

**AUGUST / SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
ANNA MCDONALD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

200 Second Street; Manhattan, IL 60442

815-478-3310

www.manhattan114.org

Ryan McWilliams, Principal

Debbie Jones, Secretary

August/September 2016

Welcome to Anna McDonald School,

Anna McDonald School serves the educational needs of students in 3rd through 5th grade. As a learning community, we are committed to providing our students with a well-rounded educational program. With the support of our families, friends, and the community of Manhattan, our children receive a quality education in a learning environment that is both enriched and nurturing.

Anna McDonald seeks success for each student through instructional excellence, teamwork, and school spirit. We are very proud of the education we provide to our students & families and we are dedicated and committed to excellence. **I would like to thank our Board of Education & Superintendent Ragon for their continued support of curricular initiatives and for their very recent approval & support for the 1:1 iPad initiative. By the end of the 1st quarter in October, every classroom at Anna Mac will have a device for each student.**

Please e-mail, call, or visit us any time.

Sincerely,

Ryan McWilliams

Principal

rmcwilliams@manhattan114.org

815-478-3310 x 4

First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 24th. It is a full day. Class will begin at 8:45 a.m. and dismiss at 3:15 p.m.

Fall Picture Day

Pictures will be taken of all the children on Wednesday, August 31st. Picture package information will be sent home with all students. Fall picture retakes are scheduled for the morning of Monday, September 26th.

LATE ARRIVALS

Students arriving late to school will need to be signed in by their parent/guardian who is dropping them off. Please come to the office to sign your child in and your child will then receive a pass to give to their teacher.

District Website

Remember to view our District Website at www.manhattan114.org for important information, newsletters, student achievement data and other resources. The virtual backpack has forms for various events available for printing

HOT LUNCHES

The cost for hot lunch is \$3.00. PREFERRED MEALS will continue to be our lunch provider. They will utilize a computer generated accounting system, just as we have in the past. Students will be provided with a photo I.D. lunch card. Cards will be kept at school and given out each day by your child's teacher prior to lunch. Payments can be made online through homelogic. If you prefer to send in a check, please put it in a sealed envelope and address the envelope with your child's full name and teacher. If you send a check, please make it out to Manhattan School District 114. **PLEASE NOTE: WE NEED SEPARATE LUNCH PAYMENTS FOR EACH CHILD IN THE DISTRICT.** We feel that this will help families to know how much money each of your children has in his/her lunch account.

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INCUR A NEGATIVE BALANCE. STUDENTS THAT STILL HAVE NEGATIVE LUNCH BALANCES FROM LAST YEAR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PURCHASE A LUNCH UNTIL THAT BALANCE HAS BEEN PAID. Only Milk will be provided to students who do not have money in their lunch account.

Free/Reduced Lunch applications are available on the main page of the Manhattan School District website. If you feel you are entitled to free/reduced lunches you must fill out a new application each year. If you received free/reduced lunches last year your child will receive these lunches only for the first month of school. We will need a new, approved, application on file to continue to provide them with free/reduced price meals.

Parent Information Night and Open House

Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 30th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm. Each grade will have a formal presentation in your child's homeroom classroom. 3rd grade will begin at 6pm; 4th grade beginning at 6:30 and 5th grade at 7:00pm. During the Open House parents will be asked to schedule their Parent/Teacher Conference. Sign-up forms will be available in all classrooms. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 21st and 22nd.

Conferring With Teachers

Parents wishing to confer with teachers are asked to call the school office or call the staff members voice mailbox. If the teacher is unable to take your call, we will gladly leave them a message to return your call at their earliest convenience.

If wishing to confer in person with a teacher, **please schedule an appointment in advance.** Often, teachers feel bad when a parent arrives at school to confer with them and they cannot meet with that parent due to other demands and responsibilities placed upon them. By scheduling an appointment they will be prepared to meet with you to address your concerns.

Student Absences/Truancy

All parents are required to call the school at 478-3310 if their child will be absent from school. The call should be made before 8:30 a.m. A parent or a legal guardian must report absences. Student reports will not be accepted. When calling, please state: parent name, student name and the reason for the absence. In the event you do not contact us, we will make a reasonable attempt to contact you at home or work. Failure to report a child's absence constitutes the child considered absent without a valid excuse.

Absent work can be requested on the second day of the student's absence. If requesting homework on the second day, please do so when reporting the absence. If a student will only be absent one day, the child can obtain make-up work the next day from his/her classroom teacher. Please refer to parent/student handbook or call the main office if you have any questions.

NOTE: Illinois School Code 5/26-21 states: "A "truant" is defined as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof."

"Chronic or habitual truant" shall be defined as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 10% or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days." This equates to a child being absent more than 17 days during any given school year.

Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence

We hope you enjoy the school calendar developed by the Manhattan Foundation for Educational Excellence. The calendar was a fundraising project by this organization. Profits from the calendar and other donations obtained by this group are administered by the Foundation to provide District #114 students and faculty with educational supplies and equipment beyond what the school budgets allow. Further information about the Foundation for Educational Excellence can be found inside the calendar. We are very grateful to the Foundation for their efforts. We also would like to thank all the volunteers and advertisers for their support of the students and faculty through this calendar. The next meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 6pm in the Manhattan Jr. High library.

Volunteers

We are very fortunate & grateful to have so many people volunteer their time to work at Anna McDonald School. If you are interested in volunteering this year, please look for information during Open House. We are always looking for help both in the classroom and with other various projects and copies. If you have any questions, please call the school at 478-3310.

From the Nurse's Office

Please do not send any medications, including cough drops, to school with your child.

Wellness

Due to the rising numbers of obesity in children, the Federal Government has mandated that schools have a Wellness Plan. Given the growing epidemic of obesity in the U.S. and the link between nutrition and academic performance, we must work together to ensure that healthy foods are available throughout the school environment - in school meal programs, vending machines, snacks and birthday treats, and school sponsored activities. With the help of parents and staff members, we have a policy that will help us to educate the children regarding health and nutrition, but we need your help! In addition to watching food content labels for healthy alternatives, we also need to be more aware of a variety of food allergies that our children face- some of them life threatening.

In order to best implement our Wellness Plan we will no longer allow food items (cupcakes, cookies, etc) to be brought to school to celebrate birthdays.

As we will be doing here at school, we would also like to encourage parents to think of alternatives or non-food items, when planning rewards or birthday treats. Some popular items with our students are birthday pencils, stickers, erasers etc. We certainly don't want to take the fun out of these special times in your child's life, but have learned that they can be just as meaningful with a fun alternative. Our plan with the Wellness Plan is to start to make children aware that they have choices when it comes to what they eat.

Student Insurance

Student insurance is available. For information/application the website is <http://markel.sevencorners.com/> . We also have a link on our website homepage. Student Accident insurance is becoming more and more important to families due to lack of other insurance for their children or having major medical plans with ever increasing deductibles & co-insurance requirements. Our Student Accident insurance program helps families. Thanks.

Parents can enroll online by the use of a dedicated secure enrollment website or by calling 877-444-5014 (available July 1st). The website address is <http://markel.sevencorners.com/> . On this website, parents will be able to:

- View all of the coverage and premium options
- Review a Frequently Asked Questions section
- Purchase the insurance using a credit/debit card and receive an instant and printable confirmation of what they purchased

This electronic enrollment is a win-win-win situation. It allows the parents to purchase the coverage on a real time basis, it allows the school district to reduce its involvement in the enrollment process, and it enables Markel Insurance Company to more efficiently administer the program.

The key to the success of this electronic enrollment is that the parents of your school district be made aware of the website. Student Accident insurance is becoming more and more important to families due to lack of other insurance for their children or having major medical plans with ever increasing deductibles & co-insurance requirements. Our Student Accident insurance program helps families cope with these issues in a very cost effective manner. **Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that school district officials widely publish the <http://markel.sevencorners.com/> address to allow all parents to review the information and determine its value to their individual family's situation. We ask that your district webmaster create a Student Accident section on your district website in a place where the parents will see it. The above URL should be placed as a direct link in this section. Doing so will enable parents to go directly to the website.**

Important Dates

AUGUST

24th 1st Day of School
30th Open House 6pm
31st Fall Pictures in Gym

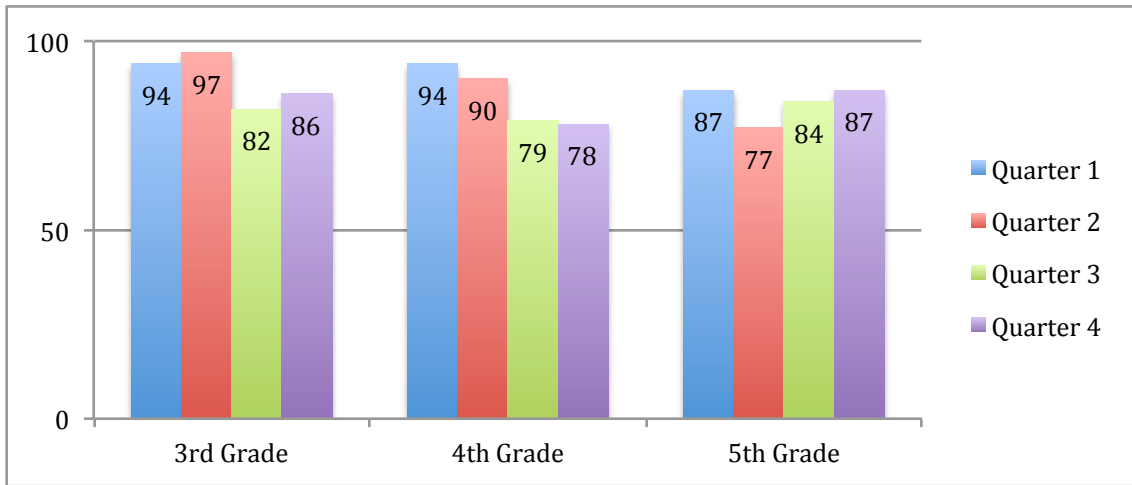
SEPTEMBER

5th NO SCHOOL
Instructional Specialist Mtg 7:45am
13th PTO Room Parent Night 7pm @ WC
14th BOE Mtg 6pm
15th Education Foundation Mtg 6pm@
16th Early Dismissal 12:45pm
Progress Reports on Homelogic
STAR/Pathway Reports go home
26th Fall Picture Retakes on Stage
29th 5th Grade Music Program 10:30 & 7pm
30th Student of the Month Luncheon – TRUST – during lunches

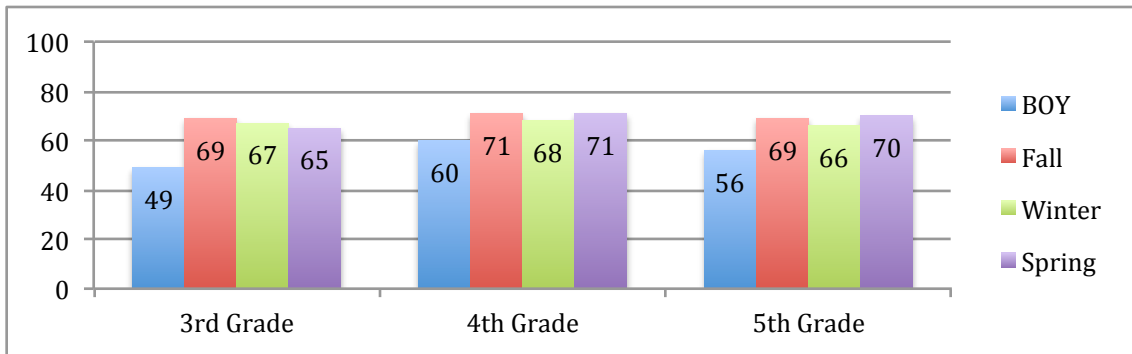
2015-16 Student Achievement

Please refer to our website "STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT" tab for all our data / graphs

Percentage of Students Scoring a 70% or Better on Math Quarterly Exams



2015-16 Percentage of Students At or Above Grade Level Target on STAR Reading



2015-16 Percentage of Students At or Above Grade Level Target on STAR Math

