



Mantua PTA Alert News

February 24, 2004

Seventh-Grade Orientation

The 7th grade Parent Orientation will be held at Frost on February 26, from 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. (Snow date is March 4.) Orientation for students in special programs (i.e., ESOL, learning disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing, emotional disabilities) will be held on Thursday, March 18, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Contact Rebecca Jones at Mantua with any questions.

FCPS Summer School

The Fairfax County Public Schools summer school information web page was updated last week. Please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/sumsch.htm> for the latest information about summer offerings.

FCPS New Telephone Hot Line

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has established a new, toll-free telephone hot line for emergency messages, with information available in three languages. The new number, 1-800-839-FCPS (3277), is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the event of school closings or delays or other emergency situations, call the toll-free number from anywhere in the region. Messages are available in English, Korean, and Spanish. And don't forget that you can continue to receive emergency messages by checking the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu, by subscribing to the Keep in Touch emergency messaging service, and by watching cable Channel 21.

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Chat with School Board Members

The next meeting of the Cluster 3 (that includes us) Parent Advisory Council will feature several School Board members. As of this writing, Kaye Kory, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, and Tessie Wilson have confirmed. It's a great opportunity to discuss with our School Board things that are important to our kids and schools. All will be welcome on March 10, at 7:00 p.m., in the Poe MS library.

Carnival Update - Galaxy Trading Post

Ready to clean out those closets for the spring? The Galaxy Trading Post is in need of gently used books, toys, household items, and sporting equipment for the Carnival's annual yard sale. *No clothing, please!* Your donations are tax deductible to you and profitable to the school. Donations may be dropped off on Friday, March 12, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need to drop off items earlier, please contact either Nancy Robinson at 703-352-0510 or mrsrobinson@cox.net or Cindy Dengler at 703-503-8080 or csdengler@msn.com. For further information see the PTA web site at www.MantuaPTA.org.

Saturday Night in the Suburbs

Please join the Woodson Community Coalition and the PTSA for an adult only evening of dialogue on Tuesday, March 30 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Lecture Study at Woodson HS. A panel of 8-10 seniors will facilitate a discussion regarding drugs, alcohol abuse, parties/clubbing and communication with parents. We guarantee this will be an informative evening and will give parents insight from the perspective of a teenager.

Spring HOS Registrations Due Friday, 2/27

Next session's earth science classes are filling up fast. Don't be left out! Turn in your bright blue registration forms by Friday. Questions? Contact Randi Kirkland at 703-208-2262 or randi_kirkland@yahoo.com.

Math Happenings for Grades 3-6

To help improve fluency in mathematics in grades 3 through 6, a series of classroom and take-home games is being put together, funded by the PTA. Volunteers are needed to help photocopy, paste, laminate and cut the materials. If you'd like to help, please contact Loren Brandman at brandman@erols.com or 703-383-1005. The more volunteers, the sooner our children will be able to start using the materials.

Last Week's Highlights from Mrs. Fernandez

- On Monday, February 16, our yearbook photographer captured candid pictures of staff and students smiling, despite the fact that school was in session on President's Day!
- On Wednesday and Thursday, February 18-19, our third grade students were engaged in practice tests in Math and English. These tests are similar to the SOL testing they will be taking in May and gave the students practice with test format, bubbling, and dealing with the language of test questions.
- Wednesday and Thursday, February 18-19, our fifth and sixth grade teacher teams met during their planning times to reorganize students' enrichment schedules for the remainder of the school year. Creative use of teachers and specialists during the enrichment time block will allow us to more appropriately support the individual needs of students!
- The musical talents of our 264 Band and Strings students were displayed at the Winter Concert on Thursday, February 19. Many thanks to Mr. Pittman and Mrs. Kerlin for their incredible talents in getting all of these students to make beautiful music together and for their ongoing efforts to facilitate our students' musical growth!

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Frost Family Bingo - February 29

Have fun playing bingo while supporting student activities at Frost Middle School! The PTA fundraiser will be held from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 29, in the Frost cafeteria. Prizes include Longaberger baskets and gift certificates to local merchants. Tickets at the door will cost \$15 per person for 20 rounds of bingo, or \$45 for a family (parents and children) of three or more. There's also a raffle! You could win a Longaberger umbrella basket and stand (a \$208 value) or another raffle prize. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Refreshments and bingo card dabbers will be for sale.

Save money and buy tickets in advance for \$12 per person or \$35 per family. Mail orders to Frost Bingo, c/o Cindy Wilson, 8804 Southlea Court, Fairfax, VA 22031, or phone 703-764-2798. Make checks payable to Frost PTA. Please specify the number of bingo and raffle tickets you wish to buy, and include an email address or phone number. Questions? Contact Patti Gibberman at pgibbermanmsw@cox.net (subject: Frost Family Bingo) or 703-425-8523. Doors open at 2:30.

Kids Care Club Meeting

The Kids Care Club will meet this Thursday, February 26, from 3:30 - 4:30 in the cafeteria to organize Read Across America on March 2. Please contact Jennifer Cooper (703-426-2490 or jalcooper@aol.com) to let her know your child will attend.

Celebrate Read Across America

The Kids Care Club and Mantua School announce an evening of stories to celebrate Read Across America.

When: Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: The Mantua Library

Admission: One new or gently used book

All donations of books will be given to some very needy readers. Come join the Kids Care Club, Mrs. Sottolano and many guest readers for an evening celebrating reading in honor of Dr. Seuss. Guest readers and storytellers have been invited to share their favorite stories and books. We encourage all to come, listen and be a part of the celebration. All we ask is that you bring a new or gently used book.

Please contact Jennifer Cooper, jalcooper@aol.com or Mrs. Sottolano, janet.sottolano@fcps.edu if you would be interested in being a guest reader or storyteller.

Old, Smelly Sneakers

Recycle your old sneakers into material for constructing new sport surfaces, such as soccer and football fields, tennis courts and playground surfaces! Between now and February 29, just bring your old athletic shoes (no metal eyelets or cleats) to one of the county RECenters, like Wakefield and Providence. All the details are at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/reuseashoe.htm, or call Kate Sicola at 703-324-5439.

Capitol Steps in Concert

The Capitol Steps is coming to the Woodson Auditorium. The Capitol Steps will perform at Woodson on Sunday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 in advance, or \$27 at the door. For advanced purchase send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and check payable to the Woodson Band Patrons to: Capitol Steps, 10176 Red Spruce Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Part of the price of each ticket benefits both the Woodson Band and the 2004 Cavalier Cruise Graduation Party. For additional information call 703-425-8014.

FCCPTA General Membership Meeting

The next meeting of the FCCPTA is on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School. The discussion topic will be *Helping Kids Gain Solutions That Lead to Success: Both In and Out of the Classroom*. Several local experts will present. For more information, see the February issue of the FCCPTA newsletter, at www.fccpta.org.

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Glory Days -- and Easy Ways

Glory Days Grill in the Pan Am Shopping Center will contribute 10% of your total food purchases to the Mantua PTA when you dine any Monday - Thursday from 4:00 till midnight or any Sunday from 11:30 - 11:00 p.m. from now till May 15! Simply ask your server for a copy of your guest check (not credit card receipt), and drop it into the box marked Glory Days Grill Receipts in the Mantua office. Questions? Contact Julia Margulies.

Details of this and other easy ways to earn money for our school are on the "Easy Ways" page at the PTA web site!

Mantua Night with the Globetrotters

Come join Mantua families and friends for a fun-filled night with the **Harlem Globetrotters** on March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center at George Mason University. Discount tickets are available to us for \$18.50 (regularly \$22.50). Don't wait -- tickets sell fast! Contact Bridget at bkapcar@washsports.com or 202-628-3200, x698.

Wizards Half-Price Nights

The next half-price night is March 21, with a game against Miami. Contact Jen Seidel at 202-628-3200, ext. 3867, or jseidel@washsports.com. Tickets can be mailed or picked up. Questions, contact Julia Margulies, 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org, or call 703-383-1005.

Thanks to Jeriann Stone Mikesh and Donna Konigsberg for copying and distributing the Alert News.

www.mantuapta.org