

March 15 (Friday): 4th Grade Colonial Day. PTA Meeting, 9:30am, Cafeteria.

March 21 (Thursday): Heritage and Literacy Night.

March 23 (Saturday): Mantua Talent Show.

PTA Meeting

The March PTA meeting has been rescheduled to Friday March 15th at 9:30am in the cafeteria. Come join us! We would also like to announce that the open board member position for next year is our Secretary position. If you are interested in serving with us, please contact Lisa Libby at president@mantuapta.org and she will connect you to our nominating committee for more information. Thanks!



Heritage & Literacy Night

Thursday, March 21, 2019 from 6 pm to 8 pm Location- Mantua Elementary School Gym.

- Heritage Night is 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the gym
- Literacy Night is from 7:00pm – 8:00pm and the classrooms will be open for you to come in with your student to look at some of their recent work.

Person to Contact- Luis Uribe Gamboa-

Parent Liaison email- lauribegamboa@fcps.edu tel. (703)645-6405

Communication to Parents and Students about the Momo Challenge and Digital Citizenship Resources

In Fairfax County schools, county agencies and families are working together to create an environment where children and youth can safely learn, work, and play. Similar to our message containing information about the 13 Reasons Why NETFLIX program and the Blue Whale Challenge, we are sending this communication to alert you to a recent rise in new games and social media challenges that encourage young people to participate in harmful behavior.

One example of this is a potentially harmful game called the “Momo Challenge” that has reportedly been posted on different social media platforms to include

WhatsApp and assigns players a series of progressively more intense tasks, to include self-harm. It is important to note that the Momo Challenge is a hoax that has received a significant amount of media attention.

This hoax has been seen across the United States in recent months, targeting primarily elementary aged children. Vigilant parents and guardians in Fairfax County have also reported seeing information about the Momo Challenge or similar games on their children's phones and have alerted school authorities.

Please talk to your child about this type of internet hoax, and check his or her phone or other device for signs of an app or communications with anyone telling them to do specific tasks. This provides an excellent opportunity to remind your child of best practices for internet safety and digital citizenship:

- *Remind your child information shared on social media is not always true and how quickly misinformation can create a panic online.*
- *Children should never engage in conversations with strangers online.*
- *Be aware of the sites and apps your children are using and know their usernames and passwords.*
- *Turn off suggested autoplay on videos to stop children from viewing content they have not selected, and you have not approved.*
- *If appropriate, tell your children that Momo is not real and will not hurt them.*
- *Encourage open dialogue with them around any concerns.*

FCPS has additional resources available on this website: <https://www.fcps.edu/node/32086>. If you have concerns about your child, please contact your school counselor. Please be aware that a number of mental health resources are available, including Fairfax County Public School resources: School Counseling Services at 571-423- 4420, School Psychology Services at 571-423-4250, and School Social Work Services at 571-423-4300 and Fairfax County resources: Crisis Link Hotline at 703-527-4077, Merrifield Emergency Services 703-573-5679 (available 24/7) or Entry and Referral during business hours at 703-383-8500. The Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number is 703-691-2131.

More information about the Momo Challenge and other internet challenges or hoaxes is available at these links:

- *An article from the Ohio Department of Education contains talking points to use when speaking with your child:
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/News/Know-Momo-and-her-Deadly-Challenge-to-our-Youth>*
- *An article from Common Sense Media about online*

challenges: <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/viral-youtube-challenges-internet-stunts-popular-with-kids>

Contact

School Counseling Services 571-423-4420

School Psychology Services 571-423-4250

School Social Work Services 571-423-4300



Talent Show 2019

Mantua Talent Show Saturday, March 23rd ,

5:00-9:00 PM Mantua Gym

Come out and support your friends!

Tickets are \$3 at the door Pizza and snacks will be for sale

New Bus Dismissal Pattern



We continue to be worried about student safety, in an effort to improve overall student safety during dismissal, Mantua began lining up buses for student boarding in a new arrangement. Buses will no longer be parked in two rows, but instead will park for boarding with the front of every bus angled towards the curb. We anticipate that moving into this new

dismissal formation could initially delay all buses leaving Mantua by up to five minutes.

As always, we ask for your continued help in keeping the Kiss and Ride line processing smoothly and quickly. Please be off your cell phones, and be sure that you are not going around other cars and creating unsafe traffic patterns. Kiss and Ride works at its best when everyone stays in line, watches for and follows instructions for where to go, and does their best to leave promptly in an orderly and safe fashion once they have their students in their car.

Fairfax County Elementary and Middle School Science Fair

The 6th Annual Fairfax County Elementary and Middle School Science & Engineering (FCSE) Fair will take place on **Saturday May 11, 2019** at George Mason University. <https://www.fcsefair.com> The FCSE fair will accept projects in the areas of Life & Earth Sciences and Physical Sciences & Engineering.

The divisions are:

Division I (grades 1-3)

Division II (grades 4-5)

Division III (grades 6–8) Students are encouraged to begin working on their projects now so that sufficient time is allowed for planning, data gathering, and final presentation of results.

Students are expected to keep a journal documenting the progress of their investigation. Students must prepare a trifold poster board of their project for the fair. Rules & Guidelines can be found at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d54dde_7bfe491853294c92b4c088b054153cfc.pdf The FCSE fair has several requirements in advance of project start and submission this year, including a checklist, research plan/project summary, and an approval form. The FCSE fair will be following the rules of Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF); more information about Intel ISEF is available at: <http://student.societyforscience.org/intel-isef>. All projects that require additional approvals must have forms submitted to mantuasciencefair@gmail.com and Ms. Sullivan (5th grade AAP teacher) before starting on such projects. If there are more interested students than available slots allotted to Mantua (which we will find out in early April), we will have to decide which projects will go to the fair based on scientific merit. Please email mantuasciencefair@gmail.com if your child is interested in participating in the science fair. Please indicate:

- Child's name:
- Child's grade:
- Child's teacher:
- Child's interested project area:
- Child's proposed project topic (if known):

Additional paperwork as noted above will be necessary prior to enrolling in the county science fair. Project registration occurs in late March-early April. Cost is typically \$120 divided evenly by all school participants.

19th Annual Raccoon Run

The Annual Raccoon Run is a 5K Race and Mile Fun Run. **Saturday, May 11 at 8am**. Join the Kids Care Club, Rocky, the community and Mantua's own Raccoon Runners for this annual event to benefit Inova *Life with Cancer*.



Details and Registration: www.raccoonrun.org or contact Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, jalcooper@aol.com, 703.966.8304



Attendance email and Form

Submitting a student absence, reporting any transportation or dismissal changes has never been easier thanks to the online attendance form!

Submit any of these changes using the online attendance form or the email MantuaElem.Attendance@fcps.edu.

You're Invited to the PTA Listening Tour

Research shows that parent engagement in school and at home helps students succeed. Fairfax County Council PTA is working to increase opportunities for parents to become active in their children's school communities.

Parents and caregivers are invited to share their thoughts and experiences during one of four upcoming listening sessions hosted by Fairfax County Council PTA.

Your voice matters. Please join us for small group discussions 7-9 p.m. on Mondays at the following schools:

- Mar 18 Madison HS
- Apr 1 Marshall HS

There is no cost to attend. For questions contact Stella Pekarsky, vp.outreach@fccpta.org.

Shopping Online?

Anyone (parents, family and friends) who shops on Amazon can effortlessly earn money for Mantua ES by simply using a special Amazon link on Mantua PTA website. No sign-ups or codes required, no loyalty cards to manage - just click, shop, and watch the contributions to Mantua ES come in! Help us cast a wider net by sharing the links with friends and family. Go to <http://www.mantuapta.org> and click the Amazon link before beginning your shopping and Amazon will donate to our school. The link is located in the upper right corner of PTA website and also further down under "passive fundraising".

New this year: Looking to buy a Chromebook?

New this year! Looking to buy a Chromebook? Dell will donate 5% of your

purchase to Mantua Elementary, plus free shipping and price match guarantee!
Just use this special link: www.dell.com/MantuaPTA

<http://www.mantuapta.org/documents/dtf/2018-19/flyers/fundraisers/passive/dell.pdf>

Reminder About Early Dismissals

As shared in the first day folders, children will not be called out of class for early dismissal after 3:40pm and cannot be released to anyone other than a parent unless that person is on the emergency care card. The exception to the emergency care card requirement would be a release authorized by the parent through an email to MantuaElem.Attendance@fcps.edu received prior to 1pm that day. For “play dates” email or notes from parents of both the visitor and the host will be required for students planning to go home with a friend or neighbor after school. Students without corresponding email or notes will follow their typical dismissal plan.

There is a new direct email link on the Mantua ES Website for reporting dismissals and absences to <https://mantuaes.fcps.edu/attendance-form>

Translators

Translators comprise another vital part of our outreach efforts. We want every Mantua ES family to feel included and connected—should families need to have a document translated into their native language, our volunteers are here to help!

- للحصول على نسخة مترجمة للغة العربية، نرجو الإتصال بالأخت بدرية كفالة على هذا الإيميل: cbn@mantuapta.org. If you need to have a document translated into Arabic, please email cbn@mantuapta.org.
- Если вам необходимо перевести документ на русский язык, пожалуйста обращайтесь к Анне Жердецкой или Виктору Жердецкому по электронной почте: cbn@mantuapta.org или cbn@mantuapta.org. If you need to have a document translated into Russian, please contact Hanna Zhardzetskaya and Viktor Zhardzetski.
- 혹시 한국어로 번역된 자료가 필요하시면 좌승관씨에게 연락주세요 (cbn@mantuapta.org.) If you need to have a document translated into Korean, please contact Lisa Libby.
- Para obtener una copia en Espanol favor de contactar a Lisa Libby at cbn@mantuapta.org. If you need to have a document translated into

Spanish, please contact Lisa Libby.

Email Lisa Libby at cbn@mantuapta.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer as an ambassador or translator with Mantua ES's Community Building Network.

[9107 Horner Court, Fairfax, VA 22031](#) | Main Office: [703-645-6300](tel:703-645-6300)

Attendance: [703-645-6363](tel:703-645-6363) | [Web](#) | [PTA Web](#) | [Twitter](#)

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