

August-September 2009 Newsletter  
**WILSON CREEK SCHOOL**

25440 S. Gougar Rd.  
Manhattan, Il 60442  
815-478-4527

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

Mrs. Barbara Hogan, Principal  
Mrs. Pam DeBoer, Building Secretary  
Mrs. Janice Benney, District Secretary  
Mrs. Cathy Zielezinski, Nurse

**"Get Your Green On"**

**IMPORTANT AUGUST-SEPTEMBER DATES**

**August**

- 24 First Full Day for all students  
PTO Boo Hoo Breakfast 9:00 followed by meeting
- 28 Fall Picture Day for Wilson Creek Students

**September**

- 1 Open House at Wilson Creek, 7-8:00 PM
- 2 PTO Meeting at Wilson Creek, 9:30 AM
- 3 PTO Market Day Pick-Up at Wilson Creek, 4-5 PM
- 7 **Labor Day, NO SCHOOL**
- 8 Board of Education Meeting at Wilson Creek, 7 PM
- 11 PTO Back-to-School Night at MJHS, 6:30-8:30 PM
- 16 PTO Room Parent Tea at Wilson Creek, 2:00 PM
- 18 Picnic with the Principal at Lunchtime  
School Pride Assembly- Wear Blue or Green
- 25 Progress Reports Sent Home  
**EARLY DISMISSAL DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR P.M. KINDERGARTEN OR PRE-K**  
A.M. KIND. DISMISSAL AT 11:15 AND A.M. PREK DIMISSAL AT 11:00  
1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE DISMISS AT 1:00.
- 28 PTO Fall Fundraiser Begins  
Picture Retake Day

**NURSE'S NEWS**

If you have any questions concerning physicals, immunizations, dental or eye exams, medications, or any other health issues feel free to call our nurse, Cathy Zielezinski at 478-4527 X2. Please do not send any medications, including cough drops, to school with your child. A more detailed letter will come home from the nurse in the near future.

**H1N1 (SWINE FLU) INFLUENZA**

Attached to this newsletter you will find an informational letter from the State Superintendent of Education regarding the H1N1 Influenza. As noted in Mr. Butters Newsletter sent home to all residents, we will follow all guidelines and recommendations of the county and state regarding the H1N1 Flu.

**"GET YOUR GREEN ON"**

Our theme this year at Wilson Creek is "Get Your Green On". This year-long focus will center on reusing, reducing, and recycling, in addition to alternate energy sources and the environment. We have a variety of initiatives planned to make your children more aware of their part in taking care of our planet. We would like to try and use less paper, while still maintaining our high level of parent communication that we have in the past. Each month you can access this newsletter on our website listed above. If you would like an email copy of the newsletter sent to you please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter. We will most likely not start sending email copies until the

November or December Newsletter. We hope, by the end of December, to only be sending home paper copies of the newsletter to those parents that request we do so.

## **WELCOME NEW STAFF**

I would like to welcome the following new staff members...

Mrs. Nikki Spreitzer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

Mrs. Jenny Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher

Mary Essary, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Communication Development Teacher

Mr. Jeff Riley, Computer Teacher

Mrs. Diane Maguire, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Speech Pathologist in the Communication Development Class

Mrs. Cindy Swanberg, Library Aide

Mrs. Amanda Lyen, School Psychologist

Instructional Assistants – Mrs. Linda Loftis, Mrs. Gail Thyer, and Mrs. Frances Marinier

## **ALL THINGS TRANSPORTATION . . .**

### **Student Arrival/Dismissal**

Children walking and being dropped off by parents, are **not** to be on school grounds until after 8:45 a.m. The only exceptions are children attending Rec Care or children that arrive early due to teacher request. If your child attends Rec Care you must walk them into the building and sign-them in. NOTE: Rec Care will be in room 109 and parents will drive around the back of the building, across the blacktop and walk through the fence area. A doorbell will be located outside this entrance door.

### **Car Riders**

When dropping off or picking up students at the beginning and end of the day please use the parking area to the south of the building. Numbers will be given to parents and students for easier identification. Do not drop off/pick up your student(s) until your car is adjacent to the building. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LOT AND WALK YOUR CHILDREN ACROSS THE PICK-UP LINE. The front east parking spaces are reserved for handicapped individuals and our staff who must travel between buildings. There will be a few additional spaces for those parents that need to drop off/pick up students after school starts or before it ends.

### **Walkers**

Walkers should remain on sidewalks at all times. All walkers will enter school grounds by the crosswalk area at the south end of the building. They will enter the doors on the south end of the building. Crosswalk guards will be at the following 3 locations: at the striped crosswalk on Gougar Rd., the parking lot entrance to the south of the building, and the crosswalk/bus lane at the south end of the building. IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE A WALKER AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, PLEASE SEND A SIGNED NOTE GIVING PERMISSION FOR OUR CHILD TO BE A WALKER. WE WILL KEEP THESE NOTES IN A FOLDER IN THE OFFICE.

### **Buses**

The front, east driveway/parking lot will be the bus drop off/pick up area. If your car is in the east lot in front of the building at busing times you will not be allowed to move your vehicle. PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE AROUND A PARKED BUS, WITH ITS STOP ARM OUT.

### **Bike Riders**

Due to the young age of the children attending Wilson Creek, they will **not** be allowed to ride bikes to school.

### **Changes in End of Day Transportation**

If your child is going to have a change of transportation at the end of the day (i.e. getting picked up instead of riding the bus) we need to have a note in writing to your child's teacher. We will not be able to take your child's word for a change. If this change happens after your child leaves for school please call our school office and let one of the secretaries know. If you need to call school please do so before 3:00 as the end of the school day gets very busy in our office.

## **HOT LUNCHES - NOW \$2.75**

PREFERRED MEALS, will be our lunch provider. They will utilize a computer generated accounting system, just as we have in the past. Students will be provided with photo I.D. lunch cards. Cards will be kept at school and given out each day by your child's teacher prior to lunch. Payments can be made anytime during the month, but it makes our bookkeeping easier if you make payments on the first day of the week. Payment can be made for as many lunches as you would like. To help insure accuracy and expediency, parents are asked to send payment in a sealed envelope. Please address the envelope with your child's name on it, teacher, and also indicate how many lunches you wish to

purchase. Lunches will be added to your child's account that day. If you send a check please make it out to Manhattan School District 114. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INCUR A NEGATIVE BALANCE.** Cheese/Crackers and Milk will be given to students who do not have money in their lunch account. Free/Reduced Lunch applications will be sent home the first day of school. If you feel you are entitled to free/reduced lunches you must fill out a new application each year. If you received free/reduced lunches last year your child will receive these lunches only for the first month of school. We will need a new, approved, application on file to continue to provide them with fee/reduced price meals.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS**

Please make note that our Early Dismissal Days for teacher inservice meetings will be on Fridays as they were last year. The times each building will dismiss are as follows: Manhattan Junior High – 12:00, Anna McDonald School – 12:45, and Wilson Creek – 11:15 for Kindergarten and 1:00 for all other students. The dates are September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and May 28<sup>th</sup>. **Kindergarten parents please note:** On September 25<sup>th</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup>, and May 28<sup>th</sup>, A.M. Kindergarten students will attend school until 11:15 and P.M. Kindergarten students **will not attend** school at all on these 3 days. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> the P.M. Kindergarten students will attend kindergarten in the morning from 9–11:15 and the A.M. students will not attend school at all on these 2 days. If your child attends the Park District Kids Club Program please contact them as to arrangements for your children on these days.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF**

If you would like to get in touch with one of our staff please feel free to call school at 478-4527. If they are unavailable we will gladly put you through to their voicemail. You can also email any of our staff. Email addresses are: first initial followed by last name @manhattan114.org. These addresses can also be found on our website: [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org) Please keep in mind that once the school day starts our teachers are very busy and may not have the opportunity to check their email or voicemail. They are very good about getting back to parents within 24 hours. If your concern is immediate, and you need them to know something about your child for that school day, please call the office and talk to one of the secretaries.

## **CHANGE IN HANDWRITING CURRICULUM**

Over the past 5–10 years educators have learned a lot more about the developmental stages of children in regards to fine motor development. We have spent time this past year researching and talking to Occupational Therapists about handwriting techniques used with young children. Although D'Nealian Handwriting (with the tales and slant) certainly is not detrimental to learn, we feel at this point in time that our PreK and Kindergarten students might be better served by learning to print in the block lettering. Therefore we are going to make a change this year in PreK and Kindergarten only to block lettering. Our first and second graders will continue to use D'Nealian lettering, as that is the way they were taught. We will phase this program in over 3 years. If you have any questions regarding this change please don't hesitate to contact me (Barb Hogan), Mary Ellen Tolbert (Occupational Therapist at WC) or your child's teacher.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

During the months of August and September severe weather (tornados) is more likely to occur. Some of us remember the first week of school a couple of years ago when we had a tornado warning the first week of school. Our number one priority is the safety of your children. Please remember that our staff will be taking shelter, with your children, in case of severe weather and will be unable to answer the phones. We will also be unable to release your children to you once a warning has been issued. If a warning occurs at dismissal time, as it did last year, and we have parents waiting in the car rider line, please feel free to take shelter in our building. As soon as the "all-clear" is issued we will return to our normal activities.

## **FLIP FLOPS**

The Wilson Creek staff's best definition of a "flip-flop" is a shoe that does not have a back or a back-strap on it. If students are going to play outside on our play unit we are going to ask that they not wear "flip-flops". Many times we have seen students lose a "flip-flop" as they are playing and this creates an unsafe situation for them and for the other students as they climb above ground level. They will still be able to use the swings and blacktop area, just not the play unit.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Fall Picture Day will be on Friday, August 28th. Don't forget to wear your smiles and your "school best". Van Gogh Photographers will be taking our photos again this year. We had very positive feedback from parents about this wonderful company. The plan this year will again not include a yearbook. This plan helps spread out the cost, especially for those families with multiple children. Yearbook order forms will come out after the first of the year. The yearbooks will be full color photo as they were last year. Our parents and students seemed to love them!

## **OPEN HOUSE**

We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Open House on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7-8:00. Parent-Teacher Conference sign-up will take place that night as well as Parent Volunteer Sign-Up

## **SCHOOL STORE**

The Wilson Creek School Store will be open from October 1<sup>st</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>. By parent request, we will tend to have more necessary school supply items in the store this year, such as pencils, crayons, markers, erasers, glue sticks, in addition to some more limited novelty items. Students may purchase items from the store on the following days: Kindergarten on Tuesdays, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade on Wednesdays, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade on Thursdays. Items will range in price from \$.25-\$1.00.

## **VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED**

Our children and our teachers love having parent volunteers at Wilson Creek. If you are interested in helping read with students, doing workroom help, monitoring students during center time, shelving books in the library, or any of the other countless jobs it takes to make our school such a wonderful place - we'd love your help! Just fill out a volunteer form at Open House and we will contact you in the first couple of weeks of school.

## **SCHOOL PRIDE DAYS AND PICNIC WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

Once a month some students will be invited to join me for a "Picnic with the Principal". Each child in first and second grade will have an opportunity once during the year to attend the picnic. Students bring their own lunch or buy a hot lunch and I provide the dessert. This gives me a chance to get to know all of our students better. Once a month, on a Friday, we will also have a School Pride Assembly. At the assembly we recognize student achievement, ABC Awards, Character Counts, Students of the Week, birthdays and then sing our school pride song. We encourage our staff and students to wear our school colors that day - blue and white.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO A TERRIFIC YEAR. IF I CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY DON'T HESITATE TO CALL, 478-4527, EMAIL [bhogan@manhattan114.org](mailto:bhogan@manhattan114.org), or stop in. Sincerely, Mrs. Barb Hogan, Principal**

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**Please fill out this form and send back to school with your child if you would like to have the monthly newsletters and school updates sent to you by way of email.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_