



ALERT NEWS

Mantua PTA

December 11, 2017 | Issue no. 18

In This Issue

[Important Dates](#)
[Mantua Blue Ribbon](#)
[Advanced Academic](#)
[Referral Form](#)
[National Geographic](#)
[Bee](#)
[Volunteers Needed](#)
[Alert News Subscribe](#)
[and Unsubscribe](#)

Quick Links:

[Not Receiving](#)
[the AlertNews?](#)
[Update Your MP Info](#)
[MP Invitation Request](#)
[MantuaPTA.org](#)

Compiled by:

[Helen Keil-Losch,](#)
[AlertNews Editor](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

December 13 (Wednesday): Winter Chorus Concert, 6:30 pm Gym.
December 18 - January 1: Winter Break, Main Office Closed.
January 12 (Friday): Advanced Academics Level IV Referral Form for Grades 2-6 due by 4:30pm.
January 15 (Monday): Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. School Closed.
January 17 (Wednesday): 5th and 6th Grade Winter Strings Concert.

Mantua's Main Office Closed December 18 – January 1

Just a reminder that Mantua's Main Office will be closed from December 18, 2017 through January 1, 2018. We wish all of our families a Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!

Spirit Week

Tuesday: Crazy Sock Day
 Wednesday: Dress Up - Holiday Themed
 Thursday: Dress Up As Food
 Friday: PJ and Stuffed Animal Day

Mantua in the news! Featured in "Public Works" magazine

The Boiretention basin at Mantua ES and the partnership with Fairfax County's Stormwater Planning Division (SWPD) are featured in the recent issues of Public Works!

For the last decade, the Stormwater Planning Division has been working with Fairfax County Public Schools students and teachers on various stormwater science and environmental stewardship programs and projects. These programs include

creating stormwater activity books, hands-on teaching opportunities highlighting aquatic life in streams, and a classroom pollution detection lab called Stream Crime Investigation. [Click here to read more.](#)

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.

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), Advanced Academics Resource Teacher at Mantua.

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) 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>

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.

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.

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. If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email 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 или 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.) 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. If you need to have a document translated into Spanish, please contact Lisa Libby.

Email Lisa Libby at 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.

Mantua Elementary School PTA
9107 Horner Court
Fairfax, VA 22031

[Add us to your address book](#)

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you prefer not to receive future emails from us | [Privacy Policy](#)



powered by [memberplanet](#)