



December 4, 2017 | Issue no. 16

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## Important Upcoming Dates

**December 5** (Wednesday): 5th and 6th Grade Winter Band Concert.

**December 8** (Friday): PTA Meeting 9:30am, cafeteria.

**December 8-9** (Friday/Saturday): Seussical the Musical at Mantua, see below for times.

## The Front Office is Going High Tech!

Soon after the Thanksgiving break all visitors and volunteers will be asked to sign into the building using the electronic Scholar Chip Visitor Management System. To use the Scholar Chip system, simply scan your driver's license, DMV ID card, military ID or passport. The system will then take your picture and print your individualized visitor sticker. If you don't have these forms of ID, you will be asked to enter your name and address manually on the screen, then take your picture and it will print your visitor's sticker. Before you leave the building scan your license again or manually enter your departure on the screen. If you have any questions or problems when checking in, please feel free to ask someone in the front office to help you.

## Mantua Elementary School Nominated as 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

Mantua ES was selected as a FCPS nominee based on eligibility under the criteria for National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing Schools as defined by the U.S. Education Department (outlined below), and was recommended for nomination by our Region 5 leadership.

### *What Comes Next*

Within the next 4-5 weeks, VDOE will select seven (7) Virginia schools and two (2) alternates as state nominees to send forward

to USED for the final award selection process. If your school is selected as a state nominee, you should expect notification before winter break. State nominees will be invited to a VDOE webinar in February and will complete a Blue Ribbon application process with support from VDOE staff, due in early March. The Blue Ribbon applications will undergo final review by USED for national award determinations. National award winners will be announced in September 2018.

#### *More about the Program*

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes: 1) schools whose students achieve at very high levels; and 2) schools making significant progress in closing academic achievement gaps among different groups of students. More information, including applications from past award winners, can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

#### *Eligibility Determination Process*

The VDOE will be selecting Virginia nominees for the 2018 award year in the area of Exemplary High Performing Schools based on the following eligibility criteria required by the U.S. Education Department:

- The school must be in the top 15 percent of all public schools in the state when schools are ranked on the performance of all students who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading and mathematics;
- For each of the school's reporting groups (i.e. subgroups), the school must be in the top 40 percent of all public schools in the state when schools are ranked on the performance of all students in the subgroup who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading and mathematics.

This nomination is a credit to the hard work, effort, energy, innovation, and determination of our amazing staff and students. It is also a testament to the tremendous support we receive from our parent community.

## Cafeteria Staff Appreciation Week is this week!

## Reminder: 5th and 6th Grade Human Growth and Development Lessons

The 5th and 6th grade will begin teaching their five Human Growth and Development lessons on **Friday, December 8th, 2017**. The students will be separated by gender and taught by

their grade level teachers and specialist teachers. All students will be included in this lesson unless an opt-out form has been submitted to the school by **December 6th**. Additional opt-out forms can be picked-up in the main office or requested from your child's teacher, or accessed online at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml>

## Advanced Academics Level IV Referral Form for Grades 2-6 due Friday, January

**12th by 4:30pm (hardcopies only).**

Fairfax County Public Schools provides a continuum of gifted services for students. While some levels of these services are provided to all students, other students must be considered eligible through a school/district committee. If you wish to refer your child for consideration for these additional services, the deadline is Friday, January 12th for submitting the form to the Mantua office by 4:30pm (hardcopies only). More information and a link to the referral form is located at <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/advanced-academic-programs> If you wish to have a paper copy of the referral, please contact the school office. Please submit any questions to Eva Bousbouras ([Vaitsa.Bousbouras@fcps.edu](mailto:Vaitsa.Bousbouras@fcps.edu)), Advanced Academics Resource Teacher at Mantua.

## PTA Meeting Date Moved

Date for the next PTA meeting has been moved to **Friday, December 8th @ 9:30** in cafeteria.

## Seussical, Jr., brought to you by the Mantua Drama Club

GET EXCITED! It's almost time for Mantua Drama Club's winter performance! This year, our talented cast is performing Seussical! We are so excited, we've added a 3rd show! Show times are:

- FRIDAY, December 8 - 7pm
- SATURDAY, December 9 - 2pm
- SATURDAY, December 9 - 7pm

Oh the things you can think... when you think about SEUSSICAL!

## Box Top Contest

Congratulations to Mrs Elgert's class for winning the Fall Box Top Contest pizza party! Our next contest deadline will be **February 21, 2018**. Clip, save and collect your box tops in a zip

lock baggie labeled with your teacher's name. Submit your collections to your teacher or the Box Top collection box in the front hallway. The class with the most donations will win a pizza, popsicle or ice cream party!

## National Geographic Bee

If you think you are a Geo-Genius or you'd like to be, please join us for the National Geographic Bee held at Mantua for 4th-6th graders after school on **Tuesday, January 23rd**. Contact Serena Chan ([serena.chan@gmail.com](mailto:serena.chan@gmail.com)) with your student's name and grade level, to receive competition rules and email updates. The National Geographic Bee is an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society, designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Students in grades four through eight (4-8) from 10,000 schools across the United States will compete in the 2018 National Geographic Bee for a chance to win college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic Bee Champion. For more info: <http://nationalgeographic.org/bee>

## Acting Camp and Movie Night - December 9th

Woodson HS Drama is hosting a "Parents Night Out" on **December 9th** for students in grades 1-6. The event runs from 2-8 pm and offers a day of acting, play writing, crafting and a G-rated movie for kids while parents take the afternoon and evening to shop and relax.

Registration and event details are posted on the Woodson Dram website: <http://wtwdrama.org>

If you have any questions about the camp, please contact Kathy Richardson at [krichardsonva@verizon.net](mailto:krichardsonva@verizon.net) or Terri Hobson at [tjhobson@fcps.edu](mailto:tjhobson@fcps.edu).

## Woodson High School Relay for Life

Come help Woodson High School fight cancer at its annual fun-filled overnight event this June 2nd-3rd, located at Woodson's football stadium from 5pm-5am! There will be games, movies, food, musical performances, survivor speakers and more. Join or create a team online and start fundraising towards admission into the event: \$10 to stay until 11pm, \$100 to stay overnight. Funds go towards services and support for cancer patients. Any questions? Email [woodsonrelayforlife@gmail.com](mailto:woodsonrelayforlife@gmail.com).

#whodoyourelayfor [relayforlife.org/woodsonhsva](http://relayforlife.org/woodsonhsva)

## Kid's Night Out!

Saturday, **December 9**, 2017 6pm-10pm Ages 3+  
What: a four hour babysitting service by Robinson

Student Government students including crafts, games, a moonbounce & childrens movie!

Where: Robinson Secondary School Gymnasium

When: Saturday, December 9th, 2017 6pm-10pm

How Much: \$15 for entry, optional \$5 for pizza & snacks

Contact [robinsonKNO@aol.com](mailto:robinsonKNO@aol.com) for more information

What you will need to register:

1. Parental permission and medical release form
2. Emergency care form
3. \$15 for registration plus an optional \$5 for pizza and snacks (checks made out to Robinson SGA)

Forms can be accessed on the Robinson homepage for pre-registration

<http://www2.fcps.edu/RobinsonSS/>

Or can be filled out at the door

Schedule:

6-6:30- registration and introductions

6:30-7:45- stations including crafts, games, and moonbounce!

7:45-8:15- dinner (pizza)

8:15-8:30- games including Just Dance, soccer, and basketball

8:30-10:00- movie

10:00- pick-up

## Yearbook Sales

The 2017-2018 Yearbook is available for purchase. Order now to get the lowest price of the year (\$25).

<http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1139775/Mantua-Elementary-School/>

## We Need You! Mantua Volunteers

Volunteers help make Mantua the amazing school it is. Please click [here](#) to see how you can help! Be sure to click on the tabs at the top for different grade levels. We have opportunities in the classrooms and school-wide. Questions, contact Volunteer Coordinator Jenn Ros at [volunteering@mantuapta.org](mailto:volunteering@mantuapta.org).

## Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans; Make Arrangements Now in Case of an Unforeseen Schedule Change

Cold and wintry weather is on its way! Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late, or to close early.

Parents are urged to make arrangements now for the care of their children when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the

rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of students and staff members:

- Keep schools closed.
- Open two hours late.
- Close two hours early.

When Fairfax County Public Schools has a schedule change (closing or delay) due to inclement weather or other emergencies, [the information is communicated in several ways as soon as the decision is made.](#)

Note: The official [@FCPSnews Twitter](#) account (with blue checkmark) is generally the first and fastest mode of communication during emergency weather closings. Other communication channels will be updated as quickly as possible including email, text, website, other social media, and news stations. Please be aware, due to the large volume of emails sent, there will likely to be a lag between the time a FCPS Twitter alert is posted and receipt of an email in your inbox.

## Shopping Online?

Anyone (parents, family and friends) who shops on Amazon can effortlessly earn money for Mantua ES by simply using a special Amazon link on Mantua PTA website. No sign-ups or codes required, no loyalty cards to manage - just click, shop, and watch the contributions to Mantua ES come in! Help us cast a wider net by sharing the links with friends and family. Go to <http://www.mantuapta.org> and click either Amazon or eScrip before beginning your shopping and these organizations will donate to our school.

## Translators

Translators comprise another vital part of our outreach efforts. We want every Mantua ES family to feel included and connected —should families need to have a document translated into their native language, our volunteers are here to help!

- للحصول على نسخة مترجمة للغة العربية، نرجو الإتصال بالأخت بدرية بكفالة على هذا الإيميل: [bkafala@gmail.com](mailto:bkafala@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email [bkafala@gmail.com](mailto:bkafala@gmail.com).
- Если вам необходимо перевести документ на русский язык, пожалуйста обращайтесь к Анне

Жердецкой или Виктору Жердецкому по электронной почте: [hannaz74@gmail.com](mailto:hannaz74@gmail.com) или

[ViktarZ@gmail.com](mailto:ViktarZ@gmail.com). If you need to have a document translated into Russian, please contact Hanna Zhardzetskaya and Viktar Zhardzetski.

• 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요([cbn@mantuapta.org](mailto:cbn@mantuapta.org).) If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Lisa Libby.

• Para obtener una copia en Espanol favor de contactar a Lisa Libby at [cbn@mantuapta.org](mailto:cbn@mantuapta.org). If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please contact Lisa Libby.

Email Lisa Libby at [cbn@mantuapta.org](mailto:cbn@mantuapta.org) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.

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