



**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL
JANUARY 29, 2015**



CELL PHONE USAGE

As a reminder to all students and families regarding the use and possession of cell phones at school. Please remember that once a student enters the school, cell phones need to be turned OFF and put away. Students using a phone inside school will have their phone confiscated and a parent will need to pick it up. Students are also subject to disciplinary action. Your cooperation and support is appreciated.

ACCESS SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Call your child's school phone number (Manhattan Jr. High – 815-478-6090), or the district phone number (815-478-6093). Then, press 5 to hear updated information about school closings.

Parents have other options to receive information on whether our school will follow PLAN A: School is closed or PLAN B: School will begin one hour later than usual. These options are as follows:

1. Listen to WJOL Radio (1340 AM), WGN Radio (720 AM), WBBM Radio (780 AM), CBS Channel 2, NBC Channel 5, ABC Channel 7, WGN Channel 9, Fox Channel 32 and CLTV Cable.
2. By touch-tone phone call 312-222-SNOW. You will be prompted to enter our main phone number 815-478-4527.
3. Access the website www.emergencyclosings.com. Once connected, search for Wilson Creek School for information. Parents can sign-up to receive an e-mail notification through this website.

EARLY DISMISSAL: If it becomes necessary to close school during the day, an announcement will be made on WJOL (1340 AM) radio. Our school will attempt to contact Wilson Creek, Anna McDonald, and requested Manhattan Junior High parents, only in the event of an early dismissal. Make sure your child has proper instructions as what to do!

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on February 13 & 16 due to Teacher Institute and President's Day, and March 2 due to Pulaski Day.

SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

If your child is interested in a 2014-15 yearbook you need to order on-line at: www.treering.com/validate passcode: [1014117026912978](http://www.treering.com/validate) need to have your order in by **March 27, 2015**.

Yearbooks are \$12 and they were **not** available in picture packages. **They must be ordered on-line.** Yearbooks **will not** be available at the end of the year. This is the only way to get a yearbook.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder to save the box tops for education and send in with your student. Please make sure to check the dates. If expired we cannot use them. We are doing another contest from now til February 20. If you have not signed up for Box Tops for Education please go to the website and sign up. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>

Also, when shopping online we can collect Box Top credits. If you shop through the Box Tops for Education website your purchases will earn Manhattan Junior High credits.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

Manhattan School District 114 will be Online Registration for the 2015-2016 school year. Registration for current and new families will now be done at home through your personal computer. This process will result in substantial savings in paper and printing costs for our district and make the registration procedure much more convenient for our families. We hope to have online registration open March 1st. Please watch your email for further information.

“THE BLUE CREW”

The Manhattan Athletic Boosters and some coaches from our athletic program, including Betsy Dobczyk, Gina Gilbert, Brian Thorp, and Vince Perillo, have started a student fan group called “The Blue Crew”. The purpose of “The Blue Crew” is to give students at the Junior High an opportunity to get involved in a social manner while giving back to the school and the community. The student fan club already has over 30 members and continues to grow each monthly meeting.

“The Blue Crew” has been busy so far this year. The first project the fan club took on was selling “Blue Crew” shirts to students and staff members in order to raise money and promote school spirit. The money that was raised was then used to donate to Wreaths Across America. On Saturday, December 13th, 18 students, along with four staff members, went to the Lincoln National Cemetery to volunteer their time to help at the wreath laying ceremony. The students and staff placed wreaths that were purchased by them and by other people on the gravesites of service men and women.

“The Blue Crew” also hosted its first event, a Blackout, at the boys’ home basketball game against Manteno. Any student that attended the game wearing a black shirt, especially the “We Bleed Blue” shirt, received a free piece of pizza and free admission into the game. We had the entire student section packed with fans who showed tremendous school spirit during the game and the cheerleaders’ halftime routine. The cheerleaders, players, and coaches all appreciated the support from the students. On top of purchasing a banner that is now hanging in the gym for their fan section, “The Blue Crew” has many upcoming events that we are excited about, including collecting either monetary donations or new stuffed animals this month to donate to the Will County ‘s Child Advocacy Center for kids who need them. “The Blue Crew” will also be planning another event for the home sporting events, and also begin planning for future events, like the Irish Fest Parade and Bean Bags Tournament.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 24!

An informational meeting for parents of children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be conducted Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Wilson Creek Commons. All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2015 are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. Only parents need to attend this meeting.

Registration will be online for the 2015-2016 School Year. At Round-Up we will ask you to bring Proof of Residency. We will make copies of these documents for you. All students entering the district for the first time must prove residency. Please provide one document from Category I and two documents from Category II.

Residency checks will be done from 6-7 pm and for 30 minutes following the presentation.

Category I (1 document required)

Most recent Property Tax bill
Mortgage papers or current Statement
Signed and dated lease and proof of payment
Letter from manager & proof of pay

Category II (2 documents required)

IL Driver's License
Vehicle registration
Voter's registration card
Homeowners/Renters Ins. Policy
Recent Utility Bill
Medicaid medical card

If you are living with a District resident and cannot prove residency, you and the district resident must complete an **Affidavit of Residency** and have it notarized. The district resident will then provide the supporting residency documents.

EIGHTH GRADE PLAY

What a wonderful turnout and what a wonderful group of budding actors and actresses we have at Manhattan Jr. High! The performers lively acting certainly made the job of judging very challenging. Mrs. Kozlowicz and Mrs. Nass, the plays co-sponsors this year, would like to thank Mrs. Ambrosini, Mrs. Carroll, and Mrs. Molitor for taking their time to help us with auditions on January 22nd. Our aspiring Hollywood Oscar contenders who will be performing THE COMIC BOOK ARTIST on March 18th at 6:30 PM at Anna McDonald include: Sean Ash; Alyssa Albrecht; Sophia Balis; Kylee Brandau; Jack Cuttle; Steven Faciana; Emmi Gross; Olivia Hopper; Nathan Knapczyk; Dani Litman; Mike Lomalie; Kaley Ludvigsen; Claire Lunde; Carly Nau; Mikey Olson; Lizzy Prynn; Joey Rinaldi; Jacob Sanders; and Joey Storer

LINCOLN-WAY REGISTRATION

Lincoln-Way Central will be hosting an open house for incoming freshman on Tuesday, **February 10**. All eighth graders and parents/guardians should attend, since class selections and explore test results will be handed out.

BAND NEWS

8th grade band members are invited to play in the LWCHS Pep Band on Friday, February 6. More information will be sent home through email. I hope your child will be able to attend!

Band students will have their Band Education Day on Saturday, February 7 from 9:30am-1:45pm at Manhattan JH. Students are to arrive at the JH by 9:30am. We need parents to help work this event, so please contact Stephanie Dauer-Soni if you are available to help.

The IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest will take place on Saturday, February 21 at Timber Ridge M.S. in Plainfield. Students will receive their performance time, as the date gets closer.

Our Spring Fundraiser will take place from February 9-23. We will be selling Butterbraids again and we are asking every student to please sell 5 Butterbraids. Order forms will be passed out on Thursday, February 5 and the Butterbraids will be delivered on Monday, March 16.

Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at cpedziwater@manhattan114.org.



ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS

Good luck to students participating in the solo and ensemble contest on February 21st in Plainfield. Please arrive 45 minutes before your first event, dress up, and have original music with the measures numbered. GO DEMONS!!!!!!

SCHOOL MEDICINE POLICY

Just a reminder to parents/guardians: Manhattan School District 114 policy states that ALL medications – prescribed or over-the-counter, may not be distributed at school without written notice from a doctor. Short term medication such as anti-biotic or ibuprofen follows the same specifications and must have written notice from a doctor. Lastly, all medication at school must be in the original container.

DENTAL EXAMS

All Illinois children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades are required to have an oral health examination. A licensed dentist must complete these dental exams and he/she must sign the examination form. Each child shall present proof of the dental examination by May 15, 2015. 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. If you are unable to obtain the required dental examination at this time, please contact Mrs. Smuskiewicz at 815-531-3207.

PARENTS

If you haven't sent in your email address **or it has changed**, please send it to gjohnston@manhattan114.org

PARENT RESOURCE CORNER:

TEAM ASSET FOR FEBRUARY: During the month of February, Manhattan Jr. High will be sponsoring our annual Giraffe Award Program to support the Lincoln Way District #210 Asset of the month: Service to Community/School. The Giraffe Award program will be accepting nominations from students, staff, parents, and residents of Manhattan to recognize a Manhattan Jr. High student who "sticks his/her neck out" by volunteering time to help others in our community. An electronic version of the nomination form accompanies this newsletter. Hard copies will also be available at Manhattan Jr. High, the Manhattan Park District, and the Manhattan Public Library. All nomination forms will be due to the junior high by Friday, February 20th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Nass at MJH at (815) 478-6090.

DIGITAL CORNER: Our teens are both seeking – and subverting- approval online. Our teens feel that it is almost mandatory to post a selfie before, during, and after every activity. The resulting likes, thumbs-up, and other ratings all get tallied; both in the math of the Internet and in their minds. This can often turn into an obsession about approval that can wreak havoc on self-image, especially for girls. A recent survey called *Children, Teens, Media, and Body Image* revealed that 35% of teens are worried about people tagging them in unattractive photos; 27% feel stressed about how they look in posted photos; and 22% feel bad about themselves if their photos are ignored.

Besides the followers and likes our teens receive on *Instagram* (watch out for #tbh which indicates either that they want others to honestly appraise their selfies or they're expressing their true feelings about someone else's looks. Although #tbh is usually positive it can get negative in hurtful ways. Even if it is positive, it reinforces the idea that appearance is what matters most) and *Snapchat* (where you can view your friends' scores to keep tabs on who's racking up the most views), rating apps like *Hot or Not* lets you judge the attractiveness of others based on a series of photos, tapping either a heart sign or an X to rank them. Users log in to see what others think of them. Parents also need to be aware of "Am I pretty? or Am I ugly?" *YouTube* videos. Teens- mostly girls- post videos of themselves asking if other users think they are pretty or ugly. These videos are often public allowing anyone, from friends to perfect strangers, to post a comment.

What can parents do? : Talk about the pictures they post. Ask whether they are doing it because they think others expect of them? What pose would they strike if they could do anything they wanted?

Also ask your teen how the feedback makes them feel. Are they stressed out by others' comments and feedback? Does it make them feel better to be "liked"? Why is external approval important? How do negative comments make them feel?

And finally, help them develop a healthy self-image. Emphasize what the body can do instead of what it looks like. Be careful of criticizing your own looks and weight. Find positive role models that your teen can relate to (including celebrities who challenge stereotypes about size and beauty and seem comfortable in their own skins.) Encourage them when they support their friends for who they are, not what they look like. Social media can be destructive when used in the wrong way. Steer your teen right.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February:

- 2 GVB @ Manteno 4:30 p.m.
8BBB Regional
- 3 GVB @ Homer 4 p.m.
- 4 7BBB Sectional
- 5 GVB @ Summit Hill 4 p.m.
- 7 7BBB State
- 9 GVB @ Kelvin Grove 4 p.m.
- 10 LWC Open House for 8th graders @ 5:30 p.m.
- 11 8BBB Sectional
Board of Education Meeting @ WC 7 p.m.
- 12 GVB @ Home vs. Peotone 4 p.m.
- 13 NO SCHOOL – Teacher's Institute
- 14 8BBB State
- 16 NO SCHOOL – President's Day
- 18 GVB @ Coal City 4:30 p.m.
- 20 Progress Reports Ready
Trimester 2 ends
- 21 S/E Contest @ Plainfield
- 23 Trimester 3 begins
- 24 Kindergarten Round-up
- 24-26 GVB Conference @ Mokena
- 28 PTO Family Activity Day

Mar. 2 NO SCHOOL – Casimir Pulaski Day