

News from around the district at MSD114

- **We have continued to work on firmly establishing our four new District Goals this year. 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 have included a link to a copy of the Action Plan on the Superintendent's Page.**
- This month, the Board of Education approved the final FY17 tax Levy. The approved tax levy was in the amount of \$9,915,652 resulting in a tax rate of \$4.26, which is one cent lower than the FY16 tax rate of \$4.27. In keeping with past practice, the Board of Education also approved abating the Bond & Interest levy. When Wilson Creek was built, the voters approved an Education Referendum. Because the money is collected in the education fund, the Board abates the Bond & Interest levy each year. The projected budget for FY17 is a balanced budget. It is projected that Revenues will increase by 2.9% and Expenditures will increase by 4.4%.
- Seven staff members attended the Early Childhood Play Based Assessment training in Orland and walked away truly excited about conducting our own evaluations next year! The trainer was awesome and provided valuable information, and resources. Several of our staff members that will be involved in this process are also observing the cooperative staff conduct their evaluations, as a second learning opportunity in this regard.
- Local author Amy Logan visited Wilson Creek on March 14th to share her message of kindness, her books, and her experience as an author to kick off our Young Authors Contest. Our 1st and 2nd grade students are invited to write and submit their own books into a Young Authors contest. The winners will be announced on April 29th at our School Pride Assembly. Thanks to Mrs. Chamberlin for coordinating Amy's visit and to Miss Reszel for bringing the Young Authors Contest to Wilson Creek.
- Our 1st grade music program took place on March 22nd. Thank you to Mrs. Pedziwater for her coordination of the program and to the 1st grade teachers for the extra time in helping students prepare. Our 1st grade students did a great job!
- On our March Early Release Day, Wilson Creek teachers spent time working on our ELA curriculum. 1st and 2nd grade teachers met to explore the newly adopted curriculum and resources. Thanks to Mrs. Chamberlin and Mrs. Kelly Davis for facilitating the collaborative learning and to the 1st grade team for sharing their experiences with the materials this year. 2nd grade teachers will begin implementation next year. Thanks to Miss Reszel and Mrs. Jenny Davis, 2nd grade reading committee reps, who will lead the implementation for 2nd grade. Our Kindergarten teachers spent the time reviewing their thematic units and identifying text selections needed to help support their integrated reading curriculum. The Kindergarten reading curriculum will be supplemented with

- these texts as well as leveled books for guided reading instruction going into next year.
- The Wilson Creek Talent Show will be held on April 14th at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. Thanks to Mrs. Kubik for organizing the show and to the Wilson Creek staff that will support her and our talented performers!
 - Student of the Month luncheon for CITIZENSHIP at Anna McDonald was held on March 24th. Extra recess with the principal for (6) classes was held on March 22nd. There continues to be positive feedback and attendance from parents. On average 21-22 (of 24) students per grade level have a family representative attend the luncheon. The Pillar for April is Perseverance.
 - The Reading committee met with staff on March 18th to prepare for the new reading program. The next in-service will be in mid April and then again at the end of May. All staff will implement a couple of lessons in April/May to get a feel for the new program. The Anna McDonald Reading committee continues to work on a plan for reading adoption.
 - The Anna McDonald staff continues to prepare for PRIME TIME Literacy Night on Friday, April 15th. We are anticipating 175+ families to join us. This year's theme is BE YOUR OWN HERO. Thank you to Alexa Pascarella for all her coordinating efforts with the staff, which will surely make for a great evening for parents & students.
 - Anna Macdonald's Family Literacy Night is Friday, April 15 @ 6pm. Our guest "J.C. Buchanan is 14 years old and has been homeschooled her entire life. She has been writing and reading for as long as she can remember, and hopes to pursue a lifelong career in writing. J.C. lives in Illinois with her mom, dad, and three younger brothers. She has written two books: The Hidden Amethyst (2013) and You'll Be Like Faye (2015)."
 - Her website: <http://jcbuchanan.com>
 - Video that she made about her book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TtqeYXnZlw>
 - The MJHS math committee with instructional specialist Created a new mapping template that will outline 8 units for each grade. It is a linear format that lists: Standard, Practices, Key Vocabulary, Core/Web resources, Formative/Summative Assessment, Essential Questions/ I Can Statement, Time Frame, and Literacy. The draft ready and can be modified as necessary. The team is creating aligned unit plans using the consistent template (6-8). The team intends to complete unit one grade 6-8 for EOY and have quarter 1 prepared before the school year begins. The yearly plan will be finished prior to quarter 4 of 2017.
 - Congratulations to Kris Ambrosini, who was selected to feature students at TECH 2016 at the State Capitol this year hosted by Illinois Computing Educators (ICE). Her students will demonstrate and display their Cut Paper Self Portraits and Stop Motion Animation. The event will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1:00-3:00pm at the State Capitol Building in Springfield. The proposal Kris submitted required technology integration and collaboration with our district technology people.
 - Art works was a huge success! Over 200 families attended! Furthermore, as an

- added surprise ...the CEO from Square 1 Art, Jane Reid, came from Atlanta, Georgia, to view the MJHS display and spent a few hours meeting our parents!
- Mrs. Ambrosini and Manhattan Junior High Mural Club members, Clare Kozak and Lily Hochhalter, along with student teacher, Ms. Whalen, put on a Mural Installation Workshop for the Lincoln Way area community. We had over 175 participants who contributed to our Mural, which ended up being 8' X 20' in a two-hour period! (photos available) Square 1 Art had a successful year for Manhattan, tile installations will go up this year.
 - MJH will be hosting a school-wide assembly on April 29th to address the issue of Internet Safety. An investigator from the High Technology Cyber Unit of the State Attorney's office will be presenting that afternoon. This is valuable and relevant learning for students as well as staff/parents.
 - The Symphonic Band performed a concert at LWWHS with the LWW Band and Jazz Bands and Liberty JH for the first time ever on Thursday, Feb. 25. The students were able to have a pizza dinner and some time to mingle with the HS kids. The Choir Students did the same at their Choral Fest at LWW on February 23. The event was new to our students since the Manhattan population will now attend a new HS. Also, on February 13 Band, Orchestra, and Choir students participated in the Solo and Ensemble contest at Tinley Park, Hilda Walker School. In all, MJHS received 43 division I ratings and only 7 division II ratings.
 - All students at MJH received education on Erin's Law this month during all gym classes. The focus of the presentation was on both online and offline sexual predators and how to stay safe. It was well received and presented by MJHS social worker Jan Nass.
 - We just completed another significant upgrade to our district network. AT&T worked at all 3 building locations this past week, along with ICN, Rival5, and Andromeda. On Friday, April 8th, the installation of the routers and complete the configuration was finished. At the end of the day on Friday, April 8th, all three buildings were on their own separate circuits and have 100mb service. This represents a significant upgrade. Our administrative team and all the district staff appreciate the continued commitment by the Board of Education to upgrade our network and provide the technology to our staff and students.
 - Student Enrollment continues to increase each month. Our 2015-16 total enrollment now stands at 1419 students, with two more registered to begin next week. Our current Kindergarten enrollment for 2016-17 is currently at 132 new students.
 - The Board of Education and I continue to look at and research the possibility of adding to the extracurricular events that are offered to our students. With the ever increasing enrollment, we want to be sure that we are offering enough activities that all of our students feel as though they have the opportunity to participate outside of the classroom as well. Activities that were discussed at the meeting included, Baseball, Softball, Scholastic Bowl, and Bowling. Mr. Pacheco will be surveying our students to see what level of interest there is in additional activities and what those activities are. In the meantime, I will be putting together information for the Board regarding the additional costs associated with adding

new activities. I anticipate further discussion on this matter at our next regular meeting of the Board, during the Committee of the Whole and again during the regular meeting of May 11, 2016.

- I also want to remind everyone of a couple very important dates:
 - Last Student Attendance Day: Thursday, May 26, 2016
 - Junior High Graduation: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at L-W West (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***