

MANHATTAN JR HIGH NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 21, 2016
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL WWW.MANHATTAN114.ORG

REMINDER

Just a reminder winter break begins December 23, 2016 through January 8, 2017. School resumes on Monday, January 9, 2017. No school on January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Early dismissal day on January 13, Jr. High is 12:00 PM, Anna McDonald 12:45, and Wilson Creek 1:00 PM.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

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 to what to do!

PARENTS

If your email address has changed, please send an email to: gjohnston@manhattan114.org with the new information.

GRADUATION PICTURES

8th grade graduation pictures are on January 17, 2017.

REPORT CARDS

The second quarter ends January 13. Report cards will be ready January 20.

BOX TOPS AND SOUP LABELS

We want to thank you for your continued participation and support of our Box Tops and Campbell Soup Label collection. Our school has purchased additional resources to benefit our classes.

We will have another Box Top and Soup Label collection after Winter break. Please keep collecting them and send them with your child in January.

Thanks again for your continued support.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

8th: Rayne Olivr, Danyelle Pantoja, Maddi Stahulak, Sarah Husa, Lydia Sears, Sophia Sestak, Katie O'Flynn, Shelby Bergeron, Olivia Froling, Emma Grahovic, Epiphany Shaw, Macenna Kamrowski, Chloe Erwin. Manger: Ally Mitchell

7th: Bella Been, Sara McCormack, Cate Cosgrove, Meaghan Fitzpatrick, Federica Ciotta, Yanelle Saldana, Evan Pittman, Alexa Flores, Rachel Mitchell, Kailey White, Caitlyn Burgess, Marley Been, Taylor Szuenbach. Manger: Maggie Gonzalez and Emma Ronaldson.

BAND NEWS

Sat. Feb. 4: Band Education Day 9:30–2:00pm, grades 6–8, this is a MANDATORY event for all band members.

Sat. Feb. 11: IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest at Columbia Central in Steger. Times TBA.

Tues. Feb. 28: Symphonic Band Concert with LWWHS Bands.

Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at cpedziwater@manhattan14.org.

STUDENT COUNCIL

A big thank-you to all of our parents and students who so generously contributed to our Angel Tree Network fundraiser. This fundraiser raised \$1, 565.00 to support 6 families this holiday season. This was our most successful fundraiser to date. We truly appreciate everything that was given.

ASSET OF THE MONTH

This month Manhattan Junior High will be recognizing students who demonstrate the character trait of **respect**. We will be focusing on students who show tolerance of differences in others, use good manners and appropriate language, deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements, and who are considerate of the needs of others, treating others with an open mind and with thoughtfulness. We believe that hurtful and demeaning words and actions, disobedience, poor self-control and lack of personal responsibility do not exist where respect is found.

How can parents best teach this important character trait to their children? By example. The first step families should take is to set up basic rules and expectations about how family members, including the parents and any other adult living in the household, should treat each other. Rules should include: 1) no name-calling; 2) never putting any other family member down – whether it is a child or adult; 3) no negative talking about other family members; and 4) sincerely apologizing and forgiving others if rules are broken.

Showing children respect, even when discipline is needed is important. Parents must never use name-calling or say things like, “you will never amount to anything.” These comments are hurtful, decrease self-esteem and will not teach your child to respect you. Do not laugh at your child when there has been a mistake or infraction of a rule. When arguing or discussing issues that affect discipline or boundaries for you children, it is important to have clear expectations as to

what is acceptable. It is okay for parents and children to have different opinions. It is okay to state your case, but even if the discussions get heated, neither party should ever cross the boundary of respect. If a "time-out" is needed for everyone to maintain control, take one.

There should be clear consequences for disrespect, even if it involves a parent. Everyone has to be on the same page in this regard for the child to understand where the boundaries exist. Respect is always mutual. If the child is not respected, neither will be the parent.

Self-respect is central in learning to respect other family members. If a child does not have self-respect and self-esteem then their ability to respect others might be impaired. In order to have this self respect, children need a sense of security, acceptance, and trust; a sense of belonging to the family and feeling wanted by the family, that they have something to contribute; a sense of responsibility towards the family; a sense of purpose, that the family has a need for them; and a sense of personal competence and pride, that they are capable of being successful.

Respect is the root of all good things. Each family member must work on developing this trait for a child to grow up to be both a competent and loving adult.

PARENT CORNER

Online Gaming: With the holiday present season now behind us parents are faced with our children playing a plethora of online and app-based games. Although there are risks inherent in gaming such as exposure to inappropriate content there are also many benefits including the development of creativity and problem-solving abilities. Gaming can also give children opportunities to make new friends and practice social skills. So how can you help your child get the most out of his/her online gaming experience?

First, learn the risks and how to handle them. Games can have confusing or inappropriate content such as adult language, violence or sexual content. Others have advertisements that let children make purchases without parental authorization. They may gather sensitive information like passwords and credit card number by scamming children or hacking directly into their accounts. Many online games have features that allow players to talk or IM with each other. Some of these players cyberbully children by targeting, excluding, or disabling their in-game characters using racial slurs, or making other rude comments. Some players may have sexual conversations, requesting sexual images, or more rarely, ask children to meet offline. They may even try to get children to share sexual images by sharing their own images first.

So what can parents do? 1) If you do know what games your child is playing, rating sites like ESRB.org and CommonSenseMedia.org can help you decide if a game is appropriate; 2) Learn how to use the safety features. Does the game have reporting features or moderators? Can players be blocked?; 3) Find out if possible who your child is gaming with. Learn the usernames of anyone your child plays with frequently; 3) Discuss what information children are sharing. Tell them not to share personal information like credit card and phone numbers; and 4) Know where your child is gaming. Although you may be able to supervise your home console, is your child playing on mobile devices or at friends' homes?

Don't be afraid to ask the following questions of your child: Can I play this game with you? --- Have you ever been cyberbullied while gaming? What did you do? ---Do you know what information is OK to share about yourself while gaming? ---Who do you play online games with? -- Has anyone talked about sex while you were gaming or asked you to send pictures of yourself?

Although it can be challenging to be vigilant about your child's online gaming, doing so can prevent serious problems from happening.

In addition to commonsensemedia.org, parents should also check out pbs.org/parents and childnet.org for more information about online gaming and other internet related help.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE: Aunt Martha's is a comprehensive medical provider for families that provides not only primary care to adults and kids (including screenings/assessment/care provision for physical, dental, vision, and mental health needs) as well as crisis intervention for adults and children. You may request an online appointment at www.auntmarthas.org or can call 1-877-692-8686.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 23-Jan 8, 2017 Winter Break
Jan. 9 School Resume
10 BBB(7&8) @ Home vs. Martino 4pm
BBB(6) @WC vs. Spencer Crossing 4:15pm
11 BBB(7&8) @ Home vs. Kelvin Grove 4pm
GVB @ Bourbonnais 4:30pm
12 BBB(7&8) @ Summit Hill 4pm
BBB(6) @ Hilder Walker 4pm
13 End of 2nd Quarter
Early Dismissal 12:00pm
16 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
17 BBB(7&8) @ Home vs. Homer 4pm
BBB(6) @WC vs. Hadley 4pm
GVB @ Kelvin Grove 4pm
18 GVB @ Home vs. Oak Prairie 4pm
19 BBB(7&8) @ Michelle Obama 4pm
GVB @ Summit Hill 4pm
20 Report Cards Available
BBB(6) @ Hickory Creek Tournament
21 BBB(6) @ Hickory Creek Tournament
BBB(7) Regional
24 GVB @ Home vs. Homer 4pm
25 GVB @ Home vs. Hickory Creek 4pm
26 B.O.C. (4&5gr.) Concert 7pm
28 BBB(8) Regional
31 GVB @ Home vs. Mokena 4pm