

**November 2009**  
Anna McDonald Elementary School  
200 Second Street, Manhattan, IL 60442  
815-478-3310

**[www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org)**  
**Ryan McWilliams, Principal**  
**Debbie Jones, Secretary**

### **Important Reminders**

Please keep in mind when making changes for your child, or if other arrangements need to be made for your child, please send a note. Unless we have something in writing your child will be sent on their normal means of travel. In case of an emergency, a call can be made to the school and we will get the message to your child. Please try to make all calls before 2:45 p.m. to allow time to get the message to them.

### **First Grading Period Ends**

Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> marked the end of the first quarter. Report cards will be issued on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Parent / Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Halloween Activities**

The Annual Halloween Costume Parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The parade will start from school on Second Street, proceed to Lee Street, then west on First Street, south on Park Street, and then back to school. In the event of a rain and/or extreme cold, the parade will be cancelled. Room parties will follow the parade. Students will be dismissed as usual at 3:12 and 3:15 p.m.

### **Halloween Information**

Halloween will soon be here. To help make this a fun day at school, we are requesting that all children/families adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Children should bring their costume to school in a bag.  
Children are NOT to come to school dressed in costume.
2. Children need to have a costume they are able to put on themselves.
3. Children are not to carry as part of their costume any weaponry-guns, knives, etc.
4. Children are not to have roller skates, rollerblades or skateboards.

### **District Newsletter**

You can access the school report cards at [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org). Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> parents will also have access to the "Virtual Backpack", a link on our website which will be a link on our website containing flyers, announcements, etc., all in an effort to go green.

### Library News

In October, third graders used nonfiction books to gather information about fall. They were instructed to write the title and author of the books they used for research. The “My Weird School” books by Dan Gutman have been flying off the shelves.

Fourth graders have been learning map and geography skills. However, this week, because of a shortened library schedule, they all listened to “Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal” by Paul Fleischman. They then compared and contrasted the story with the traditional Cinderella story and some classes completed a Venn Diagram for the stories.

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair the first week in November and the two days of Parent/Teacher Conferences, November 9 and 10. Be sure to check the book fair for Christmas presents. By November 10, there will be only 45 shopping days until Christmas!!!!

Volunteers are needed to help with the Book Fair. Please see the included form.

Please look at the library link from the Anna McDonald site on the district website. You will see information about the library and several websites for homework and for fun. You can also link to the Manhattan Public Library website which is a wealth of information. You can check their website for book availability as well as homework/research help using your library card to access databases.

### Hints for a Healthy Classroom

Please take a few moments to review this important health information. Keep this information in a safe place to refer to if needed.

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that your child stay home when the following conditions occur. This will decrease the infection of others and create a healthy classroom.

Fever – An elevation of body temperature of 100 degrees F or above. Children are required to stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone without fever reducing medication.

Runny nose, Diarrhea and Vomiting Due to Virus – All body fluids are considered contagious. Children are required to stay home for at least 24 hours after the last episode.

Pink Eye – May be viral or bacterial. Any child with symptoms (swelling, redness, itching, drainage) will need to be seen by a physician. Antibiotics need to be given for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Rash – Any eruption of the skin. A rash is assumed to be contagious and needs to be diagnosed by a doctor. A doctor’s note should accompany the child when returning to school that identifies the rash.

It’s Simple: **Clean**: wash your hands. **Cover**: cover your cough and sneezes. **Contain** your germs; stay home when you’re sick.

**Just remember to call your student in absent and leave a detailed message.**

### Nurse News

Mental health illnesses can affect a child's quality of life and academic performance. Signs your child may need help include: Persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness; Bouts of extreme anger; Extreme fearfulness; Excessive concern with physical problems or appearance; Crying or overreaction; Unexplained changes in eating or sleeping habits; Avoiding other people; Poor grades despite strong efforts; Difficulty concentrating or making decisions; Persistent nightmare, disobedience or aggression; Behaving without regard for other people. *Source: National Health Information Center and National Mental Health Association)*

### Lunch Information

When purchasing lunches, please remember to place money in an envelope with your child's first and last name and teacher's name on the envelope. This is very important to ensure that we can credit the right child's account. It is also necessary for students to sign up each day that they are buying a hot lunch. Failure to sign up in their classroom will result in the student receiving cheese crackers and milk for lunch.

### News from the Art Department

Fifth grade will begin a ceramics unit the month of November. Due to the school schedule these will be on staggered days so please note CAREFULLY:

5L Friday, Nov. 6

5H Thursday, Nov. 12

5G Monday, Nov. 16

5ST Tuesday, Nov. 17

5SH Wednesday, Nov. 18

5K Thursday, Nov. 19

Each student will be required to bring a plastic bag, NO HOLES (grocery store type is fine-they are free and they are the correct size – zip lock bags are TOO SMALL). I will provide a rag. No student will be issued clay without a bag. It is to keep the clay moist as it is being worked on for two weeks. Please put the name ON TAPE at the BOTTOM of the BAG. If supplies are brought before the start day, students should keep them in their homerooms until art day.

### Demon Dollar Winners

Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Davern, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Snipes, Ms. Stuedemann, and Ms. Lamont's classes were Demon Dollar winners for September. Classes were treated to dodge ball games. Ask your child how their class can earn demon dollars!

### Dropping Off Or Picking Up Students:

When dropping off or picking up students please use the parking spaces immediately in front of the school and to the west. The front east parking spaces are reserved for handicapped individuals and our staff who must travel between buildings. **Parents are not to drive through or park in the parking spaces on the east or southeast side of the building.** Those spaces are for school personnel only. The parking lot also serves as a safe walking zone for the children. **Parents are not to drop off or pick up children behind the school, nor along Eastern Avenue south of Second Street, nor along Route 52 (State Street).** **Also, please insist that your child exit or enter the car on the school side and not walk in between cars.**

### **Computer News**

Third, fourth, and fifth grade are making great strides in Computers. Although we continue to emphasize keyboarding, we have also continued introducing new software. Third graders have been using Math Blaster and Word Munchers in addition to UltraKey keyboarding software. Fourth and fifth graders have been using Microsoft Excel. They researched a "dream car" on Edmunds.com and plugged that information into an Excel workbook. They used built in math formulas to calculate a monthly payment. If you need to contact Mr. Riley, feel free to email him at jriley@manhattan114.org.

### **Student Arrival - Automobile, Bicycles, Walkers:**

**Children walking, riding bicycles, and being dropped off by parents, are not to be on school grounds until after 8:30 a.m.** The only exceptions are children attending Rec. Care or children that arrive early due to teacher request. Children are to follow the Rules-of-the-Road regarding bicycle safety. Care must especially be taken around the school due to the high volume of vehicular traffic. Children riding their bicycles are to enter school grounds at the north entrance to the east parking lot. Once on school grounds students are to walk their bike to the bike rack located in front of the building. It is highly recommended that all bicycles be secured to the rack using a lock. Students are required to reverse these procedures when leaving school at the end of the day. Children walking home are requested to use the sidewalks whenever possible. Students walking home on Second Street east of the school are to walk on the right side of the road.

### **PLASE**

The next meeting for the Parents of Lincoln-Way Area Associated with Special Education (PLASE) will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Pioneer Grove Educational Center. For additional information, please call 815-806-4600.

### **Physical Education Highlights**

I can hardly believe that the first quarter has come to an end. The students have been very busy this year in physical education. We've introduced the third grade classes and all of our new students to the Mileage Club program. This program is completely optional and students participate during their lunch recess. Tokens are awarded at various intervals. These tokens are then placed on a metal chain, which the student can hang on their shoe, book bag or wrist.

Our fourth graders completed a unit on the bones in the body. The students spent two weeks in various activities that emphasized the names of all the bones in the body. They later were given a study guide and quiz.

All of the classes participated in a "recess" unit. Students learned various games such as knockout, four-square, 3-base kickball and tether ball. All of these activities can be played at recess.

Third grade participated in cardiovascular exercises. They participated in a game called the Indy 500 Monster Race. At the end of the week they built a car using a scooter and a tumbling mat. They raced around the oval track and back to the finish line. It was great!

Fourth and fifth grade classes were introduced to a football unit. They learned to pass, receive and hand off. They later ran relay exercise drills and played Hail Mary Football and Maniac Football.

This past week was nice weather, so we took the opportunity and completed the Pumpkin Fun Run. All students who completed 6 laps (1 ½ miles) received a chain and an orange plastic pumpkin token. The students' names were then written on a poster and hung in the hallway. If the weather stays nice for November, we will do the turkey trot and run for turkey tokens.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

On your marks. Get set. STACK UP!

From coast to coast, continent to continent, hundreds of thousands of kids and adults will come together on **November 12** in the name of –sport stacking! The 4<sup>th</sup> annual event takes place in nearly 1,500 schools and is sanctioned by the **Guinness Book of World Records**. At last year's World Sport Stacking Association annual "Stack Up!," 222,560 stackers representing 1,343 schools/organizations from 13 countries and all 50 U.S. States stacked together to set a new world record. **On November 12, the WSSA and Wonderful Pistachios will encourage a quarter million kids to crack that record!**

If your child has a set of speed stacks, we encourage him/her to bring them to school that day so they can be a part of the Guinness Book of World Records. This is a great platform to bring together sport stackers across the globe. Sport stacking is an activity enjoyed by all ages and cultures. It promotes hand-eye coordination, fitness, teamwork, speed and lots of fun.

If you would like to order a set of speed stacks for your child, or you need to purchase replacement cups, please log onto [www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com) for more information. You may purchase your order right online and have the cups shipped directly to your home.

We will have tryouts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual speed stacking team here at Anna McDonald shortly after our winter break in January. So start stacking!!!!

### **MANHATTAN PTO HOME SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA!**

If you're looking for Christmas gifts, teacher gifts, something for the office, gifts for the bus driver, your holiday hostess or even a gift for yourself, this is the place to be! Get a head start on your Christmas shopping at the PTO's Annual Home Shopping Expo! This event will be held at Wilson Creek Elementary, on Monday, November 9th, from 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. There will be great raffles from all vendors!

Vendors include but not limited to: Avon, Celebrating Home, Chic Boutique, Close To My Heart, Cookie Lee, Creative Memories, Curves, Double Take Photography, Dress A Neck, Gold Canyon Candles, Gram of Gold (gold buying), Great Products 2go, Hand Stamped, Creations by Lisa, Juice Plus+, Lia Sophia, Mary Kay, Miche Bags, Moms Helping Moms, Pampered Chef, Partylite, Reel Art Productions, Silpada, Southern Living at Home, Stampin' Up!, Sunsilks, Tastefully Simple, The Angel Company, Thirty-One Gifts, Tupperware, Uppercase Living, Votre Vu, and What a Charming Idea.

This event is open to the public! Please invite your friends. If you would like more information regarding any of our vendors, please feel free to contact Lori Brown at (815) 478-5119 or [thebrowns@earthlink.net](mailto:thebrowns@earthlink.net).

The PTO thanks you for your support!

### **Music News**

3rd Grade Music is preparing for their music show. The date has been changed to Wednesday, November 4th. The evening show will be at 7:00 p.m. The students are asked to wear black on the bottom and white on the top. Everyone is invited to this free concert!

4th Grade is working on a Lummi stick game to coordinate movement with song! There are 4 levels of ability, and the game can be played at home. Recorders are done for the year. We will not need them for music class anymore. You may wash them at home with dish soap, air dry over night. If you would like to donate your used recorder, the music department will welcome any gently used recorder.

5th Grade is working on musical math skills with emphasis on counting. We are also reviewing simple reading patterns.

Orchestra is having their one fundraiser this month. Please support our orchestra by purchasing Fannie May! Congratulations on another outstanding concert! Bravo to all!!!!

### **News from the Manhattan Public Library District's Children's Department**

**Stories of the Season:** There will be a special story time on **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00am to 11:00 am**. Stop in and listen to stories of the season! This program is open to all children and their parents. Treats will be handed out to the children. Children may wear their costumes. Bring your camera. For further information call 478-3987.

**Drop-In Craft Day:** **Thursdays** during the school year the library is offering a drop-in craft day. Stop in the Children's Department from **3:00pm to 5:00pm** and bring your creativity. We will supply the craft materials. This is a free program. Registration is not required.

**Thanksgiving Tree:** The "Thanksgiving Tree" will again be in the Children's Department. **Visit the Children's Department during the month of November and ask for a thanksgiving leaf, write something that you are grateful for and attach the leaf to the tree. This is a nice way to share the thanksgiving season with your children**

**Bedtime Story Time:** **Bedtime Story Time** is for all ages. This special Story Time will be held on the **first Wednesday** of the month from **6:30-7:00pm**. The next date will be **Wednesday, November 4th**. Come as you are or wear your pj's (stuffed friend optional) and enjoy a half hour of stories. Registration is required.

**Book Buddies:** **Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-5:30**. This program matches **3-6 year olds** with a teen reader to learn the importance of reading. Teen readers will be reading and doing an activity with their buddies.

**Katie and the Masters Program:** Our resident artist, Katie Mackholz will be doing a special art program on **Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm** for children in **1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup>**. We'll provide the art supplies, just bring your imagination! **The programs are free but registration is required.**

**Registration for Children's Programs:** Registration for Baby Time, Terrific Twos and Story Time is on-going. Call for information.

**Text Books:** Did you forget to take home your school books? Stop in the library. We have most of the textbooks. You may make a copy of your assignment for a nominal fee. (Please call to make sure we do have your particular book). 478-3987

**(All programs are free)**

Dear Parents and Families,

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Anna McDonald the week of November 2 -6 during school hours. The fair will also be open during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 9 and Tuesday, November 10. We are looking for volunteers to be cashiers during the fair. If you are available to help please return this form to Anna McDonald or contact Kelly Honan at 815-478-7782 or [KHonan@aol.com](mailto:KHonan@aol.com).

Thank you!

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Return to Anna McDonald School

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Class/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence**

Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence...Turn your weekly grocery bill into cash for our schools! Shop at Berkot's (Manhattan) on **November 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**. Turn in this identification slip with your purchase, and Berkot's will donate 5% of your bill to the Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence. Please encourage your family and friends to also participate. Thank you for your support!

USE THIS SLIP ON NOV. 9 & 10

USE THIS SLIP ON NOV 16&17



100 Market Place Manhattan, IL 60442

100 Market Place Manhattan, IL 60442

Store # 315 Checker # \_\_\_\_\_  
Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence  
Manhattan, IL

Store # 315 Checker # \_\_\_\_\_  
Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence  
Manhattan, IL

Berkot's Community Involvement Days are good for:  
Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 (Mon/Tues)

Berkot's Community Involvement Days are good for:  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> & Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 (Mon/Tues)

Total amount of purchase \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Excluding tobacco, cigarettes liquor or tax)

Total amount of purchase \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Excluding tobacco, cigarettes liquor or tax)

Date of Shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Shopping \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### November 2009

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Book Fair 11/2 – 11/10  
GBB H
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SLT 7:45 a.m.  
GBB H
- 4<sup>th</sup> SPED 11 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade music program 7 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> GBB H
- 7<sup>th</sup> IMEA Band, Choir, Orch
- 9<sup>th</sup> No School - P/T Conf 2-9 p.m.
- 10<sup>th</sup> No School – P/T Conf 8-1 p.m.  
BOE mtg @ JHS 7 p.m.
- 11<sup>th</sup> No School – Veterans Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> grade STAR  
GBB H
- 13<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade STAR  
Women's Club Activity Night 6:30 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> BB H
- 17<sup>th</sup> GBB H
- 20<sup>th</sup> Reading Feet Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> SPED 11 a.m.  
Early Release 2:15 p.m.  
Demon \$ Drawing
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Break Happy Thanksgiving All!!!

