



January 22, 2018 | Issue no. 22

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## Important Upcoming Dates

**January 23** (Tuesday): 4th grade parent preview of Human Growth & Development.

**January 24** (Wednesday): Rising 7th Grade Orientation, Luther Jackson MS.

**January 25** (Thursday): TWO-HOUR EARLY RELEASE: School ends at 2:05pm.

**January 26/29** (Friday/Monday): SCHOOL CLOSED: Student Holiday.

**January 30** (Tuesday): Restaurant Night, Flippin Pizza, 4-8pm.

## Human Growth & Development (HGD)

4th grade Parents/Guardians who do not wish for their child to participate in the Human Growth & Development (HGD) lesson must fill out an opt-out form. Please submit this to the main office no later than Monday, February 12th, 2018.

Students who have been opted out will receive a grade-level specific, non-FLE health lesson that meets the VDOE health standards of learning.

## Mantua Language Survey

As you may have heard, Frost Middle School and Woodson High School will no longer be offering Italian as a course selection for students. This change has left us with a decision to make as it relates to continuing with Italian FLEX program versus making a change to a language the children can continue for high school graduation credit.

Continuing in Italian was not an option for students after leaving Mantua, other than those attending Frost and Woodson. However, since all FCPS middle and high schools offer Spanish and French for graduation credit, we are asking the

Mantua Elementary parent community to vote on one of three options in order to inform our path and assist in our decision making.

Please find the link to the survey attached. The **survey will close at 4pm on January 30, 2018**, all votes cast by that time will be tabulated in the recommendation we present for consideration by the Central Office and School Board.

<https://goo.gl/forms/9fupSfKVMLrUPAX2>

## 2018 Mantua Talent Show

The Mantua PTA is proud to present the 2018 Mantua Talent Show! Do you play an instrument, sing, or dance? Do you like to perform magic? Do you want to demonstrate your martial arts prowess? Then, why not try out for this year's show? Just head to: <https://tinyurl.com/MantuaTalentShowSubmissions> for instructions on how to enter and to submit a video and complete an audition form.

Here are the important dates and times you need to know:

- Video Auditions and Audition Forms Due: Friday, February 16th.
- Dress Rehearsal in the Gym: Friday, March 9th, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
- Talent Show in the Gym: Saturday, March 10th, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

If you have a child in the show, at least one parent needs to volunteer to help. There is a link on the confirmation email after you sign up your child. If you have any questions, please contact Althea Bryson at [talentshow@mantuapta.org](mailto:talentshow@mantuapta.org) or 571-830-5320 (call or text) Good luck preparing your acts!

## Lost and Found

All items left in the lost and found at the end of the 2nd quarter will be donated charity. If your student is missing a lunch box, water bottle, coat, sweater or any other article, please find time to check the lost and found before it is donated on 1/29/18.

All items brought to school by your students should be labeled with at least their last name. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara in the front office.

## Yearbook photos due by January 31

Basketball team photos, raccoon runners, kids care club, and boy and girl scouts photos are due to Ms. Dunfee by 1/31/18 if you want them to be included in this year's yearbook. Coaches can send them directly to her at [pjdunfee@fcps.edu](mailto:pjdunfee@fcps.edu).

## Submit an essay to the VA PTA Citizenship Essay Contest!

This year's theme is "What does it mean to dream big?" Students K-12 are invited to participate. Submissions are due to the NOVA District PTA via email ([novadd@vapta.org](mailto:novadd@vapta.org)) no later than **Thursday, February 1, 2018**. Full details and instructions can be found [here](#).

## New Global Plus Chinese Class for Grades 1-3

Last Chance to Register! New GLOBAL PLUS Chinese Class for Grades 1-3 The Mantua PTA offers extracurricular world language classes through FCPS's GLOBAL PLUS Language Program. The goal of the GLOBAL PLUS program is to offer high quality language classes to elementary students when they are at the optimal age for language acquisition. The GLOBAL PLUS curriculum delivers a strong focus on communication. This focus will provide children with skills to establish meaningful connections as they become GLOBAL citizens of our diverse yet interconnected world. Registration is currently underway for Chinese for Grades 1-3. The class starts January 24 and runs for 10 weeks. Sibling discounts are available. Call 703-658-1201. GPO3110-0003: Chinese for Grades 1-3, Wednesdays after school starting on 1/24. Go to <http://bit.ly/GLOBALPlus> to register. Have questions? Contact Susanne Fitch, PTA Representative, at [globalplus@mantuapta.org](mailto:globalplus@mantuapta.org).

## Box Top Contest

The next Box Top contest deadline is February 21. Clip Box Tops and collect in zip lock baggies labeled with your child's teacher's name. The class turning in the most will win pizza or ice cream sandwiches. Would you like to earn even more Box Top cash for the school by simply scanning your receipt? Download the free app below.

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/bonusapp>

## Nominating Committee

The Mantua PTA Executive Board is in need of 3 PTA Members to serve on the Nominating Committee to put forth the new slate of Executive Board Members for the 2018-2019 school year. We need to elect this Nominating Committee at our February 8th PTA Meeting (you do not need to be present at this meeting to be a member of the committee, though it is encouraged.) The slate needs to be announced at our April meeting and the membership will vote on the slate at our final meeting in late May. If you would like to be a part of this important committee or have questions, please contact Sam Leiber

at [president@mantuapta.org](mailto:president@mantuapta.org). This is a volunteer commitment that will last approximately 1 month and is not very time consuming (especially if you already know some Mantua parents that would be perfect for the PTA Executive Board!)

## Mantua Students Seeking Used Binoculars

Mantua is creating a class set of binoculars so that students can head outside at any time to observe birds and other wildlife. We have an enjoyable amount of species variety not only on our own grounds but also in the meadow and stream, Crook Branch, just south of the playground. This class set of binoculars will be housed in the Mantua Library and available for checkout by ANY class at ANY time! Binoculars in any condition will be a wonderful addition to our collection. Molte grazie. Questions? Please contact Eco Teams Sponsor, Ms. Michele Sullivan ([masullivan@fcps.edu](mailto:masullivan@fcps.edu)). Also, we will be happy to provide a receipt for your binoculars donation. Thank you! To learn more about the fantastic progress made by our Eco Teams and Eco-School Committee here at Mantua, please check out our website! <https://www.greenmantua.org>

## Restaurant Night – Flippin Pizza

Up to 50% of proceeds from orders at Flippin Pizza on Main Street on **January 30 from 4-8pm** go to Mantua PTA to support the school and thereby your kids. For more information

<http://www.mantuapta.org/documents/fundraisers/restaurantnights/2017-18/flippinpizza.pdf>

## Fairfax County Association for the Gifted Summer Camp and Enrichment Fair

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018, 10:00-12:00pm (Snow date: February 17, 2018)

Place: McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd, McLean, VA 22101

- Meet representatives from summer programs of all varieties, from adventure day camps to rigorous academic programs at prestigious campuses.
- Look at camps and programs involving STEM, visual and performing arts, computer technology, environmental science, math enrichment, nature, science, sports, and leadership for elementary, middle and high school students.
- Daytime and residential camps.

- Pick up literature from each program.
- Get your copy of the FCAG Summer Camp Catalog!

From Johns Hopkins' Center for Talented Youth (CTY) to Language Stars, a camp for your child is just waiting to be discovered.

While you're there, register for your chance to win 1 of 2 \$50 Gift Certificates to Amazon.com!

[www.fcag.org](http://www.fcag.org)

## MCA Contest - What it Means to Live in Mantua

The Mantua Community Directory, published by Mantua Civic Association, is sponsoring a contest! Students are invited to send original artwork on the theme of "Community" and What it Means to Live in Mantua." Winning designs will be published in next year's Directory, and one winner's artwork MAY be chosen for the Directory cover. Original 2-dimensional work must be submitted in either 6" x 9" or 9" x 12"

vertical (portrait) format. A HighRes scan is the best method for submitting work. We will also accept original art or a good color copy. Deadline for submission is April 2, 2018. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners in two divisions, K-6 and 7-12. Contact Jim Oppenheimer ([treasurer@mantua.org](mailto:treasurer@mantua.org)) or Loren Brandman ([brandman@acm.org](mailto:brandman@acm.org)) for further details.

## Yearbook Sales

The 2017-2018 Yearbook is available for purchase.

<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).

## 2018 Safer Internet Day

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Luther Jackson Middle School

3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church

Please RSVP online at <https://novadistrictpta.ptboard.com>

Dinner in Cafeteria: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Digital Safety Expert Panel, Auditorium: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

National Safer Internet Day is held to promote safer and more

responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially among children and young people across the world. NOVA District PTA is excited to host one of five events across the nation.

Students, Families, and School Staff are welcome to attend. Childcare not provided. **RSVP online for Dinner and Materials by February 4.**

Raising children in the age of smartphones and social media brings new challenges and concerns for all families. The program features expert panel members who will teach families and students about digital safety through school and social media with a focus on the Smart Talk, an interactive program created by National PTA and LifeLock, a Symantec company, designed to facilitate a conversation between parents and their kids about using digital devices responsibly.

## 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 check mark) 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.

### Video: Learn How Inclement Weather Closing Decisions Are Made

Ever wonder how FCPS administrators decide to close or delay school due to inclement weather? [Watch this video for an explanation and answers to some common questions.](#)

## 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 كفالة 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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