

**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL
JANUARY 31, 2017**

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 17 & 20 due to Teacher Institute and President's Day, and March 6, 2017 due to Pulaski Day.

SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

If your child is interested in a 2016-17 yearbook you need to order on-line at: www.treering.com/validate passcode: **1014117026912978** need to have your order in by **April 10, 2017**.

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 & 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 23. 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 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Manhattan School District 114 will be Online Registration for the 2017-2018 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, 2017. Please watch your email for further information.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 23

An informational meeting for parents of children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be conducted Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Wilson Creek Commons. All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2017 are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Only parents need to attend this meeting.

Registration will be online for the 2017-2018 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.

8th GRADE PLAY

Calling all aspiring actors! Auditions for the 8th grade play will be on Wednesday, March 8th from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. This year the play is entitled "A High-Schooler's Guide to the Galaxy" a comedic spoof of the pitfalls of the black hole known as freshman year. The date of the play will be May 3rd at Anna McDonald. Any questions can be directed to our play's co-directors, Mrs. Jan Nass and Mrs. Mariah Shafer.

SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club will meet the following Wednesdays, Feb. 1 & 15.

BOOK FAIR

MJHS book fair is going to be February 2-8.

LINCOLN-WAY REGISTRATION

Lincoln-Way West will be hosting an open house for incoming freshman on Wednesday, **February 15**. All eighth graders and parents/guardians should attend, since class selections and explore test results will be handed out.

BAND NEWS

Sat. Feb. 4: Band Bowling Party at Laraway Lanes in New Lenox from 3:15-5:30pm. Slips and money due by Feb. 1 in order to attend this event.

Thurs. Feb. 9: Meeting at 7:00pm for all 8th grade band members in the LWWHS Auditorium about band in high school.

Sat. Feb. 11: IGSM Solo and Ensemble Contest at Columbia Central School in Steger. Performance times have been sent home with your child.

Sat. Feb. 25: Band Education Day at Manhattan JH from 9:30am-1:45pm. This is a mandatory event for all 6-8 grade band members.

ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS

Good luck to our band, orchestra and choir students that are competing in the IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest at Steger on February 11th!!

PARENTS

If you haven't sent in your email address **or it has changed**, please send it to 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 EXAMINATION REMINDER FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

All Illinois children in Sixth Grade are required to have an oral health examination. A licensed dentist must complete and sign the examination. Each child shall present proof of the dental examination by May 15, 2017. The examination must have been completed within 18 months prior to the May 15th deadline (anytime after 11/15/2015 is acceptable).

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 and are completely confidential.

Please contact the nurse's office if you are unable to obtain the required dental examination at this time so we can discuss the steps that will need to be taken to assure your child's compliance with the state's rules and regulations regarding dental exams.

Please turn in the completed dental examination to the nurse's office as soon as possible. If your child has an appointment to have his/her dental examination completed after May 15, 2017, please contact the nurse with that appointment date.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This month Student Council will be holding a raffle of items purchased from the Kohls' cash we earned from our Angel Tree Network purchases. Raffle tickets will be \$1.00 and a variety of items will be raffled. All proceeds will go to Student Council so prizes can be given to students in our next school-wide fundraiser that will benefit the Manhattan Food Pantry.

ASSET OF THE MONTH

In February Manhattan Jr. High will be honoring the asset: Desire to Learn. Comedian George Carlin once quipped, "I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman where the self-help section was. She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose." Much in the same vein, students who demonstrate a desire to put forth the effort, preparation, and responsibility to take advantage of their education as well as students who show commitment to learning by good attendance, who possess good interpersonal and team skills, and who respect people for their differences will be honored.

Parents can help their children develop this asset through 1) being passionate about their own learning; and 2) involving their children in everyday life experiences as much as possible. Let's look closer at both of these efforts.

Instill a love of learning in your children by being passionate about your own learning. Taking classes, reading up on a topic, and taking advantage of learning opportunities through community workshops are all ways that parents can show their child through their actions instead of words, the power of education and the enjoyment that can be gained from learning. Share your educational experiences with your children, including the challenges, struggles and successes you experience. Let them see how learning works for all ages and can bring great happiness, success, and personal achievement. When Pablo Casals reached 95, a young reporter asked him a question. "Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist who has ever lived. Why do you still practice 6 hours a day?" Casals answered, "Because I think I'm making progress."

Secondly, involve your children in life's everyday experiences as much as possible. It doesn't have to be expensive activities such as going to zoos or museums, but simple things like going grocery shopping or doing a project together at home. Talking with children before, during, and after any activity helps them learn the steps involved in learning. This conversation also will improve your communication and in turn, your relationship with your child.

Remember, perseverance and a desire is all that is really needed to learn. Never stop learning.

PARENT CORNER

Five Sacred Places: Digital-Free Zones: As parents our behavior has a direct relationship to our children's choices, values and beliefs. Although we may often complain about how much time our children are spending on digital devices, we don't realize how much time we are spending ourselves. A 2016 survey by Common Sense Media asked almost 1,800 parents of children aged 8 to 18 about screen time and electronic media use by the parents. The average amount of time that parents spent with screen media of all kinds (computers, TVs, smartphones, e-readers) every day: 9 hours and 22 minutes. And on average, only 1 hour and 39 minutes of that was work-related; 7 hours and 43 minutes were personal.

It's just as important to regulate our own use of devices and put them aside for screen-free time as it is to ask our children to disconnect. And it certainly adds spice to family life if children understand that the same rules apply for all ages: that Dad will get grief for surreptitiously checking his phone under the dinner table and Mom has to park hers in the designated recharging zone for the night just as the children do.

Here are five "sacred spaces" that all families might want to consider adopting.

- 1) In the bed. We have been told for years of the importance of keeping TVs out of children's bedrooms. Now we need to expand that adage to include any type of digital devices, including phones, tablets, computers, and gaming systems. Keeping the bedroom a digital free zone will improve sleep, and therefore, improve health, of all concerned. Recharge yourself and recharge your device.
- 2) At the table. Getting back to basic table manners dictates no digital usage. Put devices away and go back to the days when people actually looked at each other when they talked. It will mean the world to your children, and to you, to have this connection time.
- 3) Reading a book (e-readers are OK). Toggling back and forth between a book and checking for messages on a phone takes away from the experience of reading. Focusing and immersing oneself in one activity helps increase one's attention span and decreases stress levels.
- 4) In the outdoors. Put phones on airplane mode only for travel and family activities so they can only be used as cameras, maps, or emergency calls if needed and actually enjoy nature.

- 5) In the car. This is a hard one since screens in cars can be helpful on long rides when squabbling siblings are in tow. Some deep and meaningful conversations can occur on car rides though – especially with adolescents- that it is worth the effort to put away your phones for the trip.

For more insight on this topic read “Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age” by Sherry Turkle.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Joliet Area Community Hospice: JCAH will be hosting a Spring Family Workshop. This is a four session workshop for ages 5 to adult. A hospice professional will present on a variety of grief related topics each week. Teenagers and children will meet separately with counselors and other peers. Registration is requested. The program will meet the four Thursdays in March (March 2, 9, 16, 23) from 6 pm—8 pm. The workshop fee is \$40 (includes all 4 sessions). Sliding fee scale is available. For more information/register go to their website at www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February:

- 1 Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:15pm
- 2 GVB @ Troy 4:00pm
Symphonic Band to LWW 9:30am
- 4 7BBB State
- 6 Band Spring Fundraiser Starts
- 7 GVB @ LWW vs. Liberty 4pm
- 8 GVB vs. Peotone 4pm
8BBB Sectional
Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:15pm
- 9 GVB @ Martino 4pm
- 11 IGSMAS Solo Contest @ Steger School
8BBB State
- 14 GVB Tournament @ Summit Hill
- 15 Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:15pm
- 16 Graduation Picture Retakes
8BBB State
- 17 NO SCHOOL – Teacher’s Institute
Progress Report Available
- 20 NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day
Band Spring Fundraiser Ends
- 21 LW Choral Fest @ LWW 6:30pm
- 22 GVB vs. Elwood 4pm
Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:15pm
- 23 GVB @ Wilmington 4:30pm
8th gr. Career Day
- 25 Band Education Day @ MJHS
7GVB Regional