

Mantua PTA Alert News for April 21, 2009

IMPORTANT NOTE: As many of you may know, the PTA is in the process of transitioning to an email delivery method for the Alert News (unless a family does not have email available). Please bear with us for the next few weeks during this transition, as we iron out some technical details. To find out more information, including removing or changing an email address on file, please visit <http://www.mantuapta.org/documents/AlertNewsEmailInfo.pdf>.

Please be sure to use the address AlertNews@MantuaPTA.org when submitting items to the Alert News, and include the word "Alert" in the subject line.

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1. **CORRECTION:**

Due to April 23, 2009 being "Take Your Child To Work Day" the Spring Pictures and Class Pictures have been moved to May 12, 2009.

2. **Administrative Professional and Nurse Appreciation Week is This Week!!**

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful team of caring, professionals to support our families and teaching staff. Each day they greet us with warm smiles and a "How can I help you?" During the week of April 20-25, we invite parents and children to show these special ladies how much we appreciate all they do for us. If you or a group of friends would like to bring in lunch or breakfast for the front office staff on one of the days of appreciation week please let us know so we can coordinate the day. Of course, random acts of kindness are always welcome at any time! We encourage the children to make a drawing or write a note or bring in a flower from your garden. The best way of course is a heartfelt "Thank You" throughout the year. If you'd like to bring in lunch to our eight front office professionals at around Noon, please contact PTA Hospitality, Cee Cee Young for your choice of days. pcyoung91@cox.net

3. **Mantua vs. Freedom Hill Staff vs. Staff Basketball game!**

April 24, 7:00 pm

Marshall High School

Wear white to support our school!

Tickets are \$3.00 and children under 5 are free

Pre-sale tickets will be available beginning Monday, April 20th 8:30-9:00 in the cafeteria.

Pom Poms and megaphones will be available to purchase for \$2.00 each. Mantua tattoos will be sold for \$0.50 the morning of the game before school. There will be a concession stand with pizza, popcorn, drinks and other goodies.

4. Reminders to Parents from Mrs. Fernandez:

As we move into Spring, more sunny days allow us to feel a bit more relaxed. However, it is very important that we remember some very important safety rules:

- + When you come into our building for a visit or to volunteer, please remember to sign in and put on a sticker or a badge.
- + When you are dropping off or picking up your child(ren) at Kiss and Ride, please do not be on your cell phone. Recently, we have had a number of parents on their cell phone who were not noticing the direction being given by a staff member or the fact that safety patrols were in the middle of the crosswalk. It is imperative that you be alert and follow safety precautions when coming through this line. We all have to work together to assure that students arrive and are dismissed from school safely.
- + Also, if you need to meet with one of our teachers, please make an appointment in advance. This is a professional courtesy to a group of individuals who work very hard to facilitate your child's learning. It is not appropriate to just "stop by" and have an impromptu conference about your child. It is also not appropriate to do this when you are serving as a volunteer in their classroom.

Thank you for understanding and for modeling the core virtues for your child(ren).

5. GIRLS ON THE RUN

On April 21st, 7:30pm in the lower POD there will be an information gathering session for those parents interested in the GOTR program. Girls on the Run® is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. For more information prior to the meeting go to www.girlsontherun.org.

6. Human Relations Committee Meeting

The next Human Relations Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday morning May 7, from 8:30-9:15 in the Mantua library. One item for discussion is the decoration/beautification of the front lobby for next Winter Break. All are welcome.

7. The Mantua PTA presents:

Internet Safety Parent Workshop

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:00-8:30 PM

Mantua Library

Listen to a panel of experts from FCPS and the US Department of Justice discuss the dangers of the Internet and the ways we can help protect our children. Learn about "Project Safe Childhood," an initiative by the US Department of Justice to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Discover the "I-Safe Program," used by FCPS in our schools, and discuss ways to combat cyber bullying. A question and answer session will follow.

If you have questions concerning this event, please contact Amy Ivey at (703)280-1347 or amymivey@gmail.com or Teresa McConnel at Mantua at (703)645-6384 or Teresa.McConnel@fcps.edu.

Childcare will be provided.

8. TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Friday, May 8th from 12-1PM

To honor our wonderful educators, the Mantua PTA

(that's us parents) host the annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Teachers enjoy a full lunch hour of delicious dishes courtesy of grateful parents. This year's theme will be "Gracious Maestros" (Thank you teachers - in Spanish) which will include all the fun stuff that comes along with the Spanish/Mexican flair such as tacos, nachos, rice, beans, sombreros and lots more! We'll transform the Library into a Mexican Fiesta!

Sooo, we'll need lots and lots of help from parents to make this event successful. If you would like to help decorate, set-up, bring food (see TF flyer for what each grade is asked to bring); clean-up or donate a gift to be used as a door prize, please let us know quickly.

A quick list of what we really need right now: Anyone who has a contact for a Spanish style Mariachi Band or Spanish style dance instructor? Anyone willing to help make large batches of Mexican rice, meat or beans? Anyone with a home-based business that would like to donate a few small products to be used as door prizes? If you have any questions, ideas or decorations, please contact Cee Cee Young (703) 992-0248 pcyoung91@cox.net, Meri Farling (703) 354-5750 merifarling@hotmail.com, or Areille Zabihi.(703)272-3311 ajoy2beaster@aol.com

9. Ram Sports Camp offered at Robinson Secondary School

A variety of activities are offered, including tennis, basketball, cheerleading, gymnastics, indoor soccer, football, field hockey, lacrosse, and track and field.

The activities are broken up into sessions. AM runs from 8:30 – 12:30 and PM runs from 1:00 – 3:30. Campers are welcome to participate in multiple sessions each week. We also offer an Extended Day program from 3:30-5:00 for those families who have childcare concerns. Campers who are

participating all day will have a supervised lunch break from 12:30 – 1:00.

For full information and registration, go to www.ramsathleticboosters.com.

Alert News Contributions

Send via email to alertnews@mantuapta.org. Be sure to include the word "Alert" in the subject line.

Submissions are appreciated on the Friday before distribution.
