

Mantua PTA Alert News November 27, 2012



Registration for Mantua Winter Enrichment Program

Packets with information about classes that are being offered January through March were sent home in last week's Tuesday Folders. Paper Registration for Yoga and Pottery is **already open** - you may return your permission slip/registration form with payment to the Mantua PTA box anytime between now and December 5th. Online Registration for bRiKadventures, Spa Science, MusiQ, and Robotics opens this week on Tuesday, **November 27th** at 10:00 p.m. Classes with Online Registration will be filled on a first come, first served basis. You can find the class information [HERE](#). If you have questions about the Enrichment Program at Mantua, please contact [Teresa LeMair](#).

Restaurant Night at Pizza Hut: TONIGHT

The Mantua PTA will host a Family Fun Night Out this week on Tuesday, **November 27th** at the Pizza Hut on the corner of Prosperity Avenue and Little River Turnpike from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come dine-in, carry out or request delivery and enjoy pizza, pasta, wings, sides and desserts. Pizza Hut will donate 20% of the evening's sales to the Mantua PTA when the Mantua Fundraiser Night flyer is presented at the time of purchase. Flyers were distributed in Tuesday folders. For additional flyers, click [HERE](#). Contact [Kathleen DeCarlo](#) with any questions. Buon appetito!

Auction Item Pick-Up Begins November 30th

Thank you to all the families who participated in this year's auction. Your items will be ready for pick up in the office beginning on Friday, **November 30th**. You may pay with Paypal or a check to Mantua PTA. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Wang or Donna Hoover at mantua.pta.auction@gmail.com.

Support Mantua While Shopping on Amazon

Please support Mantua when you shop for the holidays, birthdays and gifts! By using the Amazon link on the Mantua PTA website, you can shop (privately and securely) and Mantua can receive up to 10% of your purchase. To get started, simply go to the [PTA website](#) and start shopping! By accessing Amazon through the Mantua PTA website, you will be on your way to shopping and supporting your favorite school!

Help Your Neighbors with the Kids Care Club this Saturday!

Kids Care Club will be raking leaves for seniors on Saturday, **December 1st**. If you would like to join us for this event, please contact Amy Smith at 703-383-5808 or ndbames@gmail.com for details. All help is welcome! Bring your rakes and tarps and join us for a wonderful morning helping our neighbors.

Expansion of AAP Centers: Meeting on November 29th

The Advanced Academic Placement Task Force, which began its work in the spring, is recommending that the number of AAP Level IV centers increase so that each FCPS pyramid has a center. Currently, six pyramids are without an AAP center, requiring students to travel out of their pyramid—and sometimes to a different cluster—to receive these services. The Task Force recommends establishing new AAP

centers in the Annandale, Edison, Falls Church, Marshall, South County, and Robinson pyramids. It is also recommending that the 15 FCPS middle schools without an AAP Level IV center should establish one.

Parents, principals, staff members, and citizens are being asked to provide input about whether their schools might be ready for these changes during the 2013-14 school year or if the changes should be deferred to the 2014-15 school year.

Considerations include space availability, facility readiness, teacher training, quality of the new program, timing, and community readiness.

The impact on Mantua would be the loss of our feeder schools from the Falls Church pyramid. We would be sharing the Woodson Pyramid elementary schools with Canterbury Woods' AAP Center. Therefore, both of our Centers would be reduced in size. The community information meeting for our cluster will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29th, in the Kilmer Middle School cafeteria. For more information on this proposal and to find out about the upcoming information meetings, please go to

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=2116>.

Mantua Yearbooks: Online Ordering ONLY

This year, Mantua yearbooks can be purchased online only. To purchase your student's yearbook, go to www.jostens.com. Point your mouse to the "Yearbooks" tab, and click on "Buy Your Yearbook." Enter "Mantua" in the school line, and you will be brought to the purchasing page where you can buy your child's yearbook for \$25. Personalization is extra. You can also find a link on the [Mantua PTA Website](#).

Prices go up February 1st, so order your yearbook now!

Science Fair Club

Are you interested in organizing a Science Fair Club for grades 3-6? Parent volunteers will guide students through the scientific process as students design and conduct a scientific experiment. The results of the student research will be presented at the Mantua Science Fun Night on April 11th. Science Fair Club will meet on Wednesdays, January 9th-April 10th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Anbu Vijay, Haydee Cooper, and Eva Bousbouras at mantuasciencefair@gmail.com.

Science Fun Night

Interested in sharing your enthusiasm for science? Know an expert who'd like to "ignite" the love of science? We are interested in recruiting science experts for a Mantua Science Fun Night on April 11th (grades 3-6). Please contact Anbu Vijay, Haydee Cooper, and Eva Bousbouras at MantuaScienceFunNight@gmail.com.

Treasure Island DVDs Available for Purchase

DVDs of this year's performance of Treasure Island are available for \$10 each! If you'd like to purchase a DVD (or more than one), please send cash or check to Mantua PTA in an envelope with the following information to the Mantua PTA mailbox: "Treasure Island DVD", Student's Name, Teacher's Name. DVDs will be delivered via Tuesday Folders. If you have questions, please contact [Teresa LeMair](mailto:TeresaLeMair@gmail.com).

Counselor's Corner: November Spirit Days

November Spirit Days

- **Wednesday, November 28th** - Postsecondary Day - Dress to show post-secondary options by wearing your favorite college clothing, military clothing,

or dress as a career that would attend a trade school or apprenticeship (plumber, electrician, etc.)

- **Thursday, November 29th** – Careers Related to Core Subjects – Dress as a career related to Language Arts, Math, Science, History, or the Arts. Examples: Writer/Journalist, Scientist, Artist, Actor, Musician, Meteorologist, etc.
- **Friday, November 30th** – Community Helpers – Dress as a career that helps the community. Examples: Police Officer, Firefighter, Nurse, Doctor, Teacher, Environmentalist, etc.

A Message from Mantua's Italian Teachers

Dear Parents,

FLES is an acronym that stands for Foreign Language in the Elementary School. It is an approach to language learning that allows students to develop basic communication skills in a language while reinforcing and enriching content in other disciplines. As you know, here at Mantua our foreign language is Italian.

FLES instruction is proficiency-oriented. This means that there is a greater focus on meaningful and purposeful communication than on grammatical mastery. Students are encouraged first to understand and then to produce in the language. The target language is used by both teachers and students.

Students need time to process a new language. Listening comes first and then speaking. Students learn how to use the word and not to translate it. Italian teachers scaffold their lessons to help the students learn. Repetition of Italian vocabulary within a meaningful context helps students increase their retention of the language.

Teachers use different methods including many different games and songs so the students will participate and understand the lesson. It is important that the

students look and listen to the FLES (Italian) teacher since the teacher is pointing at or showing something that he/she is talking about.

Students do not have homework in FLES (Italian). However, if your child is interested in practicing his/her Italian skills they may want to use with parents' assistance one of the following websites: <http://www.languageguide.org/italiano/> and <http://www.stpauls.it/gio/>.

Important Upcoming Events

Tues. Nov 27: Restaurant Night at Pizza Hut

Thurs. Nov 29: AAP Center Expansion Meeting

Fri. Nov 30: Auction Item Pick-Up Begins

Sat. Dec 1: Rake Leaves with Kids Care Club

Wed. Dec 5: Workshop - Raising Financially Aware Kids

Mon. Dec 17: Winter Choral Concert

Tues. Dec 18: Winter Band Concert

Fri. Dec. 21: All-School Winter Sing-Along

"Yes, You Can Raise Financially Aware Kids" Workshop

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 Wednesday, **December 5th** at 7:00 p.m. (rescheduled from October 29th) for this informative workshop. We'll discuss money values, allowances, putting your money to work, smart spending and understanding a child's needs versus wants, and how to involve kids in the family finances. Our guest speaker will be Sam Eisen, fellow Mantua resident and Virginia Chapter Director of the Foundation for Personal Financial Education (FPFE), a non-

profit 501c3 organization dedicated to financial awareness in the community. Child care will be available for a nominal fee. More information can be found [HERE](#). Contact Margaret.Scheele@yahoo.com to register or with any questions.

FCPS Superintendent Search

As you may be aware, Dr. Jack D. Dale announced his retirement as Division Superintendent effective June 30, 2013. As a result, the Fairfax County School Board has initiated its search for a new Division Superintendent.

All Fairfax County residents will have the opportunity to attend community open forums. The following community forums are open to any member of the community and will start at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria:

December 3rd at South County High School, December 4th at Langley High School, December 5th at Robinson Secondary School, and December 6th at Annandale High School.

Also, two community open forums will be held at the Fairfax County Public Schools Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, in Room 1600, on December 6th at 10:00 a.m. and December 7th at 1:00 p.m. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to provide your input.

Additional information about the Superintendent Search can also be found at www.fcps.edu.

Woodson High School: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, and cheat. Now they have taken over the church's annual Christmas pageant! The entire

town has gathered in anticipation, waiting to see the Herdmans ruin Christmas – or will they? This funny, heartwarming, holiday tale has become a classic and is good for the entire family.

This production will benefit the work of "The Young Hearts", a group of students from Woodson High School students who raise funds to battle blood cancers and other diseases. A portion of all proceeds from this production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation in pursuit of their important mission. The production will be in honor of Madame Nelson, a valuable Woodson teacher who recently passed away from blood cancer.

Performances will be at the James Lee Community Center Theater on December 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, and 15th at 7:30 p.m. AND on December 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th at 2:00 p.m. Ticket price is \$15. For tickets or information, please go to www.providenceplayers.org or www.youngheartsltn.org.

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，请联系潘红女士。电话：703-939-3403

电子信箱：hpan.home@gmail.com.

한국어로 번역된 뉴스를 받아보시기 원하시는분은 크리스티씨께 연락주세요. 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 email

Ana Castelan a anav49@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

