

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

www.manhattan114.org
Ryan McWilliams, Principal
Debbie Jones, Secretary

December 21, 2011

Happy Holidays

There will be early dismissal on Thursday, December 22nd at 2:15 p.m. School will resume Monday, January 9th. On behalf of the Board of Education and staff at Anna McDonald, we wish you a most joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

No School

There will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

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 for lunches with cash or check by sending it to school with your student. **With this new system, negative lunch 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 HOMELOGIC

SUBSTITUTE NURSE & AIDES NEEDED

We are in need of substitute nurses and teacher aides. If you or someone you know would like to substitute, please have them contact me at: gjohnston@manhattan114.org

Six Flags Read to Succeed

Read for 6 hours and earn a free ticket to Six Flags. Students have between Jan. 17th and Feb. 17th to do their reading. Students must log their reading and have a parent sign their reading log. All reading logs must be returned to homeroom teachers by Feb. 17th. No exceptions!

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.

Check Out Our School District Website - www.manhattan114.org

Please visit our website at www.manhattan114.org. We post a variety of information related to our school district and its three schools. The Virtual Backpack is also available on our website. It contains flyers and information you can print. Homelogic can also be accessed by going to the website.

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 BHonan@aol.com or 815-478-7782 to place an ad before February 17, 2012.

Physical Education Highlights

The students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade have been busy in numerous chasing and fleeing games. The games included "Tag & Go," "Hide-and-Seek Tag," and "Shoulder-to-Shoulder Tag". Students focused on proper techniques in chasing and tagging other students and watching where they are running.

The third graders spent a week learning "The 12 Days of Winter Fitness." This was a circle dance that included the students acting as snowflakes, polar bears, skiers, mountain climbers, window cleaners, reindeer, snowmen, ice skaters and penguins.

The fourth and fifth grade students participated in a unit called Tinikling. Tinikling is the most popular and best known dance of the Philippines, receiving acclaim as their national dance. The dance is similar to rope jumping, but instead of a spinning rope, two bamboo poles are hit against raised blocks on the floor and then together. Tinikling actually means "bamboo dance" in English. The dance requires one person to operate each end of the poles, and one or more dancers to move in and out of the poles.

Tinikling originated in the Visayan Islands, on the Island of Leyte. Dancers imitate the tinikling bird's legendary grace and speed as they walk between grass stems, run over tree branches, or dodge bamboo traps set by rice farmers.

The physical education students used "jump bands" instead of the bamboo poles. The bands are a little more forgiving. Jump bands are elastic bands that have a loop at each end. Consequently, they are operated by foot instead of by hand. Those operating the bands put a loop on each foot (or hand) and create parallel bands which open and close to the beat. Dancers move in and out of the bands using a variety of steps or movements as with the poles. Classes learned three basic jumps: singles, doubles and hops.

Speed Stack Try Outs, will be held during your child's physical education class, the week of January 16, 2012. Any student who would like to be on the 2012 Speed Stack Team, must try out that week. The **top 8 students** from each grade level will earn a place on the Speed Stack Team. Students who earn a place on the team will practice on the stage, before school, from 8:25 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. That date will be determined after all team members have been announced.

Student Council

Thank you to everyone who helped us buy gifts for the families of Angel Tree. Over \$200 was collected to buy gifts for those in need. Thank you for your continued support.

Student Council will be hosting Pennies for Patients after break to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society...details to come.

Bonus Box Top Days

Jewel-Osco is offering 25 bonus box tops from 1/5/12-1/11/12 when you buy 10 select General Mills Products. Please check out GrowingLocalLearning.com for specific products.

Free Parenting Workshops

Dr. John Deitche, Ph.D., L.C.P.C is offering 2 FREE workshops for parents. Living with Autism, Asperger's or PDD-NOS will be offered on Friday, Jan. 20 from 4-6 p.m. and Freedom to be the parent you were meant to be; Being the

parent your child needs will be offered on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 7-9p.m. Workshops are held at 5 Old Frankfort Way, Frankfort, IL. Please confirm attendance at drdeitch@gmail.com or call 708-361-6500.

“WHY CAN’T I SKIP MY 20 MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?”

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week; Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week. Student A reads 20 minutes x 5 times a week = 100 min./week. Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month. Student A reads 400 minutes a month. Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year. Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year. Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year. Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days. One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school....and in life?
- Which student are you?

U.S. Dept. of Education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) “Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader.” Washington, D.C.

January 2011

- 1st – 8th off
- 9th School Resumes
- 10th Basketball @ Hilda Walker 4 pm
- 11th BOE meeting @ WC 7 pm
- 12th Lincoln Way Central Fine Arts assembly 2:15 pm
- Basketball Home 4 pm
- Ed Foundation meeting @ JHS 6 pm
- 13th End 2nd quarter
- Early dismissal 12:45 pm
- 16th Teacher Institute Day – No School
- 18th Basketball Home 4 pm
- 20th Report Cards on line
- Basketball @ Homer TBA
- 21st Basketball @ Homer TBA
- 26th Band, Choir, Orchestra Concert @ JHS 7 pm