



**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL
FEBRUARY 1, 2012**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

As you may already know, ISAT will take place at Manhattan Junior High School beginning the week of March 7. Please make every attempt to have your child arrive 'test ready' during ISAT. The following tips are very useful to give your child an advantage:

- Have a good night sleep
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Drink water prior to testing (studies show that higher-level thinking is easier when the body is sufficiently hydrated.)

All grade levels will need to use calculators during portions of the math examination. Children are strongly encouraged to purchase their own calculator with a fraction key. The school store has recommended ISAT calculators for the price of \$12. The complete test schedule will be available three weeks prior to testing. Please contact me should you have any questions regarding ISAT.

CELL PHONE USAGE

As a reminder to all students and families regarding the use and possession of cell phones at school. Please remember that once a student enters the school, cell phones need to be turned OFF and put away. Students using a phone inside school will have their phone confiscated and a parent will need to pick it up. Students are also subject to disciplinary action. Your cooperation and support is appreciated.

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!

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on February 20 due to President's Day, and March 5 due to Institute Day.

SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

If your child is interested in a 2011-12 yearbook the forms will be sent home and need to be returned by **March 1, 2012**. Yearbooks are \$13 and they were not available in picture packages. They must be ordered with this form. Yearbooks will not be available at the end of the year. This is the only way to get a yearbook. Make sure to use the right form for each school, each building needs to be ordered separate.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Informational Parent meeting for Children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be conducted Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Wilson Creek Commons. All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2012 are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. All parents are encouraged to attend. **Children need not attend.** This evening will be informational only so **do not** need to bring birth certificates. You will be given registration packets to take home, fill out, and return. Kindergarten Registration will be conducted on March 29 and 30. If you would like to turn in your registration sooner, stop by the Wilson Creek office from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you know of any parents with Kindergarten age children please pass along this information to them.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

In our efforts to go paperless, we are providing registration to our families in a new way for the 2012-13 school year. The only paperwork you will receive is the green registration form and an informational sheet on how to complete registration. You will check your Homelogic accounts to access fees and our website for any other forms you may need. Look for registration information to come home on March 19th.

Please be aware of the new physical form and information about the Tdap booster (whooping cough) listed in the Physical and Dental Requirements.

LINCOLN-WAY REGISTRATION

Lincoln-Way Central will be hosting an open house for incoming freshman on **Wednesday, February 8**. All eighth graders and parents/guardians should attend, since class selections and explore test results will be handed out.



ART NEWS

This year Square 1 Art will be brought up to the Junior High! The same wonderful quality of art work reproduced on objects of your choice will now be available at Manhattan Junior High. The students in 6th and 7th grade have been working hard on their individual projects. Sixth grade projects will be their name in Radial Symmetry. Seventh grade projects will be cut paper portraits, which turned out fantastic! Order forms will be coming home towards the beginning of March. There will be a second sale for the students in the third trimester! Mrs. Ambrosini any questions please contact me at: kambrosini@manhattan114.org

LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be hosting 3 events this spring. In the first week of February, Amanda Berg, the teen librarian from the Manhattan Public Library, will be here to talk to all of the reading classes about services that the library has to offer. She will explain all of the teen programs that will be offered this spring, as well as demonstrating the use of the library databases for research. This information will be good to know when your 8th grader is researching for his/her Holocaust/World War II research project. Did you know that with a library card you can do research 24 hours a day? If your child does not already have a library card, please consider getting a card for him or her. By the time you read this newsletter, a lucky teen would have already won a Kindle Fire through the

teen winter reading program. The second event is a Scholastic Book Fair to be held the second week in March. Please consider volunteering for the book fair. You will be receiving an email a few weeks before the fair. The third event will be a Battle of The Books. A Battle was held last year for the first time and was greatly enjoyed by the participants and the teachers. A battle consists of several teams from each grade level competing against each other to answer questions about selected books. The students from each grade level have been informed of the books that will be included in the battle. The library has some copies of each book, the public library has some copies, and there will be copies available to purchase from the upcoming book fair. The date has not yet been determined.

MANHATTAN RUN FOR FUN CHALLENGE

Just a reminder to students, staff, and community members that the Manhattan Run for Fun Challenge deadline is quickly approaching! The challenge ends on February 24 and completed forms must be turned in to Mrs. Smith by this date in order to receive your Run for Fun t-shirt! Good luck, runners!

BAND NEWS

Band Education Day will take place at the Jr. High from 9:30am-2:00pm for grades 6-8 and 9:30am-12:00pm for 5th grade band students. The Band Boosters will be bringing in guest clinicians to work with our kids in group classes and full band rehearsal. ALL students are required to attend. We are still in need of parents to help with this event. Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater if you are available.

Solo night is Thursday, February 16 at 7:00pm in the band room. All students who are playing a solo at Solo and Ensemble contest are required to attend.

Solo and Ensemble contest will take place on Saturday, February 18 at Hilda Walker in Tinley Park. Times will be distributed at a later date. If you are taking a solo, be sure to email Pam DeBoer at pdeboer@manhattan114.org to set up practices. If you are taking an ensemble, be sure to be practicing with your other ensemble members to be prepared for your performance.



ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS

The orchestra and choir will be selling Carnations during lunches for \$1.00 to be delivered on Valentine's Day. Red = Love, White = Friendship, and Pink = Secret. Parents may also send them to their children by emailing Mrs. Pacheco @ jpacheco@manhattan114.org. Also being sold are Phiten titanium necklaces and clip-style feathers for \$5.00.

The sale starts on January 30th and ends on February 10th. Thank you for supporting the department!!!!

Good luck to all students participating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association contest at Hilda Walker in Frankfort on February 18th!!!!!!

The Chamber Orchestra and Honor Choir will be performing for our Manhattan Seniors on February 16th at the Manhattan Park District.

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, 2012. 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 Mrs. Ramirez at 815-478-6090 x2.

PARENT RESOURCE CORNER

BULLYING HELP: Our district's website now has a tab, Bullying, where a confidential reporting form is available to report allegations of bullying. All reports will be followed up within 1 school day. For more information, contact Mr. Pacheco or Mrs. Nass.

HEALTHY RISK-TAKING: For some great resources for parents to help their children and teens who are fearful or ambivalent about taking healthy risks (like learning to play an instrument or sport, participating in a school choir or play, starting a conversation with a new student, participating more in class) check out the blog from pediatrician and author Kenneth Ginsburg called fosteringresilience.com or check out the book "Raising Children Who Soar: A Guide to Healthy Risk-Taking in an Uncertain World" by clinical psychologists Nancy Eppler-Wolff and Susan Davis. Visit their website, raisingchildrenwhosoar.com, to read excerpts from their book.

ADDICTIONS HELP: for free information on programs for the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction call 1-877-394-2685

PARENTS

If you haven't sent in your email address or it has changed, please send it to gjohnston@manhattan114.org

Important Dates

February

- 1 Athletic Boosters Meeting 7PM
- 2 Orchestra/Choir Booster Meeting 7PM
8th BBB Regionals
GVB @ Liberty 4PM
- 4 7th BBB State
Band Education Day 9 – 3PM
- 6 GVB @ Reed Custer 4:30PM
- 7 GVB @ Oak Praire 4PM
- 8 8th BBB Sectionals
- 9 7th BBB State

- Foundation Meeting 6PM @ MJHS
- 10 Family Fun Night 6:30 – 9PM @ MJHS
 - 11 8th BBB State
 - 13 GVB @ Kelvin Grove 4:30PM
 - 14 GVB @ Home vs Summit Hill 4PM
 - 15 Band Booster Meeting 6PM
 - 16 Band/Orchestra/Choir Solo Night 7PM @ MJHS
 - 17 Progress Reports Ready
Early Dismissal 12:00PM
 - 18 Band-Solo Contest @ Hilda Walker
 - 20 No School – President's Day
 - 21-23 GVB Conf. Tournament @ Liberty
 - 25 7th GVB Regionals
 - 27-29 7th GVB Regionals
 - Mar 5 No School – Teacher's Institute