



February 28, 2015

Dr. R. PACHECO- PRINCIPAL
www.manhattan114.org

8TH GR. GRADUATION AND LAST DAY

Due to Severe Weather Conditions, Wednesday, June 3 will be the last attendance day and graduation for 8th grade students. The last day of school is June 4th.

MAKE YOUR LUNCH PAYMENTS ONLINE

Pay for your children's lunch and registration fees online with a credit card through Homelogic. You may continue to pay for lunches with cash or check by sending it to school in an envelope with your student information on it. **With this new system, negative lunch balances will not be allowed.**

Lunch payments made online with a credit card must be a minimum of \$10.00.

If you should have any questions about your balance, please feel free to call.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please be sure to leave a message in the main office **before** 8:00 a.m. if your child will be absent. Our voicemail system is on continuously enabling parents to call the school at **anytime**.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

Manhattan School District 114 is proud to announce Online Registration for the 2014-2015 school year. Registration for current and new families will now be done at home through your personal computer. 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. Instructions for online registration will come to you via email or you may find the instructions on our website by March 17, 2014.

Physical and Dental forms will be sent home with 5th grade students. Dental forms will be sent home with 1st grade students. You may also find these forms on our website. All physical forms should be turned in by the first day of school in August.

School supply lists for 2014-15 will be available on our website by March 17th.

SUBSTITUTE NURSE & AIDES NEEDED

We are in need of substitute nurses and teacher aides. If you or someone you know would like to substitute please have them contact me at: gjohnston@manhattan114.org

REMINDER FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

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 15th 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 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 regulations regarding dental exams.

ORCHESTRA/CHOIR

Good luck to our orchestra and choirs as they travel on Saturday, March 14th to compete in the Illinois Grade School Music Association competition. GO DEMONS!

BAND

Thursday, March 5: Symphonic Band students perform at LWCHS with the LWC Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble and the Martino Jr. High School Band. Concert will begin at 7:00pm and admission to the concert will be one canned good.

Monday, March 16: Pick up butterbraids in band room between 2:30-4:00m.

Thursday, March 19: I.G.S.M.A. Pep Rally Concert for Concert Band and Symphonic Band. Concert band is to report to JH art room by 6:10pm and Symphonic Band is to report to the band room by 6:30pm. Both bands are to wear their band jacket, band pants, blue Manhattan Band t shirt, BLACK KNEE HIGH SOCKS, and black shoes. The concert will begin at 7:00pm in the JH gym.

Saturday, March 21: I.G.S.M.A. Band Contest at Manhattan JH. Concert band performs at 11:00am and needs to be at JH by 9:45am and Symphonic Band performs at 1:00pm and needs to be at the JH by 11:45am. All students are to wear their band pants, band jacket, royal blue Manhattan band shirt, KNEE HIGH BLACK SOCKS, and black shoes.

Friday, March 27: Concert Band and Symphonic Band will have concert band pictures taken at 7:00am in gym. Students are to wear their band pants, band jacket, royal blue band shirt, KNEE HIGH BLACK SOCKS, and black shoes.

Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at cpedziwater@manhattan114.org.

GIRAFFE AWARD WINNERS

Manhattan Jr. High is proud to announce the winners of the 2015 Giraffe Award. This award is given to a student(s) who exemplify the character traits of service, leadership, and kindness through the volunteer work they do in service to their community. This year's award winners are Jason and Jimmy Cler, who both have given much of their time to help the organization, Feed the Starving Children, as well as with the Illinois Special Olympics. They will be honored at the March 3rd Manhattan Village Board meeting. Congratulations Jason and Jimmy!

8th GRADE PLAY

Mark your calendar now for March 18th at 6:30 PM at Anna McDonald. That is when the class of 2015 takes the stage to bring to you THE COMIC BOOK ARTIST. The actors have been rehearsing since January on this play that brings to life the superhero in all of us. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. A portion of the proceeds will be going to a needy Manhattan family.

TEAM ASSET OF THE MONTH

The Lincoln Way District #210 TEAM Asset for the month of March is Positive Peer Pressure. As we know negative peer pressure can be detrimental to self-esteem, influence clear decision-making, and increase stress. In worst cases it can lead to harmful or dangerous behaviors that could result in death as in the case of drug overdoses. When teens surround themselves with friends who make good decisions and who are involved with positive activities and choices, this typically leads to better grades, improved confidence, and increased involvement in activities both in and out of school, as well as foster positive family relationships. Although it can be initially very stressful to take a stand when the pressure is on, teens that decide to stick with their decision will often find that their friends will respect them more in the end and the negative pressure will stop.

How can parents help their teen navigate peer pressure?

- **Create a space for open conversation** - Talk to your teen about what is going on in his/her life. Make sure it's a two way street, and you're not just in advice mode. If your teen doesn't want to talk as much as you do, hang in there. Consistently try to talk at least 10 minutes a day and build from there.
- **Model behavior** - Parents might have similar situations at work where they feel pressure from others or where they might need to take a stand. Talk to your teen about what you're dealing with and how you've been able to deal with it positively.
- **Watch for signs of change** - If you notice any major changes in your teen's activity levels, friends, sleeping and eating habits, or if you suspect alcohol or drug use, these are red flags and shouldn't be ignored.
- **Be supportive** - Being a teen is difficult. It's hard to juggle school, friends, and peer pressure too. Keep this in mind as you're helping your teen. Remember you can empathize, but that doesn't mean you need to change your rules or standards.

One thing is certain, teen peer pressure isn't going to just go away, so it's best not to ignore the issues that surround it.

DIGITAL CORNER

Just when you thought you had YouTube figured out, your teen has another source of entertainment, the 6 second, looping "micro-videos" of Vine. Short, funny, and cool to teens, Vine can be hard to understand if you are a parent. One never knows what you may see or hear on Vine – which is why a parent may want to limit it to only their older (15+) teens. But if you have a younger teen interested in Vine, watch it with them and talk about some of the issues that come up.

Here are some Vine basics: 1) it's all about self-promotion. Most Viners use other social media like YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter to cultivate fans. It can be very creative especially in the art, music, and DIY sections; 2) stealth marketing is used. Brands pay popular Viners to incorporate their products into their videos and there's not "sponsored by" message; 3) Vines just play. You can't pause, fast-forward or rewind; 4) the vibe is silly, not edgy. Although Vine offers several categories, from animals to music, to style, the humor section has the most "loops" (video views); 5) Captions play a big role. What Viners write below their videos often serves as the punch line; 6) age-appropriateness is an issue. Racy stuff, curse words, sexism, racial humor, and graphic music lyrics can be found. Most Viners don't censor themselves.

Two names to be on the lookout for on Vine include King Bach, an aspiring entertainer who has been called "the King of Vine" for his laugh-out-loud funny skits. He's a professionally trained actor with a great sense of timing and physical comedy. His videos run the gamut from sweet and mild to pretty wild.

Nash Grier: So famous that his (mostly tween girl) fans simply call him Nash, his videos center on high school, family, and friends, but they're not all squeaky-clean. He's had to apologize for homophobia, racism, and sexism stemming from public comments and ideas depicted in his videos. Now that he's attracted big brands such as Aeropostale to sponsor him, he'll probably be more careful.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER

Grief Resource: Joliet Area Community Hospice (JACH) is hosting a four part Spring Family Journey Workshop. This workshop is for anyone ages 5 through adult. Each adult session includes a presentation by a hospice staff member on a grief related topic, followed by group support. Children and teens will meet separately with counselors and peers. All workshops will take place at the JACH office at 250 Water Stone Circle in Joliet. It is free and will take place on the following Thursdays, March 5/12/19/26 from 6 PM to 8 PM. Topics include: Understanding Mourning; Working Through the Hard Parts; Coping Skills; and Remembering. Registration is requested. For more information or to register, contact Mary Ann Burns at 815-460-3282 or mburns@joliethospice.org

Sexual Assault Services/Prevention: Guardian Angel Community Services (168 N. Ottawa Street in Joliet, (815) 729-0930 has a number of services for children and their parents. These free services include: a shelter, individual/group counseling; medical and legal advocacy, prevention education, and a 24 hour hotline (1-815-730-8984). These services are also available in Spanish through their Hispanic Outreach Program.

IMPORTANT DATES

March

- 2 NO SCHOOL – Casimir Pulaski Day
- 4 LW Math Competition at LWN 6pm
- 7 8GVB Regional
Choir IGSMMA Contest
- 9-20 PARCC Testing
- 9 7 GVB Sectional
- 12 Cyber Bullying Assembly 8:15a.m.
- 14 7 GVB State
Choir Contest @ Summit Hill
Orchestra IGSMMA Contest @ Hufford
- 16 8th GVB Sectional
- 18 8th gr. Play @ Anna McDonald School 6:30pm
- 19 Band IGSMMA Pep Rally 7pm
- 20 Early Release
- 21 8th GVB State
IGSMMA Contest @ MJHS
- 25 Track parent meeting 4:30pm
Des Plaines Valley Math Competition @ Hickory Creek 5:30pm
- 27 Report Cards ready