



Mantua PTA Alert News

April 27, 2004

Teacher Appreciation and Freedom to Fly

The annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is on Friday, May 7, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Planned in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, we will highlight the gift teachers give children - ***Freedom to Fly***. Decorated with butterflies and birds, the library will truly be transformed into a lovely cafe!

Please let us know what you will contribute. You're welcome to use the form on the PTA web site, send an email, or phone! Our suggestions are listed below:

- Preschool: bread / muffins
- Kindergarten A-K: liter of soda, tea, or lemonade
- Kindergarten L-Z: small potted flowers, plants (4") - attractive to butterflies and birds, if possible, for future planting in the Mantua garden!
- 1st grade: side dishes
- 2nd grade: main dishes / salads
- 3rd grade: fresh fruit / fruit salads
- 4th grade: cookies / desserts
- 5th grade: cakes / pies
- 6th grade: main dishes / appetizers

We also need help with set up (11:00 - 1:00), clean up (1:00 - 3:00), serving, and volunteering in the classrooms to make sure the teachers can attend! The teachers look forward to this event each year. Let's show them how much we value our great teachers at Mantua! Questions? Please contact DeeAnn Jeremiah at classicconciierge@netzero.com or 703-383-8393. Thank you in advance!

Please see the other side for more Alert News

PTA Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April meeting are on the PTA web site, mantuapta.org, for your perusal.

Recent Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- Monday, April 12, the Woodson Power Team met with the sixth grade students. (See the April PTA Newsletter for info about the Power Team.)
- Some of the fourth grade classrooms visited the Woodson Planetarium on Thursday, April 15, as part of their Science unit.
- A very realistic looking Albert Einstein performed on Monday, April 19, for the Einstein Alive assemblies. Dr. Einstein illustrated some important scientific concepts using wonderful visual examples, lyrics and song. Thanks to the PTA for supporting this wonderful assembly!
- On Tuesday, April 20, we had a visitor from Salt, Jordan. He is the director at a large School for the Deaf in Jordan.
- On Wednesday, April 21, our Cluster III Director Dr. John English and Cluster III Coordinator Dr. Cecy Krill were here visiting Mantua!
- Our wonderful secretaries were appreciated and pampered all week with gifts, food, and lovely cards and banners created by the students!

Come and see the wonderful ways literacy is integrated across the curriculum! Looking forward to seeing you and your children on Literacy Night at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 29!

Raccoon Run -- May 8!

May 8 -- it's only *two weeks away*, so sign up today! Use one of the printed registration forms, or click the link at the PTA web site, www.mantuapta.org.

And you can be a **race volunteer**, too! Contact Mary McCullough at mary.mccullough@tcwinc.net, and say you'll help!

Class Competition is underway -- a pizza and ice cream party goes to the class with the most participation. *Teachers count double!*

Pledges are encouraged by all students. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you in the Run. All donations go directly to Life with Cancer.

Race sponsor **Glory Days** is offering a special dinner invitation on Sunday, May 2, from 4:00 - 10:00 pm. Come in or order take out, and 10% of all purchases will be donated to Life with Cancer. Just say you are supporting Mantua Elementary School's Raccoon Run, and help us help Life with Cancer!!

Our **race-packet "stuffing"** party will be on Wednesday, May 5. All Kids Care Club members are invited to help stuff the race packets. Meet in the cafeteria after school. Pick up will be at 4:30 p.m.

Tremendous Celebration!

National Arbor Day is on Friday, April 30. As Americans across the country celebrate this special day, Brownie Girl Scouts from Troop 5462 will plant a Dogwood tree (Virginia's State Tree) at Mantua Elementary. Five Brownies (Saylor Gilbert-3rd grade, Laura Braun-3rd grade; Elli Cryan-2nd grade; Eleni Antzoulatos-2nd grade; and Ester (EJ) Gilbert-1st grade) worked outside their regular Scout meetings to earn the Silver US Heritage Award. One requirement was to do a Service Project for their community. The girls discussed what they'd like to do and voted unanimously to plant a Dogwood tree at Mantua. Congratulations girls! You are fine citizens!

Robin Antzoulatos, Leader of Brownie Troop 5462

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Library Help Needed!

Our librarian could sure use a couple volunteers to help get her through the next couple of months. Thursdays and Fridays for 2 - 3 hours would help a lot. Mrs. Cronin also needs six to ten people to help for two or three days during the last two weeks of school to check all the books on all the shelves. Please contact Mrs. Cronin directly if you can help.

ESOL Meeting on Supports and Services

Parents of current ESOL students are invited to a meeting about the ESOL support and services available from Fairfax County Public Schools. It's Saturday, May 1, at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Refreshments and registration start at 8:30 a.m.; the parent program goes from 9:00 - noon. School and community informational displays (health insurance, employment opportunities, adult ESOL classes, summer school, and more) will be available. Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese interpreters will be available. Questions? Call 703-277-2623 or 703-277-2624.

Safety Patrol Scholarship Fund

The District PTA has developed a scholarship fund to aid those PTAs that have problems raising the funding to send their Safety Patrol officers for training at the annual Safety Patrol Camp. Since this affects the safety of all our community elementary age children, they are soliciting donations from all the PTAs in the county. Ideally, each elementary school should send between two and four students to this camp. These students, in turn, will be responsible for assisting with the training of their school safety patrol force. Those schools that do not have the funds available to send the necessary number of patrols to the camp will be eligible to request a Safety Patrol Scholarship. To donate to this fund, make your check payable to County of Fairfax, and send it to Youth Services Unit, Attn: Frank Cresswell, 4100 Chain Bridge Rd, 11th Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. For more information, contact Vicky Wuerfel at 703-239-0920 or vwuerfel@cox.net.

Mantua Home and Garden Tour

Come to the First Annual Mantua Home and Garden Tour of eight great Mantua houses! It's Saturday, May 1, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Sponsored by Mantua Junior Girl Scout Troop 2801, the cost is \$20 per person. Please, no children under 12. Checks and cash will be accepted, but not credit cards. Tickets will be on sale at the Mantua Pool and Tennis Clubhouse on the day of the Tour. Complimentary refreshments and a Contractor's Home Improvement Fair will also be at the Mantua Clubhouse from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Elena Albamonte at ElenaAlbamonte@aol.com or 703-591-3134.

Real Baseball, Real Close

Sunday, May 2, at 1:35 p.m. is Mantua day at the Potomac Cannons baseball game. All tickets are \$5 (regularly \$7 for adults). (There is also a \$3 per car parking fee, payable at the stadium.) But don't worry if you can't make it on May 2 -- the tickets are actually a voucher that must be redeemed at the box when you attend the game. The voucher can be used for any other than Saturdays, July 4, August 6, or playoffs. What a great way to enjoy professional baseball without driving to Baltimore! Purchase tickets by credit card at the PTA web site or by check (made out to "Mantua PTA") via the PTA mailbox at school. Questions? Contact Julia Margulies at margfam2@aol.com or 703-978-7156.



EPA Web Sites for Kids

The EPA provides a number of environmentally related sites for kids. We've put links onto the PTA web site for your and your children's interest. Go to mantuapta.org, and click the For Students tab.

Cell Phones for the Needy

Frost MS and its PTA and SCA are sponsoring an event to transform old cell phones into life-lines to victims of domestic violence. With the assistance of the Fairfax County Police Department your old cell phone will be reprogrammed so that victims in need will be able to call only 911 should they need immediate police assistance. This is a longstanding county program. Send your old cell phones to Frost by May 7. Join the students at Frost as they help those in need.

Animal Shelter Donations

The Kids of the Kids Care Club have had many wonderful projects this year. Their last one will benefit our animal friends. The Fairfax Animal Shelter is in need of *blankets, towels, animal toys, canned kitten food, kitten formula, pet food and treats, leashes and collars*. Please help us by donating these items. Place them into the large box across from the office from April 27 - May 14. The Kids Care Club will make a special delivery on May 17. Thanks for your support on all our projects. Questions about the Kids Care Club? Contact Jennifer Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com or 703-426-2490.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org, or call 703-383-1005. Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikes and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing the Alert News.

www.mantuapta.org