

## *News from around the district at MSD114*

- **It continues to be one of the most exciting and rewarding years I have had in education. Beginning with establishing our 4 Goals for the district this year, to working with the administration and teaching staff to make certain all that we do relates to the 4 Goals. I am so excited to begin to see the changes taking place and an already great school district becoming even better. The 4 goals the administrative team and our entire staff are focusing on this year are; *Becoming One, Literacy, Using Data to make decisions, and Professional Development for Staff.* In order to assure that these 4 Goals remain present in all that we do for our students, we have been working very hard on an Action Plan to guide us and hold ourselves accountable. I look forward to each opportunity to report out to our Board, Parents, and Community in regards to our progress.**
- We have 2 student teachers that have already gained a great amount of experience in their first month of working with our dedicated staff. We have Brianna DeMarco who is working with both Andrea Coffey and Bonny Haywood, and also, Emily Christiansen who is working with both Lindsey Bradbury and Jennifer Dunlap. They have both jumped right in and attended IEP meetings, etc. We welcome them, and they are gaining valuable advice and guidance from some terrific staff members!
- The students in Mrs. Tooley's classroom will be coming to Wilson Creek soon to read stories to the children at Wilson Creek. It is always great to see these students as confident readers sharing, modeling, and of course spending time with our youngest students. It is always a great day for all involved.
- There are three staff members, Malinda Rossi, Meghan Petschinsky, and Lora Anderson, that are taking a 5 week online course - Writing Quality SLOs. They just completed their first week of the course, and upon completion will be working with Mrs. Renee Karalus, who is also taking the course, to train and guide staff on writing their own SLOs. SLOs are Student Learning Objectives, and be used for the student growth component of the teacher evaluation process. The training for staff will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We had another successful Preschool Screening in January. We have had an average of 8 students per scheduled screening date, bringing the total to 24 to date. We have two more screenings scheduled for March and May of this year. I want to thank Lisa Reh, Meghan Muckian, Jenelle Hoffmann, Pam Dodd, Kathy DiSalvo, and Jennifer Lynch for their assistance in guiding, directing and screening these young ones! Their input and knowledge of children at this age has been an invaluable part of this process and in determining if any of the children need any further evaluation.
- The Wilson Creek, Monarch Family Literacy night was a huge success! Our staff did a wonderful job planning a night filled with a wide variety of activities that our students and their families really enjoyed. We had a great turn out and a great time celebrating family literacy and the Illinois Monarch books. Thanks again, to the Wilson Creek staff, for their creativity and collaboration to bring this night to

- life for our students and their families.
- The Wilson Creek students celebrated the 100th Day of School on Monday, February 1st. Our students are 100 days smarter and had a great day of counting and number sense activities, some even dressed like 100 year olds!
  - The Wilson Creek Art Show will be held on Thursday, February 11th from 6-8 PM. Mrs. Boersma has been collaborating with the Manhattan PTO to make it an exciting night for our Wilson Creek families. The Art Show will include artwork from every student on display, live music, and several activities and attractions.
  - **Wilson Creek will kick off Kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year at Kindergarten Information Night on Tuesday, February 23rd. Parents will be able to start the registration process as well as be informed about our program during a presentation by our Kindergarten teachers.**
  - At Anna McDonald, the Student of the Month luncheon for kids and parents was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Feedback continues to be positive and appreciative that this activity has been implemented. Both Mr. McWilliams and Mrs Ciurej, the school social worker, collaborate monthly to make this happen.
  - The Anna McDonald Reading committee continues to make the reading adoption for 2016-17 a priority. The plan is for grade level reading reps to present to grade level teams the information they need to know for implementation. All staff will implement a couple of reading lessons in April/May to get a feel for the new program, and allow the to then begin planning for the next year.
  - On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 staff from Troy SD 30C will be visiting Anna McDonald and specifically, Mrs. Samantha Ramsey's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, in order to observe how the iPads are integrated into the instruction. Troy staff will observe instruction for 65 minutes and then debrief / ask questions for 60 minutes.
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade staff is preparing a "STEM" day for the community on February 25th in the morning. Local community members were solicited that are willing to share their career knowledge with our students. The morning is planned to have approximately 7 different STEM stations for the students to choose from.
  - Over 70 band, choir, and vocal students, grades 5-8, will be participating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest at Hilda Walker Intermediate School on Sat. Feb. 13. Good luck to all participating students.
  - The Band Boosters are hosting the Annual Band Education Day on Saturday, February 6 at Manhattan JH. Guest clinicians are brought in to work with the 5-8 grade band students on their particular instrument and in a large group setting. It was a very educational day for all involved.
  - The Girls Volleyball is underway and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is off to an impressive start. Boasting a 7-1 record, the Demons are vying for one of the finest seasons in over ten years.
  - The 2016-17 School Calendar was adopted by the Board of Education. The staff will begin with Institute Days on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by the first Student Attendance Day on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the 2016-17 school year is currently open. The School Calendar for next year can be found on the main

- page of the district website.
- The Board of Education also adopted its regular meeting dates for next year too. The Board will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month with the Committee of Whole meeting at 6:00pm and the regular board meeting scheduled for 7:00pm.

***Lastly, I want to remind our parents that the Online Registration is open and available. If there are any questions or concerns, then please contact Michele Zmigrodski at Wilson Creek Elementary.***

***Thank you,  
Rusty Ragon***