



Mantua PTA News

www.mantuapta.org

Back To School 2004

John Jennison President's Message

Got Kids? Get Involved!

Welcome to new parents and welcome back to the returning Mantuan parents. Summer vacation seemed to fly by and we find ourselves starting another school year. For parents of newly attending students, the Mantua Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association extends a warm "Welcome Aboard" and an open invitation to join us as we strive to maintain and improve our efforts to aid the teachers and administrators in providing quality education opportunities to our students. As for the veteran parents, it is good to see you back, especially those who have found the time to participate in the school's activities and share with their children through volunteerism at the school.

Just as our students bring their diversity of individual skills and talents to enable them to master a new grade, new challenges await the parents as well, and these challenges may only be met with the combined efforts of the parents. Much is still to be done, so let's look at four simple opportunities:

First, stay in touch. With our children, we are jointly responsible for knowing and staying on top of student assignments and activities. For your assistance, the PTA provides information through seven avenues of dissemination:

- **Mantua PTA Newsletter** that you are reading is a quarterly publication that addresses upcoming events;
- **Mantua PTA website** (www.mantuapta.org) presents the calendar and information about upcoming events and PTA-supported activities, and provides valuable links to other websites;
- **Alert News** is a weekly news bulletin sent via your student's Tuesday folder or electronically to your email address;
- **Mantua PTA Handbook**, distributed to new families and upon request to returning families, is an updated resource that provides answers to many practical questions and identifies contacts for inquiries;
- **Flyers** are periodically sent home via your student's Tuesday folder;
- **PTA meetings** normally held the first Wednesday evening of every month in the school library are open to all to attend; and
- **PTA board members** may be contacted by telephone or email to answer questions regarding our activities.

Second, Join the PTA. We are just like you; you *should* be one of us. We share the same anxieties that you have as your children go out the door, get on the bus and enter the school to face their learning community of books, tests, lunches and recess. It wasn't too long ago that you were one of them, and it is that background that we collectively bring to the PTA to advocate for superior education opportunities and an enriched scholastic environment for our students.

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Coming Up

- September 8
PTA Board Meeting
- September 10
Teacher's Breakfast
- September 10
Ice Cream Social
- September 14
Principal's Coffee
- September 22
Back To School Night
Grades K—3
- September 28
Back To School Night
Grades 4—6



Principal's Coffee

The first principal's coffee of the year will be at the home of Corinne Habel on **Tuesday September 14th at 9:30 am and in the school cafeteria at 7 pm.** The coffees will be a welcome for new parents, but all parents are welcome. Limited child-minding will be available during the morning session. Korean and Spanish translators will be on hand at both events. Please RSVP to Corinne at 703-246-9210 or chabell@cox.net.

Mantua is "Buggie" for Sally Foster



It's Sally Foster time again! The Mantua PTA begins its annual Sally Foster fundraiser on Wednesday, September 8. Remember that 50% of every sale goes directly to Mantua and pays for important activities (field trips, teacher training, author visits, computer software, etc.) not funded by Fairfax County Public Schools. Again this year, out-of-town family and friends will be able to order on-line and have their products shipped. Your child will receive prize credit for these orders.

Our Sally Foster sale includes the beautiful, high quality gift wrap you've come to expect. In addition, you'll be able to choose from a variety of wrap accessories, unique gift items, delicious Harry London Chocolates, and other delectable goodies! Please stop by the display case in the school lobby to see some of the products and the swatches of gift wrap. Don't miss the tall stack of boxes wrapped using just one roll of Sally Foster gift wrap. Your friends and family will thank you for the opportunity to order these terrific products. For safety reasons, we strongly discourage door-to-door selling to strangers. The initial Sally Foster sales kit is in your child's back-to-school folder. Order forms are due back to your child's teacher no later than Wednesday, September 29. You will receive your orders during the Parent-Teacher conferences early in November (in plenty of time for the holidays). If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the order processing, please contact Lynn Richmond at 703-280-0220 or lynnrichmond95@cox.net or Jeannine Davies 703-383-1256 or j9davies@cox.net.

President's Message

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The PTA works with the teachers and administrators to try to identify the present needs of the school and attempts to provide fulfillments by personal activity or monetary assistance. There are opportunities for you to join the board and make things better!

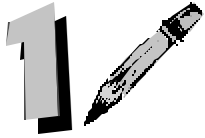
Third, Volunteer and Meet Your Parental Service Hours. Just as summer vacation flew by, so will these elementary school years of your student. Opportunities abound to assist teachers in classrooms, playgrounds, lunchroom and field trips. The middle school grades impose Community Service Hour Requirements on students for graduation. So I challenge parents to do likewise and set a parental goal of eight hours this school year in helping the school. ***That is just eight hours over the next 270 days!*** We provide exceptional activities for the students including plays, carnivals and an unparalleled basketball house league. Don't miss out on sharing these opportunities with your student. Don't look back with regret and don't think you are too busy. The parents involved are doctors, lawyers, military and government leaders, captains of industry and similar professionals, and other committed parents who ***make and dedicate*** time to their children in school.

Fourth, Participate in Fall Fundraisers. Yes, sometimes it is about money. The funds raised by the PTA are spent directly on teacher and student needs. Whether it is Sally Foster gift-wrap, schoolpop.com, Giant or Harry Teeter receipts, the online auction or other means of raising funds, your contributions enable the PTA to fund teacher supplies, computers, development programs, field trips and other worthy needs.

In closing, I hope your student has a stellar scholastic year at Mantua. PTA resources are available to you and let us know how we can make it better for your child and the children to come. The world is your child's and the clock is running as you read this. Raise your hand, sign up, log on or call- ***just get involved***. Your children will remember and be proud of your involvement for the rest of their lives. You already are their role model, just take it up another notch here at Mantua, and know that they will do the same with their children.

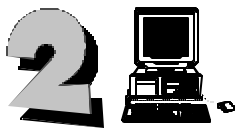
It will be summer vacation again before you know it

Three More Great Ways to Raise Money for Your School



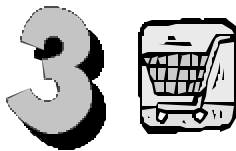
Shop at Office Depot & Earn Free Office Supplies

Office Depot will rebate 5% of qualifying purchases, excluding computer or furniture, to Mantua Elementary for future supply purchases. This offer applies to purchases made in the store and online at www.officedepot.com. Please identify Mantua at the end of your transaction.



Shop Online to Earn Easy Money for Mantua

Raise funds for your school while avoiding the crowds and long lines...SHOP ONLINE! Mantua is registered with **www.schoolpop.com**. Schoolpop will rebate a percentage (roughly 3 - 5%) of every purchase without hidden costs to the shopper or school. Schoolpop has over 250 participating vendors and is organized by categories. Using this web site to shop is "easy, free money". And customers can support Mantua by shopping in select local stores and with catalogs using cards registered with Schoolpop. Go to www.schoolpop.com for more details.



Save Grocery Receipts & Box Tops

Mantua will once again participate in the Giant & Harris Teeter grocery receipts program and General Mills Box Tops for Education fundraising programs. These programs enable Mantua to purchase computers, software, and other educational material. **Don't forget to re-register for these programs** and designate Mantua Elementary to receive credit for your shopping. You can register on-line at the following web sites.

- ◆ www.giantfood.com (click on A+ Bonus Bucks) (Mantua Code: 01887)
- ◆ www.harristeeter.com (Mantua Code: 4458)

And continue to send in your General Mills Box Tops for Education with your children. These are collected all year. If you have any questions or would like to help with these programs, please contact Donna Yudkin at dqy@cox.net or 703-641-8779.

Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) Program

The Mantua PTA, in conjunction with the Office of Adult and Community Education, plans to offer language classes if there is sufficient interest. French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Sign classes will be held once a week before and after school beginning in late September. Registration information will be coming through the Tuesday folder once the class schedule is final. For more information, please contact Linda Halstead at 703-503-5175 or pajusihalstead@cox.net.

FLEX Teaching Opportunities Habla espanol? Parlez-vous francais? Sprechen Sie Deutsch? If you speak another language, enjoy working with children, and are available before and after school hours, give us a call! This is a paid part-time position. Curriculum is provided by FCPS. If you or someone you know might be interested in teaching, please contact Linda Halstead at 703-503-5175 or pajusihalstead@cox.net. Classes begin in late September.

Reflections Art Program Have you ever dreamed of having your drawing or photo framed and hung in a special art exhibit at your school or have your story or poem published? The Reflections Art Program is sponsored by the National PTA to provide students with an outlet for creative expression. This year's theme is "**A Different Kind of Hero**". You can think about the theme and talk with your family and friends about what it means to you. Then create your piece of artwork, take a photo, write a song, or write a story about it. Rules and additional information are available at the PTA bulletin board area. Entries will be collected in November. For more information, contact Deanna Woo at dtwoo@aol.com.

Cool Off at the Ice Cream Social

Want to enjoy one last "scoop" of a summer pleasure? Look no further than Mantua Elementary School when the Ice Cream Social returns, **Friday, September 10 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. The annual event is fun for the entire family. The social takes place on the playground behind the school (or in the gym if it's raining). Ice cream sundaes and light sticks/necklaces will be on sale. Remember, the playground does not have lighting for evening use, so bring a flashlight if you're planning on staying late. To volunteer to help contact Julia Margulies at 703-978-7156 or margfam2@aol.com.

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Drama Club Announces Fall Productions

☆☆ The Mantua Drama Club, under the artistic direction of Beth Whitehead, is pleased to announce this year's student productions, a trio of plays adapted from the works of Mark Twain. The Trial of Tom Sawyer, by Virginia Glasgow is taken from The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and includes such great characters as Becky Thatcher, Aunt Polly, Huck Finn and, of course, Tom Sawyer. The Prince and the Pauper, as adapted by Joellen Bland, is the classic tale of switched identities of a young prince in the 1500's and a pauper, each wanting to know how the other half lives. In the Garden of Eden, adapted from Twain by Tim Kelley, has the author himself as a young man taking us to the Garden of Eden where we meet tourists, bird watchers, animals, and Adam & Eve. This is a lighthearted tale of Twain's view of Eden. In addition, for those 4th-6th graders who prefer to sing and dance, we will be offering Musical Twain with two original songs by John Engerman and a square dance. The Drama Club is now accepting applications from students in grades 1-6 for this year's productions. 1st and 2nd graders will be performing In the Garden of Eden and 3rd and 4th graders will perform in The Prince and The Pauper both rehearsing on Monday and Wednesday. 5th and 6th graders will appear in The Trial of Tom Sawyer, which will rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday. Musical Twain also rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday. Tech rehearsals are scheduled for November 13; dress rehearsals will be held on November 17th and 18th. Performances will be on November 19th and 20th. All club meetings/rehearsals will be held in the gym and/or the lower pod. Monday rehearsals end promptly at 3:00 pm. Tuesday thru Thursday rehearsals end at 5:00 pm.

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Welcome our Teachers back!

It's time for the Welcome Back Breakfast for our wonderful teachers and staff! The date is **Friday, September 10 from 8:00 – 9:00 am** in the Mantua Cafeteria. Help show the teachers and staff how much we care for them by getting involved with this event. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up and bring juices, fruit salads, bagels or muffins, and breakfast casseroles and quiches. (*Please volunteer to bring hot items only if you live near the school or can deliver the item at the start of the breakfast*). Please e-mail Chris Purcell at NOVApurcells@cox.net or call 571-228-9341 to volunteer to help or bring one of the above items. Be sure to include your name and telephone number. Each year the teachers look forward to this lovely breakfast at the end of a tiring first week! And your help makes this welcome back event a success.
