

# MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER

RONALD PACHECO - PRINCIPAL

[www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org)

October 28, 2011

## **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](http://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!

## **NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE**

Trick or Treat hours within the village limits are 3:00pm to 7:00pm on October 31, 2011.

## **PARENTS**

If you **haven't** sent in your email address or it has changed please send me an email with your changes to: [gjohnston@manhattan114.org](mailto:gjohnston@manhattan114.org) so we can send you the newsletters, and other important information.

## **PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher conferences are on November 21, 2 - 9 PM and November 22, 8 - 1 PM. There will be no school on these days. If you need to set-up an appointment, please call 478-6090.

## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Wednesday, November 23, Thursday, November 24 or Friday, November 25. On behalf of all faculty and staff, we wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011-12 BASKETBALL TEAMS**

Thank you to the 35 boys that tried out for the 6th grade JHS basketball team. Congratulations to the following players for making the squad:

**6th grade boys basketball team:** Vinnie Perillo, Ryan Holl, Dan Lenz, Nick Healy, Matt Maguire, Trey Korbel, Ryan Gearman, Sean Sparks, Austin King, Lorenzo Corsetti, Noah Davis, Jack Ryan, Tim Neukom, Tyler Dunne, Nate Davis, Ryan McWilliams, Owen Silberman. Season opens at home vs. Hickory Creek of Frankfort @ 4 pm. Contact Mr. McWilliams, 6th grade coach with any questions.

Thanks to the 36 boys that tried out for our 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams for the 2011-2012 season. We appreciate your hard work at the two days of tryouts. Congratulations to the boys that were selected for this year's team.

**7th grade boys basketball team:** Hunter Campbell, Brendan Glennon, Jack Guzek, Joey Dunlap, Shane Kelly, Nick Lamparelli, Mark Miller, Zach Paymaster, Jake Ridgeway, Vinny Schroeder.

**8th grade boys basketball team:** Casey Dobczyk, Kyle Filkins, Brendan Flynn, Jarret Gmazel, Isaac Hopper, Mitchell Kwasigroch, Mikey Madej, Brandon Porter, Mark Sargis, Justin Silberman, Joe Smith, John Skiniotes, Chad Tucker, Steven Likins, Vince Marchio.

The boys' first game is in two weeks against conference foe Hickory Creek at Manhattan Junior High School. Come on out to cheer on the Demons. Good luck boys.

## **MANHATTAN ATHLETIC BOOSTERS**

The Manhattan Athletic Boosters next meeting is Wednesday, November 2nd, at 7:00 P.M. in the Manhattan Junior High library. The meeting is open to all parents who are interested in helping the athletic department. All money raised by the Boosters goes directly back to the sports programs and student-athletes. The meetings last less than an hour.

### **MANHATTAN FUN CHALLENGE**

The Manhattan Run/Walk for Fun Challenge is an opportunity to run or walk over the winter months between November 1st and February 25th. The goal of this challenge is to log a total of 200 miles! This challenge is open to MJHS students, staff, and community members. If interested, please complete and sign a Commitment Form and turn it in to Mrs. Smith at the junior high. The cost is \$10.00, which covers the cost of your t-shirt if you successfully complete the challenge. Commitment forms are available at the junior high office and are due back to Mrs. Smith no later than Friday, November 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Smith at JSMITH@Manhattan114.org.

### **CROSS COUNTRY**

Thank you to the MJHS community for your support this season! This year, we had 48 team members and 4 managers and had a very successful season! In addition to a 8th Grade Boys Conference Championship, A Conference Champion (Nate Coppens), a Girls Sectional Championship, and A Sectionals Champion (Katie Forsythe), both the boys and girls teams qualified for this year's IESA State Cross Country Meet in Normal, Illinois! At the meet, the boy's team of Philip Rinaldi, Nate Coppens, Zach Paymaster, Patrick Gabriel, Christian Gabriel, Gehrig Simon, and Justin Silberman (Alternates - Austin Healy, Dylan Wischover, and Jake Dryja) placed 11th out of 30 teams! Three of our seven runners also ran their best time of the season! The girl's team of Jenna Diers, Katie Forsythe, Jessie Litman, Megan Forsythe, Sammy Kestel, Zoe Richardson, and Amanda Flynn (Alternates - Kayla Bogda, Alexis Rodgers, and Sara Tucci) placed 14th out of 30 teams! Six of the seven girls also ran their best times of the season! We are so proud of this year's team and their successful season!

### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Parents, we are excited to have our school added to the Box Tops for Education program.

Please go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and register for our school. It is free!!

We also ask that you save your box tops and send them to Manhattan Jr. High. This is a great way during the tough economic times to get free money for our school.

Once you are registered, we can also earn money from on line orders. Many stores have teamed up with Box Tops for Education to give a percent of the purchase back to the school.

The only way for our school to receive this money is if you shop through this web site. For example: I am going to purchase shoes from Famous Footwear. I would go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Under the EARN tab Click "Shop Marketplace" find Famous Footwear and click "shop and earn"

Famous Footwear will earn Manhattan Junior. High 7%.

This will be a great way to help your school while you also get some Christmas shopping done.

We are very excited and hope you will help us to exceed our goal of \$500, that Box Tops for Education has set for us.

### **BAND NEWS**

Sounds of the Stadium will take place on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00pm in the LWC HS Field House.

All band students, grades 6-8, are to report to the JH at 4:00pm in full uniform, minus the hat, black socks and black shoes.

Congratulations to band students James Lipinski and Kaitlyn Forsythe who will be participating in the Illinois Music Educator Honor Band Festival on Saturday, November 5. This prestigious festival will take place at Riverside Brookfield HS in Riverside. The final concert will take place at 3:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend and support our band students. Congratulations Kaitlyn and James!

During the week of November 14, all orders from the Joe Corbi's fundraiser will be delivered. The exact date will be sent out soon.

Wednesday, November 16: Band Booster meeting, 6:00pm, the Band Room. All parents are invited to attend.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

In November Student Council will be meeting with our local police department to discuss the what steps Manhattan Jr. High can take to address the issue of cyber-bullying.

### **HANDS TO HEARTS PROGRAM**

20 students participate in our school's monthly craft program that makes small craft projects that are given to the seniors participating in the monthly Seniors' Luncheon program at the Manhattan Park District. So far we have painted pumpkins and have made Indian Corn beaded pins. On Friday, November 18th We will be making holiday ornaments in anticipation of Christmas.

### **CHESS CLUB**

Chess club is well underway with 27 students who play the ultimate game of strategy. We meet during homeroom period on most Fridays in the Art Room.

**PARENT PRESENTATION ON BULLYING - Get the 4-1-1 Before the 9-1-1:**

Mark your calendars for Monday, November 14th from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Wilson Creek. On that evening, the social workers from Manhattan School District will present an educational opportunity for parents of children from Kindergarten - Grade 8 to learn and discuss what bullying is and isn't and what they can do to prevent and deal with this challenging issue. Cyber-bullying at the junior high school level will also be addressed. A general education teacher and a Manhattan Police Officer will be in attendance to talk about their views on this very important subject. Manhattan Jr. High Student Council Members will provide childcare. RSVP by November 10th at [Bullying@manhattan114.org](mailto:Bullying@manhattan114.org).

### **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 stoplights 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,

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCE NEWS** **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PARENT UNIVERSITY**

On Saturday, November 5th from 9AM - Noon, the Parent Advisory Council of the Lincoln Way Special Education District #843 in conjunction with the P.L.A.S.E. will be offering an educational session on a number of topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. Topics include: Sibling Support, Executive Functioning, Parenting, High School Transition, Social Skills, and Sensory Processing/Sensory Integration Disorder. The event will be held at Pioneer Grove Educational Center, 601 Willow Street, Frankfort, IL. To register, contact Dee Johnston at (815) 806-4695 or e-mail her at [djohnston@lwase843.org](mailto:djohnston@lwase843.org)

### **HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

The Joliet Area Community Hospice will be holding a special two-session grief program that will offer helpful information and support as the holidays approach. This program is free and is designed for ages 5 and up with separate groups for children, teens, and adults. The program will be held on Thursday, November 10th from 7 PM- 9 PM and on Thursday, November 17th from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Office at 250 Water Stone Circle in Joliet. For more information or to register, please call (815) 460-3282 or e-mail [mburns@joliethospice.org](mailto:mburns@joliethospice.org).

### **WEB RESOURCES**

If you have ever wondered how to deal with your teenager who has suddenly morphed into someone who seems unrecognizable to you, you may find the following two websites very helpful. The first website, [radicalparenting.com](http://radicalparenting.com), translates teen behavior into terms parents can understand. Bullying, drugs, technology, lying, and grades are some of the areas this site covers. The second website: [healthychildren.org/buildingresilience](http://healthychildren.org/buildingresilience) is a great resource on how parents

can better communicate with their teens. Now more than ever, it's critical that families, schools, and communities understand how to raise children and teens to be emotionally and socially intelligent so they will thrive in both good and challenging times.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### November

- 1 GBB @ Home vs. Liberty 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Nelson Ridge 4PM  
Band Performance @ LWC 7PM  
PTO Mtg. @ Wilson Creek 9:30AM
- 2 Athletic Boosters Mtg. 7PM
- 3 GBB @ Hickory Creek 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Hickory Creek 4PM  
BBB Home vs. Hickory Creek 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Anna McDonald 4PM
- 4 BBB Joliet Tournament  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB Joliet Tournament  
IMEA Festival LWN
- 5 BBB Joliet Tournament  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB Joliet Tournament  
IMEA Band Festival LWN
- 7 6<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Hadley 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Homer 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Hadley 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ MJHS vs. Homer 4PM
- 9 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Manteno 4PM
- 10 6<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Orenic 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GBB @ MJHA vs. Troy 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Orenic 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Troy 4PM
- 11 **NO SCHOOL**
- 14 6<sup>TH</sup> GBB @ Hilda Walker 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GBB @ Summit Hill 4PM  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Hilda Walker 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ MJHS vs. Summit Hill 4PM
- 16 Band Booster Mtg. 7PM  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ MJHS vs. Elwood 4PM
- 17 Foundation Mtg 6PM
- 18 6<sup>th</sup> GBB Conference Tourney @ Orenic
- 21-23 7<sup>th</sup> GBB Regional's
- 21-22 Parent/Teacher Conference - no students
- 23-25 **NO SCHOOL** – Happy Thanksgiving
- 28 8<sup>th</sup> GBB Regional's  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Wilmington 4:30PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ MJHS vs. Wilmington 4:30PM
- 29 8<sup>th</sup> GBB Regional's  
6<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Spencer Crossing 4PM  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> BBB @ Martino 4PM
- 30 8<sup>th</sup> GBB Regional's  
7<sup>th</sup> GBB Sectionals