



August-September 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

Mrs. Pam DeBoer, Building Secretary

Mrs. Janice Benney, District Secretary

Mrs. Cathy Zielezinski, Nurse

## August

- 22 First Day for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, **note - this will be a full day of school, 9:00am - 3:30pm**  
**Lunch: Popcorn Chicken (Remember to send your child with a healthy snack!)**  
Early Childhood Parent and Student Orientation, 9:30-10:15am
- 23 First Full Day for All Students  
PTO Boo Hoo Breakfast @ Wilson Creek, 9:00am- Followed by Meeting
- 25 Wilson Creek Open House Night, 7:00-8:00pm
- 26 Fall Picture Day at Wilson Creek: **SEND YOUR CHILD WITH PICTURE ORDER FORM!!**

## September

- 1 PTO Market Day Pick-Up at Wilson Creek, 4:00-5:00pm
- 5 **Labor Day, NO SCHOOL**
- 6 P.T.O. Meeting at Wilson Creek, 9:30am - New Members Welcome
- 8 Education Foundation Meeting in library at Junior High, 6:00pm - New Members Welcome
- 14 Board of Education Meeting at Wilson Creek, 7:00pm  
**(Please note Board Meetings have been moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the Month - not the dates listed on the Foundation Calendar)**
- 16 Picnic with the Principal & School Pride Assembly Day - if you would like - wear red, white and/or blue
- 23 Progress Reports Sent Home
- 26 PTO Fall Fundraiser Begins  
Fall Picture Retake Day
- 29 P.T.O. Room Parent Tea @ Wilson Creek, 2:00pm  
P.T.O. Market Day Pick-Up @ Wilson Creek, 4:00-5:00pm

**First of all - Welcome Back! We really do get so excited about each new school year. Our teachers have been working much of the summer to ready classrooms, attend workshops, and prepare new and exciting lessons for your children. This will be an important Newsletter to keep for the entire school year, as it has important year-long information.**

## This Year's Theme - "Proud to Be...You and Me"

This year we will continue to reinforce the themes we started the past 2 years- Going Green & Eat Right...Be Bright, but will now add to this our new theme: "Proud to Be...You and Me". Our school-wide, year-long, focus will center on pride in country, state, community, and one another. We have a variety of initiatives planned to make your children more aware of country, state, and community, as well as local and national heroes. In commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11, we felt this to be an important theme.

## CURRICULUM INITIATIVES

We will continue to strive to offer the best education possible for all of the children in Manhattan. Last year we worked really hard to assure consistency across each grade level in order to expose each child to the same opportunities. Differentiated instruction, as well as Response to Intervention: are no longer just "buzz words" but integral parts of instruction at Wilson Creek. This year we will be piloting a new Math Program, Pearson's Envision Math, in some classrooms, in hopes of fully implementing this series in 2012-2013. We will also be in the infant stage of implementing small group math instruction, which has been so successful in the area of reading. We will continue to share updates on these initiatives throughout the year.

### **OPEN HOUSE -Thursday, August 26th**

We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Open House on Thursday, August 25th, from 7:00-8:00pm. Parent-Teacher Conference sign-up will take place that night as well as Parent Volunteer Sign-Up. We will also ask you to update your email addresses. We are finding this an excellent way to provide quick, up-to-date, information about things going on at Wilson Creek. **T-SHIRTS FOR SALE- We will have Wilson Creek "Proud to Be...You and Me t-shirts for sale at Open House for \$12. There will be cash & carry sales that night as well as order forms if we run out of the size(s) you want.**

### **BOARD MEETINGS - DATE CHANGES**

Please make a note on your calendars that the Board of Education Meetings have been moved from the 2nd Tuesdays of each month to the 2nd Wednesdays. Our newsletter each month will include the new dates.

### **THANK YOU TO P.T.O. and EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

A huge thank you goes out to all of our wonderful volunteer members of both the P.T.O. and Education Foundation not only for the funds they raise, but the services and opportunities they provide our students. Last year they collectively raised over \$39,000 to support our schools! Some of the items that were purchased include Smart Boards, School-Wide Assemblies, Interactive Web Site Access for Math and Reading Reinforcement, Leveled Reading Books, Math and Reading Games and Centers, just to name a few!! **MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN BOTH OF THE ORGANIZATIONS. THEIR MEETING TIMES ARE LISTED ABOVE. COME AND MEET NEW FRIENDS AND GET INVOLVED IN OUR SCHOOLS.**

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Fall Picture Day will be on Friday, August 26th. Don't forget to wear your smiles and your "school best". Van Gogh Photographers will be taking our photos again this year. Picture Order Forms will come home with your child on the first or second day of school. 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!

### **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 815-478-4527 X2. Please do not send any medications, including cough drops, to school with your child anytime during the year. A more detailed letter will come home from the nurse in the near future.

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT BIRTHDAY TREATS**

Due to the rapid increase in students with food allergies, as well as adherence to our adopted Wellness Plan, I 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 will be sending 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.

### **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 a couple of years ago, 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.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Due to the difficult economic times many schools are now faced with we have experienced some changes at Wilson Creek for the 2011-2012 school year. We will have one less 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher this year. We were fortunate that the Board of Education voted to keep 6 sections each of Kindergarten and First Grades. Ms. Holly will now be in First Grade and Mrs. Davis has moved to Kindergarten. These experienced teachers will certainly be welcome additions to those teams. Although the Art Teacher position was cut from Wilson Creek, we are thrilled to have Mrs. Swanberg return in the position of Art and Library assistant. She will assist our classroom teachers in both of these areas. Mr. Riley, our computer teacher, took a new job in Joliet. We will certainly miss him, but are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Tamara Simms who will take Mr. Riley's place. We wish the best of luck to Ms. Howell-Cassidy, who will now be teaching in Coal City. We would also like to welcome Mrs. JoAnn Kilroy to our Kindergarten staff.

## **VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED**

In light of our staff cutbacks this year, we will be relying on volunteer help even more than we have in the past. 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.

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

### **Student Arrival/Dismissal & Rec Care**

Children walking and being dropped off by their parents, are **not** to be on school grounds until after 8:45am. The only exceptions are children attending Rec Care or children that arrive early due to teacher requests. If your child attends Rec Care you must walk them into the building and sign-them in. NOTE: Rec Care has moved to room 148. This room is the first room to the left as you enter the front doors. We hope this move makes this service even more convenient for our parents. Before and after school hours, parents can park in the front drive, and enter through the front doors to get to room 148.

### **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

### **Anna McDonald Car Riders must be picked up at Anna Mc**

This year Anna Mc students **will not** be able ride the bus over to Wilson Creek and then get in our car rider line. We have over 100 students at Wilson Creek that are car riders or walkers. Our students are very young, and need a great deal of supervision at the end of the day dismissal. Our number one priority is keeping them safe. It has become increasingly difficult, to also manage students from Anna Mc. If you have children in both schools, you will need to pick up your Anna Mc children first and then get in the Wilson Creek car rider line. I apologize for this inconvenience, but many of our parents manage to make this work quite well.

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

### **HOT LUNCHES - \$2.75 Just Milk - .25 cents**

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 - 12:00pm, Anna McDonald School - 12:45pm, and Wilson Creek - 11:15am for Kindergarten and 1:00pm for D.K., 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. The dates are October 7<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, and May 25<sup>th</sup>. Early Childhood students will not attend school on these 5 days. **Kindergarten parents please note:** On October 7<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and May 25<sup>th</sup>, A.M. Kindergarten students will attend school until 11:15am and **P.M. Kindergarten students will not attend** school at all on these 3 days. On January 13<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup> the P.M. Kindergarten students will attend kindergarten in the morning from 9:00-11:15pm 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 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 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.

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

Once a month some 1<sup>st</sup> and second grade 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 theme colors this year, which are red, white, and/or blue.

### **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 "flip-flops" create an unsafe situation 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.

**WEBSITE**

Go to [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org), the Manhattan 114 website for up to date information about all our schools. Don't forget to visit the Virtual Backpack on our website to learn about all kinds of exciting things for your children to join.

**WHEW! - I think I have covered it all. I'm sorry this newsletter is so long, but we have a lot to share. 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**