

Mantua PTA Alert News for May 13, 2008

This week's PDF version of the Alert News is available at the Mantua PTA web site, www.MantuaPTA.org.

Please be sure to use the address AlertNews@MantuaPTA.org when submitting items to the Alert News.

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1. Please use alertnews@mantuapta.org to send submissions for the Alert. You can expect a confirmation reply. Submissions received by Friday will be included in the following week's Alert. There have been some email issues in the recent past that we think have been resolved. Thanks! - Carrie Clawson

2. FLEX Summer Camps to be Offered

Fairhill ES is hoping to offer eight 2-week Flex summer camps for Arabic K-3, Chinese K-6, French K-6 & Spanish K-6. They will also have an immersion Spanish camp for grades 1-3. Dates: 7/28-8/8. 9am - 12 noon; \$312; After a month of open

registration among the local area schools, they have just one camp that meets minimum enrollment requirements, so they are opening it county-wide on 5/1. The registration window is 5/1 – 5/23, at which point they will decide which camps will move forward. For more info: www.fcps.edu/FairhillES/

3. 2008-9 Mantua PTA Board Nominees

The slate of nominees for next year's PTA Executive Board was announced:

- o President: Bob Greene**
- o 1st VP: Monica Cameron and Trish Williams**
- o 2nd VP: Nicole Armstrong**
- o Treasurer: Julie Lifland**
- o Secretary: Ken Moles**

Voting will take place at the next PTA meeting on Wednesday, June 4 at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

4. Local Music Enrichment Opportunities During the School Year and Summer

Does your child love music? Is he or she looking for opportunities to rehearse and perform outside of school? Come hear about music programs in this area, for elementary through high school students. The program will include five panel members, who will provide information about options for beginning to very advanced student musicians. Panelists include: Tomoko Azuma, Executive Director of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras; Caroline Desmond, Managing Director of the Fairfax Choral Society; Tina Dove, Director of the Virginia campus of the Levine School of Music; Kerry Silva, Director of the Performing Arts Camp of Shenandoah University; and Gretta Sandburg, an experienced FCPS

orchestra director and strings teacher.

This program is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, at 7:30 PM, in the Luther Jackson MS auditorium, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Virginia. It is sponsored by the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted. Admission is free and open to the general public. For more information, contact Louise Epstein at 703-917-7960.

5. The Annual SPCA of Northern VA Yard Sale is Coming to Mantua! The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Northern Virginia is holding their annual yard sale Saturday, May 17th, from 9 to 2 at the home of Bob and Missy Greene: 9026 Pixie Court.

6. FAIRGRADE Co-Founders Are Coming to Frost!

On Wednesday, May 21, FAIRGRADE Co-Founders Megan McLaughlin and Marcy Newberger will speak to Woodson Pyramid parents about the need to revise FCPS grading policies. The current grading policies put FCPS students at a disadvantage for college admissions, merit scholarships, Honors programs, NCAA athletic eligibility, and car insurance “good-driver” discounts. In addition to sharing their data and research, the FAIRGRADE Co-Founders will be available to answer your questions. The meeting, which will be held in the Frost Cafeteria, will begin at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in the FAIRGRADE Initiative, but are unable to attend the meeting, you can log on to www.fairgrade.org for information and to access the online petition.

7. TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK and LUNCHEON were a huge success!

Many thanks to all the parents that helped with the appreciation luncheon last Friday! The library was decorated like a picnic area and we had a BBQ! The O’Brien family graciously brought their grill from home and grilled over 100 hamburgers and 100 hotdogs in the rain!! The Young Family treated the teachers to home smoked pulled pork and baked beans. The Jeremiah Family coordinated

an ice cream vendor to set up his stand with 100 ice cream treats. He sweetened the deal by saying we could exchange our students artwork for his ice cream for FREE. He plans to decorate his business with kid's art. Ms. Jen Watkins (beloved Art teacher) happily accepted and will be working on that project. Thanks Ms. Watkins!!

Thanks also to Teresa Lemair and Kandy Barham and room parents for coordinating parent volunteers to cover classes so their teachers could enjoy the full lunch hour. Thanks to all the wonderful parents that came in to cover the classes!!

Thanks to Vat and Andy Ross each teacher was given a Ross Tree Expert Care Recycle Bag as a door prize. Kimberley and Adam Cetron graciously donated 2 sets of GMU Theatre production tickets. Missy Green donated 2 lovely gift sets of Mary Kay products from her home business. Vat Ross also crafted and donated 30 additional fun item gift bags that were raffled. Trisha Edington donated 4 sets of 5 handcrafted all-occasion card sets from her home-based business. Over 50 parents volunteered to either bring in food or help set up or clean up. What a show of appreciation! The teachers were so very excited!! I even saw a few jump up and down with glee!! They are totally pumped up for the rest of the school year!

A huge thank you goes out to DeeAnn Jeremiah for all her efforts as PTA Hospitality Chair over the last 5 years. DeeAnn used her unlimited creativity, energy and love to produce the most amazing luncheons for our teachers and staff. Please thank her when you see her. Monica Cameron finishes her 3rd year as PTA Hospitality as well. She'll be supporting the PTA in other ways in the future. Cee Cee Young was the 3rd person in our luncheon coordination team and she added her super talent for entertaining to the mix! Cee Cee has also accepted the challenge of being the next PTA Hospitality Chair. She fits the job perfectly and will do wonderful things!

This very special luncheon was brought together by many, many appreciative parents. Remember though: Appreciation is appreciated all throughout the year.

8. Important Dates for May

5/16 Volunteer Tea

5/22 7:00 P.M. Strings Concert

5/27 7 :00 P.M. Band Concert

Information on Unsubscribing

This email version of the Alert News is available to all Mantua families. If you do NOT want to receive the Alert via email, please use our Parent Database to modify your listing: Go to the PTA web site at www.MantuaPTA.org, and click the "Parent Database" tab.

Miss an Issue?

If you don't receive your regular email Alert News by the end of Tuesday of any school week, drop a line to alertnews@mantuapta.org, and we'll forward you a new copy.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org.

Submissions are appreciated on the Friday before distribution.
