

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
ANNA MCDONALD SCHOOL
200 Second Street, Manhattan, IL 60442
815-478-3310
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

Parent University

Please join us @ 6:30 p.m. at Anna McDonald School on Monday, December 5th, for an information night on the following topics:

1. Striving for Consistency with our Curriculum & Instruction
2. AIMSweb & DRA assessments
3. ISAT
4. The future with the Common Core
5. Homelogic
6. District Website
7. RtI

This presentation should last about 45 minutes to an hour. If you plan on attending, please email Debbie Jones at dejones@manhattan114.org or Ryan McWilliams at rmcwilliams@manhattan114.org

Look forward to sharing information with you and answering any questions you may have on these topics or anything else that comes to mind.

Food Drive

Thank you for contributing non-perishables in time for Thanksgiving for the Manhattan Food Pantry. The Manhattan Food Pantry is open the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

Box Tops

Student Council is collecting BOX TOPS. For every 50 BOX TOPS you turn in you earn a chance to enter a raffle for a \$25 gift card. The drawing will be held in February so keep collecting BOX TOPS. Please send them in a ziploc bag or on the Box Top sheet with the students name and teachers name completed. Please keep in mind that Box Tops do EXPIRE. If you have any marked BONUS BOX TOPS there are some that expire this month so

please send them in to be sent out. Thank you for your continued support!

Angel Tree-Help Us Help Others

Each year Student Council has collected money and/or specific items to be distributed to the needy families of Manhattan to help fulfill their holiday wishes. Student council wraps the gifts and then they are passed on to the Manhattan Food Pantry for distribution. This year student council will be making holiday crafts to sell for \$1 at the school store and all proceeds will go towards buying gifts for Angel Tree families. Please help us help others by having your child purchase a holiday craft and or sending in donations in an envelope marked Angel Tree. Donations will be accepted until Monday, Dec.12th.

Bullying Presentation

On Nov. 14 Manhattan School District Social Workers presented a bullying presentation for parents. Thank you to all those who attended. A special thanks to our community supporters Mayor Bill Borgo, Manhattan School District Board Member, Liz Boyles, Manhattan Police Department members Captain William Fitzgerald and Officer Brett Burkhalter. Bullying concerns and/or a request for this presentation can be sent to bullying@manhattan114.org. Look for more information soon on our district website.

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 Thursday, December 22nd 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 9, 2012.

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 6th and Wednesday, December 7th. 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.

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.

Emergency Closing Information

In addition to local radio, TV, and websites, you can access up-to-date school closing information by calling any of the school phone numbers or the district office at 478-6093 and press extension 5. Mr. Butters and the principals will record a message informing parents about school closings.

If school is going to be closed prior to the start of the day, parents will receive an automated "Connect Ed" call. If you have had a change in contact phone numbers since filling out your child's registration form, it is important that you call school with these changes. These are the numbers that will be used to generate your automated call. HOTLINE-If we have to close school once children are already in school, we will activate our Emergency

Hotline. We will call Wilson Creek and Anna McDonald's youngest child in the family's emergency contact information to notify you if we have to close school early. At Manhattan Junior High we will only call those families that request a call.

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.

Fire Safety Week

During fire safety week, a representative of the fire department came to school and spoke to students about fire safety. All students were given the opportunity to draw out a home escape plan. Three plans were chosen and the winners were given a ride to school on a fire truck on November 1st. The winners were Courtney DeVenuto, Savannah McCloud and Chloe Yost.

The Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence

Would you like to advertise your home business in the 2012-2013 Manhattan school calendar? The Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence is extending a special offer open only to owners of home-based businesses. For a **special rate of \$50.00**, the name of your business, a contact name, and a phone number will be published in a featured Home-Based Business Section. Your information will also appear in our index of advertisers at the back of the calendar. Your business name and phone number will not only be at the fingertips of all Manhattan families for a whole year, you will also be supporting educational enrichment activities within District #114. This annual fundraising calendar helps to provide programs and materials that supplement the district's budget. Contact Kelly Honan KHonan@aol.com or 815-478-7782 to place an ad before February 17, 2012.

Art News

We will begin our preliminary drawings for square 1 art this month. The theme for fifth grade are bugs, reptiles or butterflies. 4th grade theme is zoo animals or flowers. The third graders theme will be tropical birds or tropical fish. Make sure you ask your children about their themes and ask them if they have some good ideas. This is something they can research over the holiday break also. We will begin some research before break, but nothing will be written in stone until after they return from vacation.

I want to thank all of the fourth and fifth graders for all their hard work on the giant hand print flags that they created for the fourth grade music show. They will be on permanent display in the Gym at Anna Mac Donald. They traveled to Manhattan Jr High to be on display at their Veterans Day Commemoration Assembly.

The fourth graders have completed their ceramics pieces and they will be returning home soon after being on display in the case in front of the gym. Fifth grade will begin ceramics in the early spring.

Any questions at all, please contact me at kambrosini@manhattan114.org
Mrs. Ambrosini

Nurse News

Please review the handbook regarding the medication procedure. Note that only pectin/non-mentholated lozenges 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.

Physical Education Highlights

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes completed a running/dodging/chasing unit during the month of November. Students participated in activities such as pinball, chaos, human foosball, pin soccer, pirate ball, medic bombardment and four-corner kickball.

The classes also spent a week working with speed stacks. They sharpened their hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, and using both their right and left sides of the brain. On Thursday, November 17th, physical education classes participated in the WSSA Stack Up day. The purpose of this day is to try and beat last year's record of 316, 736 people, from around the world, speed stacking on one day. This year over 382,641 people registered. To learn more about speed stacking go to www.speedstacks.com.

Try outs for the Anna McDonald Speed Stack team will be held the week of January 23, 2012. Try outs will be during physical education classes. All students are welcome to try out for the team.

Illinois Speed Stack Records

3-3-3 Stack	1.88 sec.
3-6-3 Stack	2.22 sec
Cycle	6.08 sec
Doubles	7.41 sec
3-6-3 Relay	27.05 sec

On Wednesday, November 16, 2011, students who placed a speed stacks order online received their orders. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your order, please contact Ms. Blackman.

On December 22, 2011 Anna McDonald will host its annual dodge ball tournament.

On a somewhat sad note...I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Kenny for all of her hard work and dedication to our students, faculty and staff. She will be graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a teaching degree in physical education. She will also be coaching for Lincoln Way West. We want to wish her the best of luck!

Music Department

Thank you to everyone who supported the orchestra fundraiser! Watch the evening lottery numbers to see if you are a cash winner! Good luck!!!!

3rd grade: Congratulations on a fantastic and fun show! Students are now working on reading music (rhythm cards) on the staff, and getting ready for recorders!!!

4th grade: The students are working on rhythm cards, and preparing to test on their lummi sticks! Students are encouraged to practice at home. (Wooden spoons work great!)

5th grade: is working on sight singing (do, re, mi) and various rhythm cards. They are also reading choral music, and getting familiar with reading the four staves. The Children's Choir concert will be January 26th at the junior high. Students are to wear black and white for this performance.

Band and Orchestra will be having their winter concert on January 26th at the junior high, at 7:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to come hear the talents of our young musicians!

MAKE YOUR LUNCH PAYMENTS ONLINE

You are now able to view and pay for your children's lunch and registration fees online with a credit card through Homelogic. You may continue to pay with cash or check by sending it to school with your student. With this new system, **negative balances will not be allowed.** Lunch payments made online with a credit card must be a minimum of \$10.00.

If you should have any questions about your balance, please feel free to call.

LOW AND NEGATIVE BALANCE LETTERS WILL NO LONGER BE SENT OUT
YOU WILL NEED TO VIEW YOUR CHILD'S BALANCE THRU HOMEOLOGIC

December 2011

2 nd	Progress reports
3 rd	Kid Country Program 12-5 pm
5 th	Parent University Presentation @ Anna McDonald 6:30 pm
6 th	Secret Santa BB @ Hickory Creek
7 th	Secret Santa
8 th	BB @ Homer Hadley
9 th	Yearbook Candids
13 th	BB Home 4pm
14 th	BOE meeting 7 pm
22 nd	Dodgeball Morning Mania Early dismissal 2:15 pm
December 23 rd -January 8 th	Winter Break