



October 2011 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  
bhogan@manhattan114.org  
Mrs. Pam DeBoer, Building Secretary  
Mrs. Janice Benney, District Secretary  
Mrs. Cathy Zielezinski, Nurse

**OCTOBER 2011**

- 3-7 Vision & Hearing Screening  
4 PTO Meeting at WC, 9:30 a.m., new members always welcome  
6 Kindergarten Nursery Rhyme Olympic Night - 6:15-7:30 p.m. (additional information will be coming home soon!)
- 7 **EARLY DISMISSAL - NO SCHOOL FOR P.M. KINDERGARTEN AND P.M. EC CLASSES**  
11:15 a.m. Dismissal for A.M. Kindergarten  
1:00 p.m. Dismissal for D.K., 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades
- 10 **COLUMBUS DAY/TEACHER INSTITUTE DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS**  
11 PTO Fall Fundraiser Ends  
12 Board of Education at Wilson Creek, 7:00 p.m. (the Foundation Calendar shows Tuesday the 11th)  
13 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip to the Manhattan Fire Station in the morning  
Education Foundation Meeting at Junior High, 6:00 p.m., new members always welcome  
14 Picnic with the Principal and School Pride Assembly - Wear Red, White, and/or Blue  
17 Band Fall Fundraiser Begins  
19 Fire Safety Day - Manhattan Firefighters will be visiting Wilson Creek  
21 End of First Quarter  
27 PTO Market Day Pick-Up at Wilson Creek, 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
28 Report Cards Sent Home  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Lincoln-Way East to see Laura Ingalls Wilder Play  
Band Fall Fundraiser Ends
- 31 **HALLOWEEN PARTIES**  
A.M. Kindergarten - 10:45 a.m., A.M. Early Childhood 10:00 a.m., P.M. Early Childhood 2:00 p.m.  
P.M. Kindergarten, DK, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1:45 p.m.  
**HALLOWEEN PARADE 2:45 p.m.**  
(More information is available below.)  
A.M. classes can come back and walk in the parade with their parents.

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES**

Party and Parade times are listed above. For the parade, students will exit the building through the front doors, proceed south through 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 the 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** - Please do not send your **1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** 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. All **Kindergarten** children are allowed to wear their costumes to school. **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.**

## **BIRTHDAY BOOKS**

As an alternative to eatable birthday treats, students can purchase a birthday book for his/her class at school for only \$2. All you have to do is send \$2 in an envelope with your child's name, teacher's name and marked: birthday books, and they will be able to come to the office and pick from a terrific selection of new books. We will add a birthday nameplate to the inside of the book with your child's name on it. His/her teacher will then read it to the entire class.

## **MATH PILOT**

This year some of our teacher's are piloting a new Math Series, Envisions Math, with the hopes that we might be able to purchase it next year. All of the Kindergarten classes are piloting this series. In First grade, Mrs. Ditty and Mrs. Fritz are participating in this pilot, as well as Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Neighbors in Second grade. If you have sibling/twins in the same grade there is the possibility that you might see different assignments, homework, and tests. We will cover the same concepts at each grade, but they might not be taught at exactly the same time.

## **HOMEWORK**

Listed below are the homework expectations for each of our grade levels. If you have individual concerns about homework, please start by contacting your child's teacher(s).

### Kindergarten:

- \*Tuesdays - a math practice page home reviewing concepts from previous week. Due on Wednesdays.
- \*Thursday - reading homework page, reviewing phonics or a reading readiness skill. Due on Friday.
- \*Each week a paper copy of a leveled reader is sent home. The parents are to have their child read the book to them and then initial next to the appropriate week on the back of the red folder.

### First Grade:

- \*8 spelling words will be assigned each week (6 new words + 2 review words). There will also be between 2-4 high frequency words listed for extra credit (optional). Tests are on Fridays.
- \*One math facts sheet each week in addition to a math concepts review sheet will come home weekly.
- \*Macmillan Treasures stories will be assigned weekly and listed on a bookmark that will be sent home. Parents will be asked to sign the bookmark and return it to school.
- \*Leveled readers will come home on a regular basis and we will ask that you read them with your child.

### Second Grade:

- \*90 minutes of reading homework each week, which may include, but is not limited to the Macmillan Treasures weekly stories, and the leveled readers books. Parents will be expected to sign the 90 minute reading log.
- \*Parents will be asked to sign a bookmark weekly for the Macmillan Treasures stories. The time spent reading these can also be counted on the 90 minute reading log.
- \*Spelling words assigned each week (10 new and 2 review). There will also be 3 bonus words for extra credit. These are optional. Tests are on Friday.
- \*One math facts homework assignment each week, as well as one math concepts sheet.
- \*Book reports will be assigned each month and are due back at the end of the month.
- \*In the third quarter, a reading comprehension sheet will be sent home for homework.

## **CONTINUING TO GO GREEN**

You can Earn Money for our Schools! In case you haven't seen it yet, we have a yellow and green ABITIBI Paper Retriever bin in the parking lot behind the school. When you recycle your paper and magazines in the bin, our school earns extra money. Tell your neighbors and relatives to recycle, too. Thank you for your support.

## **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 2:30 p.m. as the end of the school day gets very busy in our office.

## **STOP!!! - FOR BUS STOP ARMS**

Please remember...if there are buses in our front driveway, you cannot pass the bus! If you do, the police will be called. Thanks so much for your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

## WALKERS

If your child is a Wilson Creek student and is going to be allowed to walk home without a parent, you will need to send a note that we will keep on file. You can either request that they be allowed to walk home alone, with a sibling, or another adult. Please do not request that they only be allowed to walk home with a particular student other than a brother or sister. If a friend is absent we don't have the ability to know your wishes in regards to your child walking home.

## COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

If you would like to get in touch with one of our staff please feel free to call school at 815-478-4527. 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 e-mail 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.

If you have a concern about your child, We ask you to first address that concern with the classroom teacher. They have greater first-hand knowledge about your child and can very often alleviate any concerns you might have with a simple phone call. If for some reason you continue to have concerns Mrs. Hogan would be glad to offer her help and support.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

All parents are required to call school if their child will be absent. This call should be made by 8:00 a.m. (11:30 a.m. for PreK and Kindergarten PM classes). Absences must be reported only by a parent or legal guardian. When calling, please state: student name, parent name, teacher and reason for absence.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held on November 21 and 22 for all grades, and an additional day on November 18 for Kindergarten. If you have not already set up a conference please contact your child's teacher to do so. If you have to change or cancel your conference please call the Wilson Creek office at 815-478-4527 X 1.

## EMERGENCY CLOSING HOTLINE UPDATE

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.

## NURSE'S NEWS

**EYE EXAMS** All children enrolling in Kindergarten in a public, private, or parochial school and any student enrolling for the first time in a public, private or parochial school shall have an Eye examination. Each of these children shall present proof of having been examined by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches or a licensed optometrist within the previous year before October 15<sup>th</sup> of the school year. The completed eye examinations are **due by October 15, 2011**. The state has provided "Waiver" forms for families who may have difficulty obtaining an eye 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 eye 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 the eye examinations.

**Vision and Hearing screening** will be conducted at Wilson Creek School beginning on Monday, October 3rd and continuing through Friday, October 7th. Hearing screenings will be for ALL Wilson Creek students. Vision screening will be conducted on all Pre K, Kindergarten, and Second grade students. Also, all special education students, all transfer students and any student referred by their teacher will receive vision screenings.

"Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months." (Section 27-8.1 of the School Code). If you have a child in Kindergarten, and you have already turned in the required eye examination, your child will not receive vision screening at school. If you have not turned in the required eye examination for your Kindergartener, he/she will receive the mandated vision screening. The school nurse will notify you **IF** your child has any difficulties with either the vision or hearing screenings. If you do not hear from the school nurse, you can be certain that your child did not have any difficulties with the screenings at school.

### **Medication Procedures at School**

Medication authorizations are required for all prescription and over the counter medications. These authorizations must be completed by a doctor and parent for both prescription and over the counter medications. Over the counter medications include such medications as Tylenol, Motrin, cough syrups, cough drops, orajel, etc.

We are asking that you do not send over the counter medications to school without the proper doctor's and parent authorizations on file. After the Nurse receives the proper authorizations, she will keep your child's supply of over the counter medication in the office and distribute it to them as needed. Also, please do not send these medications with your child in their backpacks to take when they feel it is necessary. The reason for this is that some of our children may have allergies to certain over the counter medications and if they are shared with a friend by mistake, it may lead to an allergic reaction that may require medical attention.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Communicable diseases are defined as diseases that may be transmitted directly or indirectly from one individual to another. In the school setting, it is the school nurse's responsibility to refer any child suspected of having a communicable disease to his/her doctor for diagnosis. If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, we ask that you call the school and inform us.

**The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that your child stay home when the following conditions occur:**

1. **Fever**- Temperature of 100 degrees F or above. Children are required to stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone down.
2. **Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea** - All body fluids are considered contagious. Children are required to stay home for at least 24 hours after the last episode.
3. **Pink Eye** - This may be viral or bacterial. Any child with symptoms (swelling, redness, itching, or drainage) will need to be seen by a physician. Antibiotics need to be given for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
4. **Rash** - A rash is assumed contagious and needs to be diagnosed by a doctor. A doctor's note should accompany the child when returning to school that identifies the rash.
5. **Antibiotic administration** - Any child that has been diagnosed with a communicable disease that requires an antibiotic is required to stay home until he/she has been on the antibiotic for at least 24 hours. If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact the school nurse at 815-478-4527 or via e-mail: [czielezinski@manhattan114.org](mailto:czielezinski@manhattan114.org).

### **ART NEWS**

We LOVE art!! The students used their creativity to make three American flags using only their hand prints. The flags were presented to the Manhattan Firemen and Policemen at our school assembly. These men and women were thanked and honored for their service. The third flag will be given to Bill Mancke, a WWII Veteran and Manhattan resident, who will be honored in Washington this month with fellow WWII Veterans. Even though we miss Mrs. Ambrosini, we will still be doing many of her wonderful art lessons. Art can be a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. Just ask your First or Second graders!

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

This year has gotten off to a great start. Coming up this month, we will be working on earning a scooter license, as well as working with the parachute and playing soccer. Our first and second graders have completed their first mile day of the year. Students were given 15 minutes to complete as many laps as possible. 195 students ran 1 mile or more this month! Great Job!! Current leaders are, in First grade James Kuypers and in Second grade Will Brandau and Carter LaMarche. Keep up the good work! You may contact Ms. Book by e-mail: [cbook@manhattan114.org](mailto:cbook@manhattan114.org).

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

In September, students learned about Communities and Citizenship. They listened to books about the President, voting, and Firefighters. Each week, they also had the opportunity to vote and place their ballot in the ballot box. The first week, students voted for their favorite foods. Kindergarten students' favorite food was pizza! They also voted for their favorite fruits and will soon vote for their favorite job. Kindergarten students have been introduced to the various centers and had their first experience with centers on Friday, September 16. Everyone has enjoyed checking out books.

### **SOCIAL WORK/CHARACTER COUNTS NEWS**

Welcome back! The year is off to a great start! Many students are already asking when our character lessons will start. The first of our "Character Counts!" lessons will begin in October, and we will be focusing on FAIRNESS. Students who are "caught" exhibiting each month's character pillar will get to put a character leaf on Wilson Creek's Tree of Good Character. From those leaves, one student from each grade level will be chosen to win the monthly character award at our school pride assembly. Also, each Wednesday is our character color day, and we encourage students to wear the color that corresponds with our monthly character pillar. October's Character color is ORANGE, so students are encouraged to wear ORANGE on Wednesdays in October.

Lunch bunch groups will also be starting soon. Lunch bunch groups are small friendship groups that meet in Mrs. Rych's room during normal lunch periods once per week. During these friendship groups, students are encouraged to practice good friendship skills such as listening, following along with conversations, and using appropriate social skills. Students who struggle socially are invited. Students who have strong social skills are also invited so they can be good role models for other students. Teachers have been recommending students for this group, and parents can also request that their student join the group. If you would like for your student to participate in lunch groups, please call Wilson Creek or contact Mrs. Rych at [mrych@manhattan114.org](mailto:mrych@manhattan114.org).

Red Ribbon Week will be October 24-28. Red Ribbon is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program. Here at Wilson Creek, we celebrate Red Ribbon Week by promoting the importance of making good choices in order to live healthy, drug-free lives. There will be many activities for the students throughout the week, including a collection of canned/non-perishable food for our local food pantry. Look for more information to come home as we near the end of October.

Here are the activities for the Red Ribbon Week:

**Monday:** Healthy Choices Day. Students will receive "Healthy Choices are a Big Deal" coloring sheet. BRING A HEALTHY LUNCH TODAY!!

**Tuesday:** Wear Red Today!!

**Wednesday:** Crazy sock day—"Sock it to drugs/bad choices." Wear your craziest socks today!

**Thursday:** "TEAM UP for healthy choices!"—Wear your favorite team's jersey today!

**Friday:** Red Ribbon Day. Students will be given red ribbons/stickers to wear!

During this week, we will also be collecting canned/non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Please help by donating items for this food drive!

### **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

Greetings from Techno~Zoo! We have had a great start to the new school year! The students have been using various software programs such as Kid Pix, Math Blaster and Reading Blaster. They have also visited [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) --a fun educational website designed to reinforce basic skills at each grade level. Over the next few weeks, we will use interactive software designed for the SmartBoard covering many core content areas. In addition, the students will be learning how to access and utilize IXL Math. Please encourage your child to play from home as well! Continue to send in your Box Tops—we truly appreciate your support! Ms. Simms ☺ You may contact Ms. Simms at [tsimms@manhattan114.org](mailto:tsimms@manhattan114.org)

### **MUSIC NEWS**

The First and Second grade students recently performed two songs at the 9/11 Assembly on Friday, September 9. We would like to congratulate all the students on a great performance! In First grade, students are going to begin learning about the rhythm syllables ti-ti and ta. They will be doing this by learning various rhymes and songs. By learning rhythm syllables, students will be starting to learn how to read rhythm in music. Our Second graders are going to start working on their songs for their December Holiday Program that will take place on Tuesday, December 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The program is called "Crazy Carols" and I know the kids will really enjoy it. Words to the program will be emailed home during the first few weeks of October. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Pedziwater at [cpedziwater@manhattan114.org](mailto:cpedziwater@manhattan114.org).