

MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RONALD PACHECO, PRINCIPAL
November 24, 2009
www.manhattan114.org

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The Holiday season has arrived. Please help children in need by supporting the annual "Toys for Tots" toy drive. All new, unwrapped toys are needed for donation. A collection box is located in the junior high commons.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The faculty, staff, and I wish you a safe and joyful holiday season. We hope the New Year will be filled with joy for you and your loved ones.

INFORMATION CHANGES

It is very important that you notify the school of any changes in home, work, or emergency phone numbers. Valuable time can be saved in an emergency if our information is kept up-to-date. Please call 478-6090 with any changes as soon as possible.

NEW WAY TO ACCESS SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Call your child's school phone number (Manhattan Jr. High – 815-478-6090), or the district phone number (815-478-6093). Then, press 5 to hear updated information about school closings. Parents have other options to receive information on whether our school will follow PLAN A: School is closed or PLAN B: School will begin one hour later than usual. These options are as follows:

1. Listen to 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.
2. By touch-tone phone call 312-222-SNOW. You will be prompted to enter our main phone number 815-478-4527.
3. Access the website www.emergencyclosings.com. Once connected, search for Wilson Creek 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 school will attempt to contact Wilson Creek, Anna McDonald, and requested Manhattan Junior High parents, only in the event of an early dismissal. Make sure your child has proper instructions as what to do!

EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, December 18, the Junior High will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m., Anna McDonald will dismiss at 2:15 p.m., and Wilson Creek at 2:30 p.m. School resumes after winter break on Monday, January 5.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION & LANYARDS

Many parents and students have requested lanyards in order to prevent losing identification cards. Lanyards are available in office. The lanyards (with safety feature and Manhattan logo) are available for \$2. Beside preventing misplacement of identification, lanyards can also hold house keys, etc.

MESSAGE FROM NURSE

If you or someone you know are Medicaid participants and have not been maintaining regular dental visits for you or your children, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services offers a great program to assist you. Contact directly @ 1-888-285-2447 for further information.

SCHOOL MEDICINE POLICY

Just a reminder to parents/guardians: Manhattan School District 114 policy states that ALL medications – prescribed or over-the-counter, may not be distributed at school without written notice from a doctor. Short term medication such as anti-biotic or ibuprofen follows the same specifications and must have written notice from a doctor. Lastly, all medication at school must be in the original container.

DENTAL EXAMS

All Illinois children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades are required to have an oral health examination. A licensed dentist must complete these dental exams and he/she must sign the examination form. Each child shall present proof of the dental examination by May 15, 2010. The examination must have been completed within 18 months prior to the May 15th deadline.

The dental examination forms are available in the nurse's office. The state has also provided "Waiver" forms for families who may have difficulty obtaining a dental examination at this time. These forms are available in the nurse's office. If you are unable to obtain the required dental examination at this time, please contact the nurse's office.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The junior high winter concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend the free concert at the junior high. The band, choir and orchestra will conclude with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus. Any interested audience member is welcome to join the grand finale of our own "Manhattan Messiah"!

The Chamber Orchestra and Honor Choir will entertain our senior citizen's at the Manhattan Park District for a luncheon on Thursday, December 10th.

Band, orchestra and choir I.G.S.M.A. contest information is due to Mrs. Pacheco and Mrs. Pedziwater immediately after winter break.

If you have anything for the Dec. newsletter please get it to me by Thursday.

BAND NEWS

The Manhattan Band-Orchestra and Choir will be performing their Annual Holiday Concert at 7:00pm in the Jr. High Gym. on Thursday, December 10. This concert is free and open to the public, so we encourage you all to come out and enjoy an evening of great Holiday music.

Symphonic Band members are to report to the Jr. High in uniform at 6:30pm. Concert Band members are to arrive at 6:15pm, also in uniform.

The Band Boosters will be hosting their annual Secret Santa Shop at Wilson Creek on December 3 and 4, and again at Anna McDonald on December 8-9. Any parents that want to help work these days to help support the band should contact Mrs. Pedziwater.

The December Band Booster meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm in the band room. We hope to see you there!!

MANHATTAN RUN FOR FUN CHALLENGE.

Congratulations to the 49 MJHS students, staff, parents and community members that signed up for the Manhattan Run Challenge. These runners have committed to complete 200 miles between November 1st and February 28th. Good luck, runners!

6th grade: Ryan Dauzvardis, Christian Gabriel, Patrick Gabriel, Jarret Gmazel, Isaac Hopper, Jake Keagle, Sammy Kestel, Steve Likins, Yasmin Pantoja, Alexis Rodgers, Mark Sargis, Justin Silberman, Joe Smith, Sara Tucci, Tommy Williams.

7th grade: James Bourell, Dylan Dozier, Luke Newtoff, Rahael Peavler, Jason Stricklin, Sarah Zarnowski.

8th grade: Brooke Bingham, Angela Burklow, Ryan Champlin, Maura Dauzvardis, Ashley Evans, Julie Keagle, Tony Kestel, Jack Kurczewski, Lisa Meister, Mariah Mentzer, Cameron Nau, Scott Neumann, Sami Perillo, Adam Sargis, Samantha Williams, Zach Wendt.

Community: Joanne Bernhard, Chris Carberny, Mrs. Kurczewski, Mike Smith.

Staff: Mrs. Doveri, Mrs. Dudeck, Mrs. Grifford, Ms. Gorney, Mrs. Karalus, Ms. O'Neill, Ms. Podlesny, Mrs. Reh, Mrs. Schussler.

MANHATTAN PTO GIFT CARDS

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 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!

SPEECH CONTEST

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in Speech contest on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at Liberty Junior High in New Lenox.

First Place:

Solo – Alexis Rodgers

Small Group Act – Ryan Champlin, Kyle Forsythe, Tony Kestel, Adam Sargis, Mitchell Severson, Mary Kate Cullen, Emily Jackson, Rachael Peavler, Delaney Shephard, Megan Zurek, Mario Barrios, Seth Gajdorus, Alex Parks, Nick Torres.

Duets – Madison Graves, Hannah Richardson, Elizabeth Harris, Taylor Morgan, Marisa Foglia, Marlee McCabe, Rachael Peavler, Delaney Shepherd, Emily Fitzpatrick, Amanda Minetti, Olivia Deloian, Sammy Kestel, Thomas Erhardt, Brett Reyes.

The following students received second place:

Solo – Amber Murray

Small Group Act – Karli Barnes, Sarah Henry, Julie Keagle, Megan Zyla, Sarah Urba, Brianna Fasano, Becca Kahney, Tyler Vavouleas.

Duets – Jillian Clark, Frankie Kestel, Pam Swartz, Emily Tanis, Mary Kate Cullen, Emily Jackson, Kayla Howard, Courtney Jage, Maura Dauzvardis, Sami Perillo

HANDS TO HEARTS

The next art activity will be held on Friday, December 4th during all lunch/study periods. We have about 15 students each month who are spending their lunch/study periods each month to make a craft for the seniors of Manhattan.

ATTENTION 7TH GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Registration for the 2010 trip to Washington DC has begun! All 7th grade students are eligible to register. If you would like to register your student, you can do so online by following steps... Go to www.worldstrides.com Click on the "Register Now" tab on the right. Enter in trip number 51487. Follow pages to complete registration.

Information was sent home with your student on Tuesday, November 17th. A parent meeting and initial registration was held on November 19th. Generally this trip will sell out and there will be a waiting list. I encourage you to sign up early to insure your student a spot! After you complete your registration please also register for My Trip with the same information as above. It is one way for me to remain in contact with you. In addition, it is a fabulous resource that will keep you up to date with trip information and also information on Washington DC for you and your student to explore.

An Update from the MJHS Reading Specialist

I have been working with the students who were below average range on the school-wide reading assessment, but who do not already have an individualized education plan. I meet with small groups of students when their class comes to the library each week. I am happy to report that all of the students have been making progress. For the students I am working with a report detailing progress will be sent home with progress reports in early December.

The sixth graders have been riding the plot roller coaster while enjoying the novel Chasing Vermeer and are now beginning to distinguish the essential components to non-fiction. The seventh graders have shuffled their way to fluency by practicing the lyrics of the "Super Bowl Shuffle" and are now working to identify definitions for key words by using context clues rather than turning to a dictionary. The eighth graders have built background on the Great Depression in preparation to read No Promises in the Wind and are now highlighting their novel with purpose.

I encourage you to stay connected to <http://readatmjhs.blogspot.com/> for strategies that you can use at home with your child. I also encourage you to contact me here at Manhattan Jr. High School. You can reach me through email at joneill@manhattan114.org or can call me at (815) 531-32

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Omitted from last month's newsletter were the individual and homeroom winners of the Red Ribbon contest. Individual student winners for outstanding posters were: Kaley Albrecht, Vincent Manzella, and Luke Newtoff. Each student won a \$25 gift certificate from Target. Homeroom winners included Miss Podlesny, Miss Tooley, and Mrs. Senka. Congratulations on your effort to get the word out about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

During November, Student Council sponsored a Penny War with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes as a way to raise money for the Manhattan Food Pantry. The goal was to place pennies in their grade's container while putting silver (nickels, dimes, and quarters) as well as paper money in the containers for the other classes. The winner would be the class with the most pennies. Congratulations to the 6th grade class who were the overall winners! More importantly, Manhattan Junior High raised \$109.88 to support the Manhattan Food Pantry.

In December, Student Council will be selling candy sleighs to raise money to purchase presents to support the Angel Tree. This community service opportunity will help needy families in Manhattan to receive Christmas presents that they may not otherwise be able to afford. Students will be given more information in the upcoming weeks.

Foundation News

Would you like to advertise your home business in the 2010-2011 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 at KHonan@aol.com or 815-478-7782 to place an ad before February 12, 2010.

PARENTS

If you **haven't** sent in your email address please do so by filling out the attached form with your address. You will receive newsletters and other important information. If your address changes please keep us updated. Thank you

STUDENT NAME: _____

MOM E-MAIL: _____

DAD E-MAIL: _____

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 1 6 BBB @ Home (Anna McDonald) 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Home 4 PM
8 GBB Regional
3 6 BBB @ Home 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Home 4 PM
8 GBB Regional
7 7-8 BBB @ Bourbonnais 4 PM
GVB Tryouts 2:30 – 4:30
8 6 BBB @ Nelson Ridge 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Martino 4 PM
9 Dodgeball Tournament 2:30-5 PM
10 Winter Concert 7 PM
6 BBB @ Bently 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Liberty 4 PM
11 PTO Winter Dance 7-9 PM
14 7-8 BBB @ Manteno 4:15 PM
15 6 BBB @ Home 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Home 4 PM
17 6 BBB @ Hadley 4 PM
7-8 BBB @ Homer Jr High 4 PM
18 Early Release 1:30 PM
21-1/1 Christmas Break
Jan 4 School Resumes