



November 2011 Newsletter
WILSON CREEK SCHOOL

25440 S. Gougar Rd.

Manhattan, IL 60442

815-478-4527

www.manhattan114.org

Mrs. Barbara Hogan, Principal

Mrs. Pam DeBoer, Building Secretary

Mrs. Janice Benney, District Secretary

Mrs. Cathy Zielezinski, Nurse

Important October Dates

28 Report Cards Sent Home

31 **Halloween Parties** – AM Kind. 10:45 a.m.

PM Kindergarten, DK, 1st & 2nd 1:45 p.m. **Halloween Parade** 2:45 p.m.

(Kindergarten students should wear costumes to school. 1st & 2nd graders should bring costumes in a

bag –

more details below)

Important November Dates

1 PTO Meeting at WC, 9:30 a.m.

4 PTO Family Activity Night at WC (Dodge Ball), 6:30-8:30 p.m. – (This event is for Wilson Creek students and their parents ONLY. Siblings are allowed to come and cheer them on!) \$3.00 fee: WC student

only

6 Daylight Savings – Set clocks back one hour

9 Board of Education Meeting at WC, 7:00 p.m.

11 **NO SCHOOL** – Veteran's Day

14 Parent Education Night – Topic: Bullying Prevention (all 114 parents invited), 6:30-7:30 p.m. at WC
(Please RSVP by Nov. 10 at bullying@manhattan114.org)

PTO Fundraiser Pick-up 6:00-8:00 p.m. at WC

16 Wilson Creek Book Fair

17 Wilson Creek Book Fair

Education Foundation Meeting at MJHS, 6:00 p.m.

18 **NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN:** Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences 9:00 a.m. – 3:00

a.m.

Wilson Creek Book Fair

21 **NO SCHOOL** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 2:00-9:00 p.m.

PTO Shopping Extravaganza, 3-8 PM

22 **NO SCHOOL** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PTO Shopping Extravaganza at WC, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

23-25 **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Break

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Party and Parade times are listed above. For the parade, students will exit the building through the front doors, proceed south on the sidewalk into the Leighlenbridge Subdivision, to the south of Wilson Creek, and then return to school on the same side of the street. If you plan to take your child home after the parade we will ask you to sign them out in their classroom. All parents must enter and exit through our front doors. Parents may bring their A.M. Kindergarten students back to walk in the parade. These parents and students will meet in our Commons just prior to 2:45 p.m. A.M. parents must walk with their students. **COSTUMES – KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR THEIR COSTUMES TO SCHOOL DUE TO THE LIMITED TIME THEY ARE HERE. FIRST & SECOND GRADE** - Please do not send your child to school in their costumes, with make-up or hair color. You may send costumes in a bag with your child's name on it.

Room parents will help children get into their costumes prior to the parties. Please do not expect children or parents to apply makeup. **NO WEAPONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AS PART OF A COSTUME. KEEP IN MIND, WHEN SENDING MASKS, THAT CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO WALK IN THE PARADE. IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER STUDENTS WILL PARADE THROUGH THE SCHOOL. PARENTS WILL SIT IN THE GYM TO ENJOY THE PARADE.**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT BIRTHDAY TREATS

Due to the rapid increase in students with food allergies, as well as adherence to our adopted Wellness Plan, We would like to **highly recommend** that the birthday treats you send for your child be **NON-FOOD**. There are some classrooms in which we have students with significant food allergies, and those classrooms will **not be allowed** to send food treats. Those individual teachers have sent separate notes home. We don't want to dampen the enthusiasm for a child's Birthday therefore we encourage you to consider non-food items such as birthday pencils, stickers, etc. In order to help make this day special for your child, we felt if you would like to send a special book for your child to donate to his/her classroom library we will attach a Bookplate with your child's name and birthday in it. If you would like to take part in the "birthday book" event, but can't get to the store to purchase a book, you can send your child with \$2 in an envelope marked with his/her name on it, and the words "birthday book". They will then be able to come to the office to pick out a book of their choice.

SCHOOL START TIME

Just a reminder school starts at Wilson Creek at 9:00 a.m. Students are expected to be in classrooms by 9:00 a.m., therefore it would be really helpful if you are driving or walking your child to school that you be here by 8:55 a.m. at the south doors. A staff member will be at that door until 9:00 a.m. to let your child in. If you come after

9:00 a.m. then you will have to sign your child in at the office.

MANHATTAN WEB SITE UPDATES

On our Manhattan Website (www.manhattan114.org) you can now find our **School Report Card**. Don't forget to check out our **VIRTUAL BACKPACK** where you can find information from local organizations such as the Park District, MYAA, Scouts, etc. If you are in need of a hard copy of any of these flyers you can have your child pick one up in the office.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND EMERGENCY HOTLINE

If school is going to be closed prior to the start of the day, parents will receive an automated "Connect Ed" call. If you have had a change in contact phone numbers since filling out your child's registration form, it is important that you call school with these changes. These are the numbers that will be used to generate your automated call. You can also call any of the school numbers or our District phone number at 815-478-6093 and dial extension 5 to hear up-to-date information about school closings. **HOTLINE**-If we have to close school once children are already in school, we will activate our Emergency Hotline. We will call Wilson Creek and Anna McDonald's youngest child in the family's emergency contact information to notify you if we have to close school early. At Manhattan Junior High we will only call those families that request a call.

P.E. ABSENCES and RECESS NEWS

If your child needs to miss P.E. for one day, a note from the parent/guardian is sufficient. A doctor note will be needed for any additional days. **PLEASE NOTE:** If your child is excused from P.E., they will not be allowed to participate in recess. As per our Student Handbook, children will go outside for recess unless the temperature is below 10 degrees wind-chill. Please remember to send them with the appropriate outerwear for outdoor recess.

IMPORTANT LUNCH NEWS

When purchasing lunches, please remember to place money in an envelope with your child's name, teacher's name, and amount enclosed. This is very important to assure that we can credit the right child's account. Please send a separate check/cash in an envelope for each of your children. **COMING SOON: ONLINE LUNCH ACCOUNTS!**

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE REMINDER

In order to keep Parent-Teacher Conferences running smoothly, and as close to the scheduled times as possible, we would ask that you keep in mind the 20 minute time frame allotted. If you need additional time you can always plan another scheduled time to meet with the teacher. You will receive a reminder note from the Classroom teacher as to the date/time of your conference.

WILSON CREEK BOOK FAIR

A Book Fair is scheduled for November 16 – 22. Children will be able to purchase books during school hours on November 16-18. Parents will have the opportunity to view the selection of books and make purchases during the hours of Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 21 and 22. A listing of selections will be sent home just prior to the fair.

P.T.O. SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

If you're looking for Christmas gifts, teacher gifts, something for the office, gifts for the bus driver, your holiday hostess or even a gift for yourself, this is the place to be! Get a head start on your Christmas shopping at the PTO's Annual Home Shopping Expo! This event will be held at Wilson Creek Elementary, on Monday, November 21st, and November 22nd during Parent-Teacher Conferences. There will be great raffles from all vendors!

NURSE'S NEWS

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

Vision and Hearing screenings were recently completed at school. The Nurse has completed notifying the parents/guardians of any of the students that did not pass either the Vision and/or Hearing screenings. If you did not receive a letter in the mail from the Nurse's office, you can rest assured that your child passed the screenings without difficulty. If you have received a referral letter: we would like to remind you how important it is to follow up with a doctor when there are either vision or hearing concerns noted during your child's school screenings.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Nurse Cathy at 815-478-4527.

DENTAL EXAMINATION REMINDER

All Illinois children in Kindergarten, second and sixth grades are required to have an oral health examination. These dental exams must be completed by a licensed dentist 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 and are completely confidential. Please contact the nurse's office if you are unable to obtain the required dental examination at this time so we can discuss the steps that will need to be taken to assure your child's compliance with the state's rules and regulations regarding dental exams.

MUSIC NEWS

In music class, the first grade students are still learning about the difference between beat and rhythm and rhyme and song. We will now start to discuss how some beats have 1 sound on a beat, while others have 2 sounds on a beat. We will be learning this through the use of songs and rhymes that the students have been learning in class.

The second grade students are still working hard on their Holiday Program, "Crazy Carols". The holiday program will take place on Tuesday, December 20 at 9:30 am and again at 7:00 pm at Wilson Creek. Words to the programs have been emailed home. Please print these words so your child can practice at home. If you did not receive this email, please feel free to contact Mrs. Pedziwater at cpedziwater@manhattan114.org.

COMPUTER NEWS

Greetings from Techno~Zoo! The students have been busy learning using various software programs such as Word Munchers, Jump Start and SmartBoard designed activities. They have also visited www.starfall.com --a fun educational website designed to reinforce reading skills at each grade level. After Halloween, the

students will begin a month-long unit on keyboarding! Please continue to send in your Box Tops—we truly appreciate your support! Please feel free to contact Ms. Simms ☺ @tsimms@manhattan114.org

LIBRARY NEWS

The library unit for October was “Health, Safety, and Nutrition.” The students learned about healthy foods and the importance of hand-washing. The centers have included coloring their own healthy dinner plate, listening to songs about cleanliness, and puzzles about various body parts and the 5 senses. A Scholastic Book Fair will be held November 16 – November 22. It will be open to students on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, during school hours. On November 21st and 22nd, it will be open during Parent-Teacher Conferences. The chairperson for the book fair may soon be sending emails or notes asking for help at the book fair. We know she would appreciate volunteers to help with it. Any money earned will be put back into our Wilson Creek Library-so more items can be purchased. Feel free to contact the Librarian: Mrs. Milosevich at dmilosevich@manhattan114.org

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Coming up in November! Sport Stacking and Basketball. Watch for sport stacking order forms to come home. Also try-outs for this year's sport stacking team will take place during the first week of December at recess for first and second grade and during P.E. for our Kindergarten students. This year's tournament will again be held at Wilson Creek on Saturday, March 31. Our second Mile Day of the year was a great success, 204 students ran 1 mile or more this month! Great Job!! Current leaders are first grader: James Kuypers and second grader: Carter LaMarche.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Book at cbook@manhattan114.org.

SOCIAL WORKER NEWS

Wilson Creek students are learning a lot about character! October's Character Counts! pillar was FAIRNESS, and all students participated in Fairness lessons. Each month, students who are “caught” exhibiting that month's character pillar can earn a good character leaf on our “Tree of Good Character.” From those names on the tree, one child per grade level will win the monthly character goodie bag! Winners for the Fairness award will be announced and awarded goodie bags at November's School Pride Assembly. The character pillar for November and December is CARING. The color for CARING is RED, so students are encouraged to wear RED on Wednesdays in November and December. **Red Ribbon Week** was celebrated October 24-28. Our theme this year was “Proud to Be You and Me!” Students enjoyed a week focused on pride in themselves and their community. Thanks so much to all of you who helped make a difference in our community by donating items to our weeklong food drive! Your support is greatly appreciated! There will be a **BULLYING**

PRESENTATION on November 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wilson Creek, “Get the 4-1-1 before the 9-1-1.” This is a community event, presented by MSD #114 Social Workers, teachers, and community leaders. Childcare will be available at Wilson Creek (provided by MJHS student council members). All parents are encouraged to attend. This presentation will give information on signs of bullying, and what to do about it. Look for more information to come! Please feel free to contact Mrs. Rych at: mrych@manhattan114.org