

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
ANNA MCDONALD SCHOOL**

200 Second Street, Manhattan, IL 60442

815-478-3310

[www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org)

Ryan McWilliams, Principal

Debbie Jones, Secretary

Dear Anna McDonald Friends & Families,

I wish for each of you and your circle of family, friends, and loved ones, a great Christmas Holiday Season. I hope the next few weeks give you the opportunity to reflect on the many positive things to be thankful for. As I have expressed to the Anna McDonald Staff so many times, the opportunity to work in such a fine school district like Manhattan #114 has truly been a blessing that I will always be grateful for. I am a very lucky man!

A sincere "Thank You" to everyone associated with this wonderful school district for all you do on behalf of the children and your contribution to an excellent (and growing!) learning community.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Ryan McWilliams  
Principal

**Angel Tree Program**

As the holiday season is just around the corner this year's service project is once again the Angel Tree. Together with the Manhattan Family Pantry we will be collecting non-perishable items as well as donations. It is our goal to sponsor 10 local families and make their holidays memorable. Checks can be made out to Manhattan S.D. 114, gift cards and cash can be returned to school in an envelope marked Angel Tree. There will also will be a box setup at the front office for non-perishable items. Please share your generosity. We will be accepting donations until Friday, December 11th. Thanks for all your support and happy holidays.

**Change Of Information**

It is very important that parents notify the school office at 478-3310 with any changes in home, work, or emergency phone numbers. Valuable time can be saved in emergency situations if information is kept up to date. Thank you!

**Winter Holiday Parties / Early Dismissal**

Holiday parties will be held on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:15 p.m. School will be dismissed at 2:12 p.m. for walkers/parent riders and 2:15 p.m. for bus riders. School resumes after winter break on Monday, January 4, 2010.

**Music News**

Thank you to all who supported the orchestra fundraiser!

The elementary orchestras continue to prepare for the winter concert on January 20th. Please remind your child to turn in their weekly practice record. The concert will be at the junior high, which will also feature the beginner band and children's choir.

3rd grade is working on their recorder unit. The students are preparing by studying music theory: the staff, treble clef, reading notes on the staff, quarter notes, eighth notes, half notes. Recorders will be delivered in December.

4th grade is enjoying their game of Lummi sticks. It is a Native American game which uses lummi sticks to learn 4 different stick patterns, while singing and keeping the beat. They are also reading various rhythm patterns. Recorders will not be needed for music class. If you would like to donate your gently used recorder, please send it to the school. Thank you!

5th grade is learning the basics of vocal singing, the solfege tones (do, re, mi) in addition to various rhythm patterns. They are also working on reading choral music, 4 staves at the same time! The 3 songs they are working on will be performed on January 20th at the junior high. If you would like to have your child participate in this Manhattan Children's Choir, the information will be coming in January.

### **Car Rider Safety Tips**

Please remember if you are dropping off or picking up your child from school, you will need to do so in front of our school building directly opposite the main school doors. Please do not drop them off or pick them up near the parked cars, as visibility is poor.

### **Library News Nov. 2009**

The Scholastic Book Fair was very successful. The final paperwork is not yet complete, but from a quick overview, it appears that I will be able to purchase many new books for the library. Kelly Honan and many volunteers were great! Mrs. Honan scheduled the workers and did most of the preparation for the book fair. Thank you, Volunteers! Thank you, Kelly!!!

Good News for AR Test Takers!!! The AR list is now online. To see it, go to our website: [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org). From there, click on "Our Schools," then click on "Anna McDonald School" and then click on "Library." The Library website is still under construction, and in need of some tweaking, but you can see the AR list at the bottom of the page.

### **Emergency Closing Information**

Parents have several options to receive information on whether our school will follow PLAN A: School is closed, or PLAN B: School will begin 1 hour later than usual. These options are as follows:

1) Call your child's school phone number (Anna McDonald 478-3310, Wilson Creek 478-4527) and press 5 to hear updated information about school closings.

2) WJOL Radio (1340 AM), WGN Radio (720 AM), WBBM Radio (780 AM), CBS Channel 2, NBC Channel 5, ABC Channel 7, WGN Channel 9, Fox Channel 32 and CLTV Cable.

3) Access the website [www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com). Once connected, search for Anna McDonald School for information. Parents can sign-up to receive an e-mail notification through this website.

EARLY DISMISSAL: If it becomes necessary to close school during the day, an announcement will be made on WJOL (1340 AM) radio. Our emergency hot line callers will attempt to contact all parents only in the event of an early dismissal. Make sure your child has proper instructions as to what to do!

### **Parent/Teacher Conference Thank You!**

Thank you to both parents and teachers for successful Parent/Teacher Conferences. We hope that your conference was very beneficial and informative. A special thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete a survey. As always, if you have any future concerns as to your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

The Anna McDonald staff would also like to thank the PTO for serving dinner to the staff on the Monday evening of conferences and to the Women's Club for all the cookies & sweet treats the staff enjoyed on both days of Parent/Teacher Conferences.

### **Santa's Secret Shop**

The Manhattan Band Boosters will once again provide a holiday store for Anna McDonald students. Santa's Secret Shop will be open during school hours on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The store is stocked with a large variety of well-chosen gifts for the whole family, with prices ranging up to \$12.00. Band Booster parents will provide shopping assistance and gift bags.

Please watch for our letter and payment envelope. They will be sent home with students. The profits from this fundraiser are used to support the band programs at Anna McDonald and Manhattan Junior High. Thank you in advance for Christmas shopping with us.

### **D.A.R.E. Graduation**

During the first semester all 5th grade students have been participating in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.). The program included classroom sessions designed to discourage drug and alcohol abuse by building awareness, self-esteem, and self-confidence. The Will County Sheriff's Department will issue certificates of completion to all students during the December Graduation. Graduation will be December 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students will be enjoying an afternoon of bowling at Laraway Bowl. The cost will be \$9.00 per student which includes lunch and bowling. Parents are encouraged to attend the ceremony to show support of the children's completion of the program. Due to limited space, parents will not be able to bowl but may stay to watch. Congratulations 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

### **Lost and Found**

If you believe your child has left something at school, please check our lost and found bin near the gym. Any

clothing unclaimed in the lost and found is given to a needy organization during winter break, spring break, and at the end of the school year.

### **Art News**

#### **Box Tops For Education and Pop Tabs**

Student council continues to collect Box Tops for Education to earn money for our school. The value of the box top is as marked or 10 cents. Box tops can be found on brand name products such as Chex, Ziploc, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Cheerios, Juicy Juice, and more. To view the entire list of products please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). We also continue to collect pop tabs which are sent to the Ronald McDonald House. This is a fundraising project for children who are being treated for leukemia and cancer. Thank you for your support.

### **The Manhattan Foundation for Education Excellence**

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The last day to order speed stacks online will be December 2, 2009. You may order by going to [www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com) and click on group order. If you would like to order speed stacks as a gift for your child, simply place the order online and then call me. When the speed stacks arrive at school, I will set them aside and call you to pick them up. Credit cards only. Do not send a check/cash to school with your child.

Try outs for this year's speed stack team will be in January 2010. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Blackman.

Parents, just a reminder, if you need your child to be excused from physical education class, please write a note. If the child needs to be excused for more than one (1) day, you will need a note from your child's doctor. Students who are excused by their doctor "until further notice" will not be allowed back into p.e. class until cleared with a note from the child's doctor.

### **PTO News**

Ordering gift cards this holiday? Wondering what to get those 'hard-to-buy-for' friends and relatives on your holiday list. Why not purchase a present they're sure to enjoy this season! Visit: [www.simplifiedscrip.com](http://www.simplifiedscrip.com) to purchase gift cards from hundreds of top name merchants from the convenience of your own home. Select "Manhattan PTO" for your school of choice and these merchants will make a donation to us for each gift card purchased. Most gift cards delivered in about 2 days! Happy Holidays!

### **PLASE**

### **Nurse News**

Please review the handbook regarding the medication procedure. Please note that only pectin/non-mentholated cough drops can be administered at school without a doctor's prescription. Medication prescribed by a physician requires a completed medication administration authorization form signed and dated by the physician as well as the parent. All medication needs to be sent to school in the original container.

Don't forget about the asthma triggers over the holiday season. Triggers can be from pollen and mold in living Christmas trees and dust gathered during storage of artificial trees and ornaments. Fireplace smoke can also cause a problem as well as stress.

Students with fever, vomiting and diarrhea need to stay home for at least 24 hours after the last episode. If your child has pink eye or a rash, they must be diagnosed by a doctor and can return to school 24 hours after antibiotics have been started. Feel free to contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

Mrs. Rayson is planning a mission trip to Cosa Rica over spring break. If you have old eye glasses you would like to donate, please send them with your child to school. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

### **December 2009**

