

Manhattan Jr. High

December Newsletter

November 19, 2013

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The faculty, staff, and I wish you a safe and joyful holiday season. We hope the New Year will be filled with joy for you and your loved ones.

INFORMATION CHANGES

It is very important that you notify the school of any changes in home, work, or emergency phone numbers. Valuable time can be saved in an emergency if our information is kept up-to-date. Please call 478-6090 with any changes as soon as possible.

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!

STUDENT DROP OFF

More parents drop off their students in the morning during adverse weather conditions. Please help keep traffic in the parking lot flowing by encouraging your child to be prepared to exit your vehicle in a timely manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

PARENTS

If you changed your email address, please send an email to: gjohnston@manhattan114.org

LUNCH ACCOUNT

Make sure that you are checking your student's lunch account a couple times a week. Remember you can pay on line or send in the money. If sending in the money make sure it is in an envelope with students name on it and their grade. If more than one student make sure to specify how much for each student on the envelope.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, December 19, the Junior High will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m., Anna McDonald will dismiss at 2:15 p.m., and Wilson Creek at 2:30 p.m. School resumes after winter break on Monday, January 5.

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 the nurse's office.

JJC ENGINEER CONTEST

8th Grade math and science students participated in the inaugural NFPA Fluid Power Challenge sponsored by Joliet Junior College and Caterpillar Inc. on November 14, 2014. Competing under the direction of Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Goberville were Sebastian Tous, Megan Stonis, Corinne Roemer, Jared Podgorny, Andrew Igel, David Flores, Jason Cler, and James Cambria. Over the course of eight weeks the students built a fluid powered machine that was able to rotate and lift cylinders to earn points. There were a total of 17 teams that competed. The team consisting of Jason, James, David and Andrew received the trophy for *Best Teamwork*. The team consisting of Megan, Corinne, Sebastian and Jared received the trophy for *Best Machine Performance*.

BAND DECEMBER UPDATES

The 6th Concert Band and the Symphonic Band will be having their Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00pm in the JH. Band students are to arrive at the JH by 6:30pm wearing the following: band pants, band jacket, blue Manhattan band t-shirt, KNEE HIGH black socks and black shoes. NO CAPE OR SASH.

Concert Band is to report to the art room and Symphonic Band is to report to the band room. There will be a repeat performance of the Holiday Concert on Friday, December 12 at 8:00am in the JH gym. Band students are to wear their uniforms to school in the morning. Students are reminded to bring a change of clothes and their garment bags (with their name's on it) to put their uniforms in after the performance. Garment bags can still be purchased from Mrs. Pedziwater for \$5.00.

The Band Boosters will be hosting their Secret Santa Shop again this year. This shop will take place at Wilson Creek on December 4-5 and at Anna McDonald on December 9-10. This is the band's biggest fundraiser and all band parents are required to work at this event for 4 hours per child in band. Please contact Stephanie Dauer-Soni if you have not signed up for your shift at sdauer.mjhsband@gmail.com.

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

CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA NEWS

Thank you to all who supported our Lottery Ticket fundraiser! All of the money goes directly into the programs for continued growth and success.

December 11th: Everyone is invited to come out to hear the entire music department perform their annual Christmas concert! The concert is free and starts at 7:00 p.m.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council will be sponsoring a fundraiser for Manhattan's Angel Tree Network from December 2nd through December 4th. Each grade will be able to purchase stars for their grade's trees or steal stars from other grade's trees. The grade that has the most stars at the end of the week will be awarded a Dodge ball game for their grade. This very successful fundraiser provides an opportunity for our students to give Christmas presents to children in Manhattan whose families are faced with financial challenges.

TEAM ASSET OF THE MONTH: The Lincoln Way District #210 asset for the month of December is Support Systems. Parents, today as in the past, want their children to succeed in school and life. However, social and economic changes make it increasingly difficult for parents to provide the support that children need. The loss of community, the increased fragmentation of family life, the competing, often conflicting pressures in parents' daily lives confront families as they raise their children. Parents often lack traditional support networks (e.g., spouse, extended family, neighborhood, church) and experience isolation in carrying out the responsibilities of parenthood. In times and circumstances like these, it is important for parents to foster relationships with their child's teacher(s) and community social services to ensure their children's healthy development. Parents and teachers who build supportive relationships with each other can help children thrive academically, socially and emotionally. In addition, community services may provide resources and services available to families that may close the gaps families face with financial, housing, and medical concerns.

If you are a family seeking additional support for your child, please don't hesitate to contact Jan Nass, School Social Worker at Manhattan Jr. High at 815-478-6090 or jnass@manhattan114.org.

PARENT RESOURCES: Parkview Care and Support: Parkview Christian Church, located in Orland Park, provides a variety of free (some course materials may have a charge) support groups to individuals. Groups (with contact information) include:

Divorce Care (13 week course meets Thursdays at 7 PM for divorced/separated): Contact Steve Martin or Pamela Roberts-Davis at 708-478-7477, ext. 248

Single & Parenting (14 week course meets Mondays at 7 PM for single parents. Contact Lisa at singleparentspcc@gmail.com.

Fresh Hope (support group for individuals who have a mental health diagnosis and their loved ones. Meets on Thursdays at 7 PM): Contact Pastor Brian Oswald at 708-478-7477, ext. 208.

GriefShare (13 week program for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Meets Mondays at 7 PM): Contact Jackie Burner at 708-478-7477, ext. 213.

Free Breakfast: Grace Fellowship Church (located at 11049 LaPorte Road -one block east of Berkots/Wolf Road) will be hosting a free breakfast on Saturday, December 6, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM where individuals and families who are hungry are invited to come and receive a delicious, hot, nutritious meal. Any questions, please contact the church at 708-479-0300.

Website: commercialfreechildhood.org. Visit this site and type in "CCFC Guide to Commercial-Free Holidays" in the search field. There you can find a downloadable guide to help curb the gift-giving appetite. This guide offers sections such as putting others' needs above our own wants; gifts that show you care (homemade); and a blank check to be filled out by each child to a charity of his or her choice. More advice to be found on this site includes: 1) limiting kids exposure to commercial media; 2) having talks well in advance to shift children's focus away from gifts to other aspects of the holidays (attending seasonal concerts, decorating the tree, spending time with relatives); 3) reading stories together about the origins of the holidays you celebrate; 4) emphasizing the non-gift giving portion of the holidays; 5) giving children experiential gifts, such as spending time together making a project; and 6) emphasizing the importance of helping others.

DIGITAL CORNER: This month we will be focusing on Social Surveillance. What is it? It is following everything a person does online by "liking" all their posts- but not in a friendly way-almost to the point of cyberstalking. Say Person A Instagrams her fabulous slumber party photos for all of her followers to see- including those not on the guest list. Uninvited Person B takes it upon herself to obsessively "like" every single picture, intimidating Person A, as if to say, "I know you didn't invite me to your party, so I'm going to track you down, watch everything you do, and make you feel guilty."

What can you as a parent do? Be aware that kids will figure out creative (and mischievous) ways to use a site's social media tools for purposes the site never intended. Encourage your teens to work out real-life issues face to face.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 2014

- 1 8GBB Regional
6BBB @ Elwood 4pm
- 2 7BGG Sectionals
BBB @ Martino 4pm
6BBB @ Spencer Crossing 4pm
- 4 BBB @ Home vs. Liberty 4pm
6BBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Nelson Ridge 4pm
- 5 PTO Winder Dance 6:30-9pm
- 6 7GBB State
- 8 BBB @ Home vs. Homer 4pm
6BBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Hadley 4pm
- 9 BBB @ Hickory Creek 4pm
6BBB @ Hickory Creek 4pm
GVB Tryouts 2:30 - 4:30
- 10 8GBB Sectional
GVB Tryouts 4:30-6:30pm
- 11 B-O-C Winter Concert @ MJHS 7pm 6th - 8th
- 13 8GBB State
- 16 BBB @ Troy 4pm
6BBB @ Orenic 4pm
- 17 BBB @ Home vs. Martino 4pm
- 18 BBB @ Home vs. Peotone 4pm
6BBB @ Coal City 4:30pm
- 19 Early Release 1:30pm
- 22-1/4 Winter Break
- Jan. 5 Resume classes
BBB @ Wilmington 4:30pm