2012-13 FCPS & PTA Calendar at a Glance [HERE](#)

Mantua Parent Handbook [HERE](#)

* Stay informed all year long by visiting our website: www.MantuaPTA.org

* Are you on Facebook? Stay informed by joining us: [HERE](#)

Sincerely,

Mantua Elementary School PTA

