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# Mantua PTA Alert News May 29, 2012



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Mary Acar won the drawing for those students who raised \$100 or more. Ms. Loveday's 1st grade class had most participants, therefore they will receive a pizza and ice cream party. Ms Loveday made the difference by participating in the race too! A special thanks to the Mantua Kids Care Club and to all the students who participated and helped! Runners' times are available at runwashington.com.

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school year. The following are on the slate for the PTA executive board: President, Lesley Kowalski; VP1 Programs, Teresa LeMair; VP2 Membership, Shannon Murphy; VP2 Fundraising, Jennifer Epley; Treasurer, Carolyn Stephan; Secretary, Julie Middleton.

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### May

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**Note:** There are no scheduled SOL makeup days. Every effort will be made to test students who miss their scheduled testing days. However, all tests must be completed by June 1.

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New mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) were adopted by Virginia in 2009, implemented during the 2011–12 school year, and assessed for the first time this spring. Initial data indicates that changes in the state' new mathematics SOL assessments are resulting in lower pass rates for students across the state.

Questions on the new SOL tests reflect increased rigor to more closely assess student's critical thinking and problem solving skills. Many concepts are now being taught at an earlier grade level than in previous years. For example, some topics previously taught in 5th grade are now taught in 4th grade. For students taking the test online, the new assessments include technology-enhanced questions. Simpler multiple-choice questions have been replaced by problems that require students to apply multiple strategies to solve prior to deciding on an answer.

Lower test scores are common when new standards and assessments are introduced, and we are confident scores will rebound as students and teachers become more familiar with the changes. Over the long term, these changes will have a positive impact on student achievement by raising expectations for all.

Since the beginning of the school year, our teachers have been preparing our students for the more rigorous tests. Parents can view narrated demonstrations of the new test items, online SOL practice tests, and grade level content reviews to help their children prepare for the tests by visiting http://www.fcps.edu/is/news/mathsol.shtml. Parents are reminded that students test better when they are prepared physically and emotionally. FCPS' Family and School Partnerships share these tips for test takers from The Parent Institute: don't stay up late, get plenty of rest during test weeks, and eat healthy meals to keep mind and body nourished.

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电子信箱: <u>sabrina lei@yahoo.com</u>

한국어로번역된뉴스를받아보시기원하시는분은 크리스티씨께연락주세요. 전화 703-865-8065, 이메일<u>choichristie@yahoo.com</u>.

Nếu qúi vị muốn nhận tin tức "the Alert News" được dịch ra tiếng Việt , xin liên lạc <u>sonha60@hotmail.com</u>

Si desea recibir una copia de esta informacion en Espanol, porfavor llame Gabriella Numbela a 703-573-6375 or e-mail a <u>ganumbela@hotmail.com</u>.

For more information, please visit our website: <u>www.MantuaPTA.org</u> Sincerely, Mantua Elementary School PTA



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