



October 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. Cathv Zielezinski, Nurse

## IMPORTANT OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR DATES

### September

- 25 **Early Dismissal Day, NO SCHOOL for P.M. Kindergarten, PreK or EC classes.**  
11:00 Dismissal for A.M. PreK, 11:15 Dismissal for A.M. Kindergarten, 1:00 Dismissal for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders.
- 28-30 Vision & Hearing Screening
- 29 PTO Fall Fundraiser Begins

### October

- 1 Vision & Hearing Screening  
"Leaf" the T.V. Off - Read a Good Book, Reading Incentive Begins  
Market Day Pick-Up, 4-5:00 at Wilson Creek
- 2 Vision & Hearing Screening  
"You Can't Bully Me" Assembly
- 3 P.T.O. Monster Mash Event
- 5 Fire Prevention Week and Bus Safety Week  
Vision and Hearing Screening
- 6 P.T.O. Meeting 7:00 PM at Wilson Creek  
Vision and Hearing Screening
- 8 Kindergarten Nursery Rhyme Olympics Night 6:30-7:30
- 9 **Institute Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 12 **Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 13 Board of Education at Anna McDonald School at 7PM (note location change)
- 16 Picnic with the Principal - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders  
School Pride Assembly 2:35 - Wear Blue or Green
- 19 Red Ribbon Week - Make Good Choices Week - We will be collecting non-perishable food items all week.  
Red Ribbon Week Activity - Make Healthy Choices Day - Bring a "healthy" lunch today.
- 20 Mrs. Knowles, Ms. Spreitzer, and Mrs. Weihers' Field Trip to Plum Creek Nature Center  
Red Ribbon Week Activity - WEAR RED DAY
- 21 Mrs. Chada, Mrs. Holmes, and Mrs. Neighbors' Field Trip to Plum Creek Nature Center  
Red Ribbon Week Activity - Sock it to Drugs/Bad Choice Day - WEAR CRAZY SOCKS DAY
- 22 Red Ribbon Activity - "Smartie Day" - each child will receive smarties
- 23 Early Dismissal - **NO SCHOOL FOR A.M. KINDERGARTEN AND PREK.** P.M. Kindergarten comes in the A.M. (11:15 dismissal time), P.M. PreK comes in the A.M. (11:00 dismissal time),  
1:00 Dismissal for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades  
End of Quarter
- 29 End of "Leaf" the T.V. Off - Read a Good Book, Reading Incentive  
Market Day Pick-Up at Wilson Creek, 4-5:00
- 30 Halloween Parties, PreK AM 10:30, Kind. 10:45, Kind PM, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:45  
Halloween Parade 2:45 (see more information below)

### November

- 6 Parent-Teacher Conferences for PreK and Kindergarten Only, 9-3:30  
**NO SCHOOL FOR PREK AND KINDERGARTEN**
- 9 Parent-Teacher Conferences, PreK/EC, K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00-9:00
- 10 Parent-Teacher Conferences, PreK/EC, K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00-1:00
- 11 **NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day**

## **GOING GREEN! - THANKS TO BERKOTS AND LOWES**

Introduced just over 25 years ago, the truth about the plastic bag is that we now use over 500,000,000,000 (that's 500 billion) plastic bags each year, or almost 1 million per minute. Did you know that they can last in a landfill for up to 1,000 years? In our ongoing efforts to teach our students about recycling and the environment, we have partnered with local businesses to bring you a reusable shopping bag. We hope that you will use this bag instead of a plastic bag. Thanks to our very own local Berkots and Lowes for their donation of reusable shopping bags.

## **RECYCLING NEWS**

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 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 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.

## **KINDERGARTEN NURSERY RHYME OLYMPIC NIGHT - October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30**

Kindergarten students and parents - You and your child(ren) can travel to nursery rhyme themed activities at your own pace. This is our second year hosting this event and it was enjoyed by all that attended last year.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS**

We will have 5 Early Dismissal Days this year on Fridays. 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 25th, October 23rd, January 30th, March 26th, and May 28th. 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have modified schedules on the Early Dismissal Days and they will eat lunch at school. Kindergarten and PreK/EC parents please note the following changes:

### **September 25th, January 29th, and May 28th**

A.M. PreK Students will attend from 8:30-11:00

Kindergarten students will attend from 9:00-11:15

P.M. PreK and Kindergarten students will not attend school at all on these 3 days.

### **October 23rd and March 26th**

P.M. PreK and EC students attend from 8:30-11:00

P.M. Kindergarten students will attend from 9:00-11:15

A.M. students will not attend school at all on these 2 days. If your kindergarten student attends the Park District Kids Club Program, please contact them regarding changes on these dates.

(PreK = Mrs. Schroeder's Class, EC= Mrs. Wingfield's Class)

## **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.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES**

All parents are required to call school if their child will be absent. This call should be made by 8:00 AM (12:00 for PreK and Kindergarten PM classes). These absences must be reported 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for all grades, and an additional day on November 6<sup>th</sup> for PreK, EC, and 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 478-4527 X1.

## **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 A.M. PreK, EC and Kindergarten students back to walk in the parade. These parents and students will meet in our Commons just prior to 2:45. A.M. parents must walk with their students. **COSTUMES** - 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.**

## **RENEW, REUSE, REREAD BOOK SALE - Donations Needed**

On February 25<sup>th</sup> we will have our Family Curriculum Night at Wilson Creek. We plan to have a used book sale that night, with profits being used to buy new books for our library. If you are interested in donating paperback books, children's books, etc. in good condition, you can drop them off or send them with your child anytime before February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will store and sort them to get them ready for the sale. If you are interested in helping to organize this event, please call and let us know. We will be setting up a committee in December.

## **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.

## **DISTRICT BUDGET**

Parents interested in viewing the school district budget may do so by visiting the school district website at [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org).

## **NURSE'S NEWS**

Vision and Hearing Screenings will begin here at Wilson Creek on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and continue through Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Hearing Screenings will be for **ALL STUDENTS**. Vision screening will be conducted on all PreK, Kindergarten\*, Second Grade, Special Education students, Transfer students and those referred by their Teacher. **"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** 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. If you have any questions regarding Vision and Hearing Screenings, please contact the School Nurse at 815-478-4527.

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

Welcome back! The beginning of the year is off to a great and busy start! As always, students will be participating in *Character Counts!* lessons each month. The *Character Counts!* pillar for October is FAIRNESS, and the color is Orange. So please remind your student to wear ORANGE on Wednesdays during October! We also will celebrate Red Ribbon Week throughout the week of October 19–23. During Red Ribbon Week, we promote the importance of making good choices and living healthy, drug-free lives. Activities are listed on the Important Calendar Dates on the first page of this newsletter. 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!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

This year has gotten off to a great start. We have been working on locomotor movements in Kindergarten and first grade, which second graders have been working on special awareness through game play. Our first mile day of the year was a great success; the students have already racked up over 6500 laps!! Congratulations to all and keep up the good work. Coming up this month, we will again be working on earning a scooter license, playing with the parachute as well as some Halloween themed games!

## **ART NEWS**

The Art room at Wilson Creek has already been buzzing! The 1st and 2nd graders immediately decorated the school with their fine artwork! The 2nd grade artists drew their birds, which at this point they are expert at! The 1st graders drew pictures of our school and did quite a good job, on their first day of Art! Both grades are now being taught the drawing method. It is a step by step process, involving a number of drawing fundamentals. These include overlapping, mirror image, and learning the elements of shape, to name a few. Our second grade artists will soon be attempting to draw the Wilson Creek castle and they will all be successful! Our first grade artists will be starting to draw a bird.

We will also be taking part in Square One Art again this Year! I've had a lot of parents asking about it already. The order sheets will come home in late winter. You may order artwork from last year by simply going to [Square1art.com](http://Square1art.com). Mrs. Ambrosini

## **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

The students are off to a great start with the new Computer teacher, Mr. Riley. There were a lot of changes to the computer lab over the summer. Some of those changes include the purchase of new computers and installation of the Microsoft Office suite. That includes Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. So far, the students have been introduced to some of the software in our lab, such as Kid Pix, Math Blaster, and Thinkin? Things. They have also used the Internet to use educational sites such as Brainpop Jr. and Starfall. There are many more exciting things coming up this school year. If you need to contact Mr. Riley, feel free to email him at [jriley@manhattan114.org](mailto:jriley@manhattan114.org).

## **WILSON CREEK LIBRARY NEWS**

In addition to learning how to use a library and checking out books, we have begun our first Enrichment Centers Unit: Going Green. The students are learning the words: recycle, reduce, and reuse. They have actively participated in separating "garbage" for recycling. They will also learn about taking care of our environment and reusable energy.

## **MUSIC NEWS**

In music class, 1st and 2nd grade students have been playing various rhythm games by singing familiar preschool songs and through the use of rhythm sticks and various other instruments. In addition to this, students are beginning to learn how to sing "sol-mi" by playing various singing games, such as "Doggie Doggie Where's Your Bone" and "Apple Tree".

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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. We will not start this until December.**

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

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

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