

**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER  
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL  
JANUARY 27, 2016**

**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](http://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 12 & 15 due to Teacher Institute and President's Day, and March 7, 2016 due to Pulaski Day.

**SCHOOL YEARBOOKS**

If your child is interested in a 2015-16 yearbook you need to order on-line at: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate) passcode: **1014117026912978** need to have your order in by **April 3, 2016**. 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.

**NOW HIRING**

Lincoln Way District #210 needs Bus Drivers

To apply go to [LW210.org/employment](http://LW210.org/employment) or

LW #210 Transportation Center

1343 S. Schoolhouse Rd

New Lenox

Susan J Monreal

[Lincoln-Way Transportation](http://Lincoln-Way Transportation)

815-717-3102 ext. 5102

Cell 815-258-2518

### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & LABELS FOR EDUCATION**

Just a reminder to save the box tops for education & labels 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 19. 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 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR**

Manhattan School District 114 will be Online Registration for the 2016-2017 school year. Registration for current and new families will be done at home through your personal computer. We have learned that sometimes Internet Explorer does not always work for registration, as it is not as up to date as it should be. If you encounter this problem, please try registering through Firefox or Google Chrome. 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. Online registration will open February 1, 2016. Please watch your email for further information.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SPRINGFIELD TRIP**

The 7th Grade Springfield Trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Students will be traveling by coach bus to view the Abraham Lincoln Museum, Lincoln's home, Lincoln's tomb, the Old State Capitol Building, and the current State Capitol Building. Dinner is included in the cost of the trip. The buses will leave at 6:00 a.m. and return at approximately 8:30 p.m. Cost for the trip is \$91.00. Checks should be made out to Manhattan School District 114. Information and permission slips have been sent home with 7th grade students in their ELA class. Deadline to register is February 19, 2016. Questions can be emailed to Carol De Caprio at [cdecaprio@manhattan114.org](mailto:cdecaprio@manhattan114.org).

### **"THE BLUE CREW"**

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 12 students, along with three 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. Blue Crew was able to purchase 15 wreaths for this event. Blue Crew was able to earn over \$200 from collecting Halloween candy and bringing it to Manhattan Dental Care's Candy Buy Back.

Blue Crew is in the process of organizing some school wide activities in the future. Information for these will be given to the students when it is available.

### **KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 23**

An informational meeting for parents of children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be conducted Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Wilson Creek Commons. All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2016 are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. Only parents need to attend this meeting.

**Registration will be online for the 2016-2017 School Year. You will need to bring Proof of Residency documents to Kindergarten Information Night.** 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.

## **BOOK FAIR**

MJHS book fair is going to be February 3-10.

## **EIGHTH GRADE PLAY**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Play: If you haven't marked your calendars yet, now is the time! On March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM at Anna McDonald, the following students will be performing USHER: A TOTALLY TEEN COMEDY for all who are looking for a fun evening of entertainment by our talented actors and actresses. Our cast list includes: Hannah Allpow, Maddy Anderson, Josh Davis, Ryan Dryja; Justin Evans; Brady Forsythe; Rachel Foster; Ben Gearman; Lukas Gonda; Bianca Gonzalez; Lily Hochhalter; Payton Hucko; Ashley Jadin; Libby Kaminski; Chloe Lillie; Jesse Marshall; Mikayla Martin; Molly McCauley; Grace Pearse; Megan Perkne; Nicole Shepard; Maddy Stotts; Jillian Tolbert; Lynn Toosley; Ryan Towner; and Carly Wise.

## **LINCOLN-WAY REGISTRATION**

Lincoln-Way Central will be hosting an open house for incoming freshman on Tuesday, **February 9**. All eighth graders and parents/guardians should attend, since class selections and explore test results will be handed out.

## **BAND NEWS**

On Saturday, February 6, we will be having our Annual Band Education Day at MJHS for ALL band students grades 5-8. All students need to report to the JH by 9:30am. Dress for the day is casual.

5th graders will be attending from 9:30am-12:00pm. 6-8 grade band students will be attending from 9:30am-1:45pm. This is a MANDATORY event for ALL 6-8 grade band students.

The Band Boosters will be having their Spring Fundraiser from February 8-22. We may looking at selling Butterbraids. If you have any suggestions on a different fundraiser, please contact Mrs. Pedziwater by Friday, January 29.

On Thursday, February 25 the Symphonic Band only will be performing their first concert with LWWHS and Liberty JH. This performance will take place in the LWWHS auditorium at 7:00pm. Students are to wear their blue Manhattan JH Band shirt, band pants, band jacket, no cape or sash, and black KNEE HIGH SOCKS and black shoes. More information will follow as the date gets closer. Please make sure your child is practicing for this upcoming performance. All Symphonic Band students are required to attend.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at [cpedziwater@manhattan114.org](mailto:cpedziwater@manhattan114.org).

## **ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS**

The Orchestra and Choir will be selling carnations for Valentine's holiday. \$1.00 each; Red=Love, White=Friendship, and Pink = secret. . .or send a colorful bouquet! The last day for sales will be Friday, Feb. 5.

The orchestra and choir will be preparing for an upcoming solo and ensemble contest on Saturday, Feb. 13th. There will be a solo & ensemble recital for all students performing. We will be in our music room, and recital begins at 7:00.

February 23rd will be our Choral-fest, this year at LWWest. The concert begins at 6:30, formals will be worn.

Choir Contest (Demon Choir, Madrigals, Lady Demons) has been moved to March 12th, at Jerling, Orland Park, Competition times are coming.

Orchestra (Demon Orchestra) has also been moved to March 19th also at Jerling School in Orland, The competition time is coming.

## **PARENTS**

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

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **STUDENT ASSET FOR THE MONTH**

The TEAM Asset for the month of February is Reliability/Dependability. This month teachers will be looking for students who can always be counted on to follow through with their work in a thorough and thoughtful manner; who consistently ensure when working in group projects that their fellow partners have what is needed to finish the project successfully; and whose attendance and involvement inspire others both at school and in extracurricular clubs, teams, and organizations.

How can parents help their teens develop this important skill? Here are some tips: 1) Acknowledge when your teen is acting reliably and dependably. When we point out that they are behaving in a trustworthy fashion, they are more likely to continue to show trustworthy behavior in the future.; 2) Let natural consequences of your teen's mistakes occur. In the adult world, no one is going to shelter your teen when he is careless or reckless. When your teen makes a mistake, you do him no favors by bailing him out. Make sure your teen understands that neither mistakes or consequences are the end of the world.; 3) Give your teen responsibility. We want our teens to be dependable young adults but we don't give them anything to be dependable for! Just talking about reliability and dependability to your teen is not going to make them so. They need to exercise these traits by engaging in tasks of which they must be responsible. Believe in your teen to meet your expectations.; and lastly; 4) Make reliability/dependability a family value. Let your teen see you as reliable and dependable. They will be more likely to follow your lead if you do it vs. just say it

**ERIN'S LAW:** All Illinois school district's are mandated by law to provide annual education to all students on the topic of child sexual abuse (Erin's Law). As we have done last year, Manhattan Jr. High will be providing education on this subject to all students this month. We will discuss with our students how they can protect themselves from online predators using resources from a trusted and educational website, [netsmartz.org](http://netsmartz.org). If you have any concerns about your child being educated on this issue and wish to have your child not participate, please contact the main office with your request by Friday, February 19th.

## **PARENT RESOURCE CORNER:**

Joliet Area Community Hospice: Registration begins 2/1/16 for any family wishing to register their child, ages 7 through 13 who have experienced the death of a loved one, for the Journey Children's Camp, run by the hospice June 27<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>. For information and to register, contact Mary Ann Burns, Bereavement Coordinator, at 815-460-3282.

Cell Phone Monitoring: Do you ever say, "Since I'm paying for it, I'm entitled to read my kids' texts, check their call logs, and know who their friends are." Most of us have at least thought this way at least one time or another. We also know too however, that our teens consider their phones to be as personal as diaries. So how should a parent proceed? Spot checks are a good idea. You know your teen best. If you sense something isn't right, spot-check more often. Explain that your rules are for their safety and protection and that you need to be able to make sure they're using their devices appropriately. The major cell phone service providers (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile) each offer add-on packages for a fee that let you keep an eye on things, including monitoring usage (you can have their phone shut off during certain times of the day for example), managing access to features, and tracking the location of the phone. Also, third-party software programs such as [TeenSafe](#), [WebWatcher](#), and [PhoneSheriff](#), which you install on your computer, can show you texts, website histories, photos, and more.

No monitoring service is 100 percent reliable. The programs require you to enter some of your kid's log-ins and passwords to track the phone's activity, and your kid can always change passwords on you or sign up for services you don't know about and can't monitor. They also can make your teen feel spied on, which can lead to sneaky behavior. And if the phone is off or discharged, its location can't be tracked. Try talking about responsibility and appropriate use first and consider the monitoring programs as a backup or extra insurance.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

### February:

- 1 8BBB Regionals
- 2 GVB vs. Homer 4pm
- 4 GVB vs. Summit Hill 4pm
- 6 Band Education Day @ MJHS (all day)
- 8 GVB vs. Kelvin Grove 4:30pm
- 9 GVB @ Martino 4pm
- 11 GVB @ Peotone 4:30pm
- 12 NO SCHOOL – Teacher’s Institute
- 15 NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day
- 17 GVB vs. Coal City 4:30pm
- 18 GVB @ Elwood 4:30pm
- 23 GVB Tourney  
West Choral Fest @ LWW 6:30pm
- 24 GVB Tourney
- 25 GVB Tourney
- 27 7<sup>th</sup> GVB Regionals
- 29 7<sup>th</sup> GVB Regionals

### March:

- 7 NO SCHOOL – Casimir Pulaski Day