

## *News from around the district at MSD114*

- **We are well into the school year and things have gone by quickly. It is hard to believe that the year is almost a quarter over. As I reported back in August, we continue to make technology a priority in the Manhattan 114 school district. The Board of Education has directed to move forward with taking the necessary steps to initiate a 1:1 device program in grades 3-8. I am excited to report that the devices have all been placed in the buildings and are being used by our students. All classes at Anna McDonald (grades 3-5) have access to iPads for every student in their classrooms. At the Junior High (grades 6-8), all students have access to a laptop computer for use in the classroom. The administration continues working very hard with staff in order to prepare specific teachers to be able to work with and train all staff in the use of technology in the classroom. We want to impact and improve the delivery of instruction and student learning. It is very exciting to be able to offer this to the students of Manhattan schools. In the coming months, the administration and District Leadership Team will be busy planning for next year and beyond as we work to develop a plan to support and sustain the technology we have implemented for the students and staff, and also develop a 3-5 year plan that will add new and cutting edge technologies for our students that will be a part of their lives and profession every day.**
- Preliminary EAV information was presented to the Board at our October meeting. New property increase was \$6,430,439 and an estimated EAV of approximately \$250,000,000 after exemptions is expected. The 2016 Tax Levy information will be presented for review and discussion at the November board meeting. The 2016 Tax Levy Hearing will be held prior to the regular December board meeting with the 2016 Tax Levy request to be acted on during the December meeting.
- MSD 114 Facebook page is active thanks to Mrs. Maher and Mr. Pacheco. They have taken the administrative lead to provide increased communication on behalf of the district via the district Facebook page. I certainly hope you are finding the information that we are sharing out to be both useful and exciting to read about. Currently there are 389 followers, up 5.6% over the last week. I am so excited that we have begun to utilize another means by which we can communicate with our parents, Students, and Community, as well as promote this wonderful school district to everyone everywhere.
- I also reported to the Board on the recently completed 10-year Life Safety Survey. This is something required by the State of Illinois. As a result of the survey, we will be faced with making some necessary changes/repairs throughout the district in order to make sure everything is safe for the students, staff, visitors, and general public. The Building Committee will be meeting to review the report and make recommendations to the whole board regarding what items need to be addressed in the current fiscal year, next fiscal year, and within the next 5 years. We will develop a budget plan to cover the items that need to be addressed and will work to take care of as many of them with our own staff, and if not, then we will try to do so within our regular budgeting process as opposed to levying for life safety dollars.

- **News from the Principals:**

**Mrs. Karalus**

- Gina Gilbert speech pathologist at the Jr High and for our KSI program had her Donors Choose purchase fully funded before she even posted it publicly. The Donors Choose project was for four Hokki chairs. They recently arrived and she encouraged several staff to try them and it was quite an experience. So far the students love them! Thanks for being so creative and dedicated to your students Gina!
- Our ECE ( Early Childhood Evaluation) team met to plan for our upcoming, first early childhood evaluation coming up in early November! We went over who is responsible for what and will be doing a "trial run" on our Early Release October 28th to give us practice, allow us to reflect on our process and determine if any improvements need to be made, and to be more prepared to host the first evaluation. We have a fantastic team in line to host these evaluations. We are excited to begin.

**Mrs. Maher**

- Our Fall Data Days were held in mid-September. Grade levels met in groups of 3 or 4 with our Reading Specialists, Stephanie Chamberlin and Mary McHugh. During the meetings, we reviewed grade level and classroom data from the fall benchmark. Additionally, features and resources available through STAR were reviewed and shared. Finally, resources for reading instruction, both web-based and books/materials were shared with teachers. Thanks to Mrs. Chamberlin, Mrs. McHugh and all of the Wilson Creek teachers for their time and preparations to make these meetings increasingly more meaningful each year. **(Data for ALL, Literacy for ALL, Professional Learning for ALL)**
- On September 9th, our 2nd Grade students invited their grandparents to visit Wilson Creek for an afternoon celebration of Grandparent's Day. We had an excellent turn out and it was a great event. Thanks to our 2nd grade teachers for their coordination of the memory-making event for all involved. September Early Release Day
- On September 16th, the Wilson Creek Staff participated in professional learning on the topics of Dyslexia and Phonics. Thanks to Mrs. Chamberlin, Mrs. Anderson, and Ms. Tomasiewicz for sharing learning from a summer course on Dyslexia. Also, thanks to our Reading Specialists, Mrs. McHugh and Mrs. Chamberlin, for presenting to our staff on a variety of phonics concepts. **(Professional Learning for ALL, Literacy for ALL)**
- In memory of MJHS Class of 1994 graduate, Kristi (McCollum) Sewing, Wilson Creek celebrated Gold Ribbon Week in September. In addition to a spirit week, students raised over \$1200 in change to support Anna's Closet, of 1MILLION4ANNA, to purchase toys for kids undergoing cancer treatment in hospitals. While Mrs. Lovingfoss and Ms. Fritz's classes raised the most for Kindergarten and 1st Grade, Ms. Tomasiewicz's class raised the most in 2nd grade and in the school!
- 8 members of the Manhattan 114 staff attended the Illinois Reading

Conference in Peoria, September 28th-30th. Those that attended the conference will be sharing new ideas and information at their buildings by offering in-house professional development opportunities.

**(Professional Learning for ALL, Literacy for ALL)**

- We're on Facebook! Follow the events of our three schools at <https://www.facebook.com/manhattan114/>. **(Becoming One)**

#### **Mr. Ryan McWilliams**

- Elise Kirk facilitated excellent data day meetings with staff in Sept. Grade level teams dissected AIMSweb & STAR data and discussed instructional strategies to address student strengths & weaknesses. Elise also previewed new features within the STAR program that staff was excited about using for their planning & instruction. **(Data for ALL)**
- Staff spent the early release day on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> following up on discussions from data day & establishing action plans to address student need. **(Professional Development & Data for ALL)**
- Stef Horwath & Sam Ramsey facilitated a technology showcase for staff on October 11<sup>th</sup> as a continued effort to make staff more comfortable with our tech devices. **(Professional Development for ALL)**
- Science of a Superhero assembly for all kids on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. The presentation blended the Arts with Math concepts. **(Becoming One)**
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade music program Thursday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> **(Becoming One)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> STAR Reward Days are October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at Laraway Lanes **(Becoming One)**
- Begin with the End in Mind student of the month luncheon Thursday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. **(Becoming One)**

#### **Mr. Ron Pacheco**

- Gina Gilbert was awarded a donors choose project that was funded recently. She wrote the proposal for Executive Functioning friendly stools and the stools arrived! We're going to begin working on our thank you notes next week!
- The instructional specialist for MJHS (Paula Paymaster) has been extremely busy creating math and reading groups and getting them additional resources where necessary. Furthermore – between the principal and instructional specialist – data from PARCC and STAR has been closely examined to find correlations between the two assessments and findings shared with all departments. – **Data for all**
- The Manhattan Junior High Mural Club's Traveling Mural of Manhattan's Round Barn is on display this month at Lincoln Way West's library. Dr. Schmitt decided to have the mural at West to help ease the Manhattan students' transition! – **Becoming One**
- Mrs. Schussler sent over 40 "thank you" letters to the Manhattan Fire

Dept. on behalf of the 8th graders. To learn about and honor 9/11, students were given the choice of interviewing a parent or writing a letter to our firefighters to show their appreciation. – **Becoming One**

- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Springfield trip went very well on September 30. Over 150 students toured the State Capitol and observe government in action.
- The MJHS Cross Country Team is entering the State tournament series. The girls have had an upstart season – hoping to secure a state berth. The boys enjoyed an undefeated regular season and repeated as Conference Champions this year.
- IMEA results: 6 students accepted into this prestigious festival with about 60 schools participating. The festival will be at Lincoln Way Central on November 5 – students that made the roster:
  - Courtney DeVenuto – Violin
  - Lilah Hernandez – Cello and Voice
  - Robert Macie
  - Katie O'Neill
  - Makenzie Schussler
  - Epiphany Shaw
- Fall "sing and String" concert is October 20, all 5 choir/string ensembles performing.

*Thank you,  
Rusty Ragon*