

Anna McDonald Elementary School  
200 Second Street, Manhattan, IL 60442  
815-478-3310  
www.manhattan114.org  
Ryan McWilliams, Principal  
Debbie Jones, Secretary

**November 2011**

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> marked the end of the first quarter. Report cards will be available online on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Parent / Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our fall book fair will also be open during conference times. Be sure to check it out!

### **Bullying**

Get the 4-1-1 before the 9-1-1. On Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wilson Creek the school social workers will be presenting an informational session on the topic of bullying. A regular education teacher and a Manhattan police officer will also be on the panel to provide additional information. Child-care will be provided through the Manhattan Jr. High student council. We are asking that if you are interested in attending if you could please RSVP at [bullying@manhattan114.org](mailto:bullying@manhattan114.org). This email address will also be a way for parents or students to share any bullying concerns they may have if unable to attend or as the year progresses.

### **3rd Grade Music Program**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program will be on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Detailed information will be sent home.

### **Halloween Activities**

The Annual Halloween Costume Parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 31<sup>st</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 heavy rain and/or extreme cold, the parade will be held in the gym. Room parties will follow the parade. Students will be dismissed as usual at 3:12 and 3:15 p.m.

To help make Halloween 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). Be sure to check the virtual backpack on the website for flyers and other information.

### 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.**

### 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 only milk for lunch. Low balance and negative balance letters are being emailed at least twice a week. **Students are NOT allowed to buy hot lunch if they have a negative lunch balance.**

### Physical Education Highlights

Ms. Blackman and Miss Kenny

I would like to take this time to introduce Miss Kenny, who is a student at Eastern Illinois University. She will be completing her student teaching training here at Anna McDonald School. She has already completed her secondary student teaching assignment at Lincoln Way West. We would like to welcome her and wish her the best of luck here at Anna McDonald School.

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It will be cup crazy on **Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**, as thousands of participants take part in what Guinness World Records terms the **"World's Largest Sport Stacking Event."** During the course of the Guinness World Records Day, sport stackers from all reaches of the world will be up stacking and down stacking various pyramids in prescribed

patterns at lightning speed for at least 30 minutes, all combined with a variety of fitness activities. Sights are set on 350,000 stackers participating as sport stacking with Speed Stacks continues to gain popularity around the world.

Last year 316,736 stackers participated to break the previous year's STACK UP! Record of 276,053. Once again, tens of thousands of stackers are expected to contribute their sport stacking skills from across the United States and around the world in countries such as Germany, Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand, Columbia, Taiwan and Israel.

All students may bring their Speed Stacks to school that day. Please make sure to mark your stacks with your name and/or initials.

Students who wish to purchase speed stacks, can go to [www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com) and click on **Shop**. Then click on **Group Order Store**. Next, click on **Students & Parents**. Fill in the following information:

**Choose your location:** Illinois.

**Choose your school:** Anna McDonald.

**Student's First & Last Name:**

**Student's Grade:**

***Online orders must be completed by, November 7, 2011!!!***

Payment is **by credit card ONLY online**. Please do not send your order form or money to school. All orders will be handled through the website and once we reach our closing date, all of the orders will be shipped directly to Anna McDonald School.

### **Band and Orchestra News**

Everyone is invited to come to hear the wonderful instrumental music of our beginner orchestra, beginner band and Jr. Demon Orchestra. The concert is November 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at the junior high. Orchestra is to wear their formal tuxedo shirt, and ties and cummerbunds will be passed out and collected that night.

The orchestras will be having their only fundraiser of the year. Everyone's participation is needed to continue the success of the program. This year we will be selling tickets for a lottery drawing of cash prizes! The next booster meeting is November 3rd, 7:00 p.m. at the junior high. Important fundraising information is coming home shortly! Keep those practice records coming!

### **Music News**

The 5th grade music classes have been working on a patriotic unit, along with rhythm cards. We will be adding choral music to prepare for the January concert for our Children's Choir. We will be studying the solfege tones of Do, Re, Mi's (sight-reading) as well.

The 4th grade classes had a wonderful performance of "Famous American's"! Thank you to everyone who helped out with additional props! The classes are now working on rhythm cards, and a fun game called Lummi Sticks. There are four different levels of singing and hand coordination.

The 3rd grade classes are preparing for their upcoming show on Thursday, November 17th called "Lighten Up". The performance is at 7:00 p.m. at Anna McDonald, and all students are asked to wear black on the bottom and white on the top. This is a fun show, with entertaining songs, and dances. We hope you enjoy!

### 91% Factor

The 91% factor means that if a child enters school as a kindergartener and never misses a day of school until he/she graduates 13 years later, the school system will have had control over that child's learning experiences for 9% of the child's life up to that point in time. The other 91% (hence the 91% Factor) of the child's life is outside the control and the purview of the school system, presumably mostly in the hands of the family and the community (George Will, Washington Post, 2002, p. B07)

The relationship between home and school is crucial in the development of a child—Ryan McWilliams.

### "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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Young Rembrandt's

Young Rembrandt's new session will begin on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>! For more information or to enroll, please contact the Manhattan Park District at 815-478-3324.

### Manhattan Patriot Cheerleader News

This past weekend our Manhattan Patriot Cheerleaders participated in the West Side Invitational, held at Lincoln-Way Central High School. It is the second year they participated in the POMS Competition, and ALL of our divisions made us proud. Each of our squads-- Super Light Weight, Light Weight, Junior Varsity and Varsity all placed in the top three in each of their divisions. As each team performed, the crowd roared with excitement. Our Cheerleaders stepped into action to make us proud. Their achievements should be celebrated!

#### **Our Lightweight Cheerleaders are:**

##### **3rd Place**

*Elyse Black, Abbey Collins, Sydney Dale, Chloe Erwin, Haley Fitzer, Rylee Lynch, Nicole Meadows, Faith Mikos, Noelle Neilson, Grace O'Boyle, Mia O'Malley, Lydia Sears, Epiphany Shaw and Tehya Venegas.*

#### **Our Junior Varsity Cheerleaders:**

##### **2nd Place**

*Grace Anderson (WC), Maddie Anderson (AM), Claire Anderson (AM), Lillyann Burgesson (AM), Ellie Davis (AM), Madeline Davis (AM), Kaitlyn Facchina (AM?), Alyssa Kemp (AM), Rachel Mitchell (WC), Emma Murphy (AM), Megan Pryor (Peotone), Rhiannon Seaborg (AM), Victoria Schmeissing (AM), Alyssa Schroeder (AM), Hannah Schroeder (MJHS), Mackenzie Thrash (MJHS) and Carly Wise (AM).*

*One of the dedicated coaches is former MJHS Cheerleader: Taylor Schroeder*

#### **Our Varsity Cheerleaders:**

##### **3rd Place**

*Alyssa Elberson (MJHS), Kelsey Evans (AM), Kiley Kovac (MJHS), Kayla Leggero (MJHS), Shannon Mance (MJHS), Brooke Mance (AM?), Samantha Mitchell (MJHS), Eileen Mulligan (MJHS) and Gianna Munoz (MJHS).*

*One of the dedicated coaches is former MJHS Cheerleader: Sam Davidson*

### School Bus Safety Week

School Bus Safety Week occurred during October. School Bus Safety Week was a special time to practice evacuation drills. Drivers practiced with your child in the school lot during morning unloading. Select mature students assisted during evacuation. Be sure to ask your child how he/she did during practice.

School Bus Safety Week is also a special time to remind everyone; your kids, you, the public, and drivers of how important it is to follow safe practices around school buses so kids can get to and from school safely. This article contains great messages!

#### Messages to the kids:

1. Never cross close to the front of the bus, make sure the driver can see you.
2. Never pick up anything you drop close to or under the bus, ask the driver what to do.
3. Never run after a bus or bang on the side.
4. If you must cross the street in front of the bus, follow the driver's directions, and stop and look before you cross.
5. Never run across a street, it's better to miss the bus than rush and risk being hit by a car.
6. Stay away from the rear and sides of the bus, always be in a safe place where the driver can see you.

#### Messages to the motoring public:

1. Never pass a school bus when its stop lights are flashing.
2. Be extra vigilant around school hours, assume a child might run out at any moment.
3. Be courteous to school buses, give them room and let them change lanes when they need to.

A message to the school bus drivers:

The school bus driver is the most important element for achieving school bus safety. Every driver knows what safety is and how their personal behaviors can make school busing safer.

1. Count the kids away, know where they are before you move the wheels.
2. Always rock and roll for left hand turns.
3. Stay back four seconds - maintain a safe following distance and leave yourself an out.
4. Look ahead and be prepared.
5. Look around, always know what is going on around you.
6. Always check for sleeping children.
7. Never drop off a child at an unauthorized stop.
8. If late, stay late.

Safety = Freedom from risk. Risk can come from unsafe conditions, but it's usually caused by unsafe behaviors. Help avoid accidents by teaching your child(ren) how to behave in and around school buses. Thank you.

### November 2011

- 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting 930  
Girls BB (H)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Athletic Booster Club meeting @ MJHS 615
- 3<sup>rd</sup> STAR Reward Day  
Boys BB (H)
- 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Cantigny 5L, 5G, 5R  
Wilson Creek PTO Dodgeball Activity Night
- 6<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Time ends
- 7<sup>th</sup> Boys BB (H)
- 8<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Cantigny 5K, 5H
- 9<sup>th</sup> BOE 7pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip to Shedd Aquarium  
Girls BB (H)  
Band, Choir, Orchestra concert @ JHS 7 pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day-No School
- 14<sup>th</sup> Boys BB (H)  
Social Worker Parent In-service @ WC 630 pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Book Fair begins  
Boys BB (H) @ JHS
- 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Foundation meeting 6pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade music program 7 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Women's Club Dance 600
- 21<sup>st</sup> P/T 2-9 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Book Fair ends  
P/T 8 am-1 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> School Holiday-No School
- 24<sup>th</sup> Happy Thanksgiving

