

**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL
JANUARY 31, 2018**

CELL PHONE USAGE

As a reminder to all students and families regarding the use and possession of cell phones at school. Please remember that once a student enters the school, cell phones need to be turned OFF and put away. Students using a phone inside school will have their phone confiscated and a parent will need to pick it up. Students are also subject to disciplinary action. Your cooperation and support is appreciated.

ACCESS SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

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 what to do!

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on February 16 & 19 due to Teacher Institute and President's Day, and March 6, 2018 due to Pulaski Day.

MJHS FUNDRAISER

MJHS will sell Fannie May candy for our Spring Fundraiser. Order forms will be sent home on February 5 and are due February 20. Orders will be delivered the week of March 12 to the students home. On the order form, list your student's name as the seller and their first hour teacher. List the home address as the shipping address. Thank you in advance for helping with our fundraiser. All money goes directly toward the MJHS student activity fund.

SELLER INFORMATION:

Full Name: _____
School Name: _____
Teacher Name: _____
Room: _____

Fill in all lines:

School name: MJHS
Teacher name: 1st hr. teacher
Room: (leave blank)

SHIP TO:

Organization Name: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____
Account Name: _____

Organization Name: Manhattan Jr. High.

Account Name: Manhattan Jr. High

SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

If your child is interested in a 2017-18 yearbook you need to order on-line at: www.treering.com/validate passcode: **1014117026912978** need to have your order in by **April 4, 2018**.

Yearbooks are \$12 and they were **not** available in picture packages. **They must be ordered on-line.**

When ordering your yearbook and you put in your own pages make sure to hit the print ready button when done. Other wise it will not print your yearbook.

Yearbooks **will not** be available at the end of the year. This is the only way to get a yearbook.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Just a reminder to save the box tops for education & labels for education and send in with your student. Please make sure to check the dates. If expired we cannot use them. We are doing another contest from now til February 23. If you have not signed up for Box Tops for Education please go to the [website and sign up. http://www.boxtops4education.com/](http://www.boxtops4education.com/)

Also, when shopping online we can collect Box Top credits. If you shop through the Box Tops for Education website your purchases will earn Manhattan Junior High credits.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

Manhattan School District 114 will be Online Registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration for current and new families will be done at home through your personal computer. We have learned that sometimes Internet Explorer does not always work for registration, as it is not as up to date as it should be. If you encounter this problem, please try registering through Firefox or Google Chrome. 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. Online registration will open February 1, 2018. Please watch your email for further information.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 22

An informational meeting for parents of children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be conducted Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Wilson Creek Commons. All children who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2018 are eligible to attend Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. Only parents need to attend this meeting.

Registration will be online for the 2018-2019 School Year. You will need to bring Proof of Residency documents to Kindergarten Information Night. We will make copies of these documents for you. All students entering the district for the first time must prove residency. Please provide one document from Category I and two documents from Category II. Residency checks will be done from 6-7 pm and for 30 minutes following the presentation.

Category I (1 document required)

Most recent Property Tax bill
Mortgage papers or current Statement
Signed and dated lease and proof of payment
Letter from manager & proof of pay

Category II (2 documents required)

IL Driver's License
Vehicle registration
Voter's registration card
Homeowners/Renters Ins. Policy
Recent Utility Bill
Medicaid medical card

If you are living with a District resident and cannot prove residency, you and the district resident must complete an **Affidavit of Residency** and have it notarized. The district resident will then provide the supporting residency documents.

8th GRADE PLAY

Calling all aspiring actors! Auditions for the 8th grade play will be held on Monday, February 12th from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. All students auditioning will receive a part in the play. This year our play is entitled "No Signs of Intelligent Life", a comedy about aliens trying to figure out all kinds of humans, even the most complex of all – teenagers! An informational meeting for students will take place prior to the auditions during students' advisory period. For more information or questions, please contact MJH Co-Directors, Jan Nass or Jake Settanni.

SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club will meet the following Wednesdays, Feb. 14 & 28, from 2:30 – 3:30p.m.

LIBRARY NEWS

MJHS Library Donations:

Thanks SO MUCH to the students and families who have already donated books, games and other instructional materials. We welcome any of the following gently used (or new) items:

- Novels
- Nonfiction books (less than 5 years old)
- Puzzles and board games in great shape
- Creative building materials (legos, K'NEX, etc)

Appropriate reading materials will be added to our collection, donated to classroom libraries, or resold to purchase new books. Donations can be sent in with students or dropped off at the mail office.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Mrs. Hallihan

LINCOLN-WAY REGISTRATION

Lincoln-Way West will be hosting an open house for incoming freshman on Wednesday, **February 14**. All eighth graders and parents/guardians should attend, since class selections and explore test results will be handed out.

BAND NEWS

Feb. 10 Solo & Ensemble Contest @ Troy Middle School in Shorewood.
Feb. 24 Band Education Day for all 6-8 grade band students @ MJHS.
Mar. 7 Symphonic Band performs with LWW Bands at LWWHS.
Mar. 15 IGSM A Pep Rally Concert for Concert & Symphonic Band 7pm @ MJHS.
Mar. 16 & 17 IGSM A Band Contest for Concert & Symphonic Band at MJHS. More info to follow.

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

ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS

Good luck to all of our students participating in the I.G.S.M.A. Solo and Ensemble contest on February 10th, at Troy School in Shorewood. Please arrive 45 minutes before your scheduled event, dress up, and have your original music with every measure numbered.

PARENTS

If you haven't sent in your email address or it has changed, please send it to gjohnston@manhattan114.org

SCHOOL MEDICINE POLICY

Just a reminder to parents/guardians: Manhattan School District 114 policy states that ALL medications – prescribed or over-the-counter, may not be distributed at school without written notice from a doctor. Short term medication such as anti-biotic or ibuprofen follows the same specifications and must have written notice from a doctor. Lastly, all medication at school must be in the original container.

DENTAL EXAMINATION REMINDER FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

All Illinois children in Sixth Grade are required to have an oral health examination. A licensed dentist must complete and sign the examination. Each child shall present proof of the dental examination by May 15, 2018. The examination must have been completed within 18 months prior to the May 15th deadline (anytime after 11/15/2016 is acceptable).

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 rules and regulations regarding dental exams.

Please turn in the completed dental examination to the nurse's office as soon as possible. If your child has an appointment to have his/her dental examination completed after May 15, 2018, please contact the nurse with that appointment date.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council will be holding a raffle for all MJH students the week of February 5th. Items purchased from the Kohl's cash earned from the Angel Tree Network shopping trip in December will be raffled off for \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. All proceeds will go to purchasing prizes for students for the next fundraiser that we will be sponsoring for the Manhattan Food Pantry.

FEBRUARY ASSET: This month teachers and staff of Manhattan Junior High will be focusing on the asset of kindness. We will be honoring those students as Student of the Month who show gratitude, who are compassionate to others even when it is challenging to do so, and who think of the needs of others before their own.

Kindness is as important to teens as it is to every other age group. It is important for our teens to learn that kindness is an essential life skill. It is as important or perhaps more important than being a good student. Kindness will not only make your teens feel better about who they are but on a societal scale, kindness makes for a gentler culture and a safer environment.

As parents we can encourage our teens to look for opportunities to practice kindness. Let them know that if they pay attention to those around them they will find many opportunities to practice kindness.

For starters, consider talking to them about the following acts of kindness.

1. Suggest that they use their smile more frequently. If someone appears lonely or eager to connect your teen just might make his/her day by smiling. The smile is a very powerful tool. It also makes them more approachable, a big plus if they want to be seen as kind.

2. Teach them to make it a habit to compliment at least one person once per day. This should be an honest compliment. And, while they are at it they might also want to consider complimenting themselves. This leads to the development of self-compassion, which so many of our teens lack.

3. Encourage generosity of spirit and inclusiveness and discourage exclusivity and withholding behavior. Let them know that they can show this by reaching out and getting to know other students who may be sitting alone or who don't get chosen to be on teams or in class projects. Unfortunately, being kind can actually be really hard. Our teens have to know that doing the right thing, like talking to the odd student in math class or inviting that awkward girl to join your group at lunch, won't always feel good. Not everyone will congratulate them for reaching out. In fact, some people will resent it. And inviting a loner to sit with other people won't automatically make him less awkward. Sometimes being kind means spending time talking with people we don't really enjoy, and sometimes it means alienating the people we do. . It is easy to be kind to friends. Praise your teen for being kind to others who are not their friends

We all want our kids to be kind, but kindness is like eating vegetables. It isn't enough just to remind our teens to eat their veggies, we have to be veggie eaters too, and we have to help them develop the habit of healthy eating. It's the same with kindness. Hoping our teens will be kind won't make them so. We have to model kindness and give the concrete tools for reaching out to others. These lessons might make all the difference for our teens and for the ones who need kindness the most.

PARENT DIGITAL CORNER:

YouTube: This video sharing website and app allows users to share, view and upload videos via mobile, tablet, laptop and desktop computer. Since its revenue comes predominately from advertising it is free which allows anyone to access its content. It is the "go-to" place where teens head for news, entertainment, humor, and even knowledge on topics ranging from multiplication to Minecraft.

As a parent, there are several features of YouTube that could present as potential risks to teens, including viewing content, sharing of information and images such as violence and scenes of a sexual nature, connecting to other users they do not know, and cyberbullying. Parents should be aware that YouTube does have guidelines about what content should and shouldn't be uploaded and states that any video content that breaks these guidelines will be removed or become age-restricted. YouTube has a guide to their safety features at:
<https://www.youtube.com/yt/policyandsafety/en/GB/safety.html>

Some questions to ask your teen to find out about their YouTube use include: 1) What's trending today?; 2) What channels do you subscribe to?; 3) What's in your library?; and 4) What was the last video you shared? Their answers will give you important information about their interests and what they feel is popular with their friends. If your teen wants to post a video to YouTube and you are giving them the green light, have a conversation with them first to understand what might or might not be suitable for them to share. Are you and your teen comfortable with the idea that a video could be seen by anyone all over the world? Does the video contain identifying features such as school spirit wear that would identify them as a MJH student, your house, or a local business, which might enable a viewer to trace them? If the videos contain other people you need to make sure your teen has their permission before uploading them. It can be difficult to keep ownership or control of a video once it has been posted on the Internet. The video may be copied or reposted without your knowledge and it can then become difficult to remove every copy online. Initiate and maintain ongoing communication with your teen about their digital footprint and what kind of content they are sharing.

If they upload a video on YouTube, users can comment on it. It is important to remind your teen that these comments serve as "chatting" on line. Speak to them about the safest ways to do this, including not agreeing to move into a private chat service or app with another YouTube user ("YouTuber") who they do not otherwise know. Comments left on videos may contain distressing and inappropriate content or offensive language. A user can moderate comments left on their own YouTube channel including removing, hiding or reporting comments. It is also possible to block a user that will stop them from making comments on one's videos or channel, and will also

prevent a user from private messaging. A user can also flag comments left on other videos and channels that break community guidelines. YouTube staff will review and take action on these comments.

For more information about YouTube or any other site or app, go to www.CommonSenseMedia.org.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February:

- 1 Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:45pm
GVB @ LWW vs. Liberty 4pm
- 3 BBB(7th) State
- 5 GVB @ Coal City 4:30pm
MJHS Fannie May Spring Fundraiser starts
- 6 Graduation Pictures
GVB vs. Martino 4pm
- 7 BBB(8th) Sectional
Scholastic Bowl @ Union 4pm
- 8 Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:45pm
GVB vs. Summit Hill 4pm
- 9 PTO Valentine's Dance 6:30pm
- 10 BBB(8th) State
- 12 8th gr. play try-outs 2:30-4:30pm
- 13 PTO Meeting @ WC 6:15pm
GVB Conf. @ Summit Hill
- 14 Board Education Meeting @ WC 7pm
GVB Conf. @ Summit Hill
Science Club meeting 2:30-3:30pm
- 15 Early Release Noon
GVB Conf. @ Summit Hill
Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:45pm
BBB(8th) State
- 16 NO SCHOOL – Teacher Institute
- 19 NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
- 20 GVB vs. Wilmington 4:30pm
MJHS Fannie May Spring Fundraiser ends
- 21 Scholastic Bowl @ Hickory Creek 4pm
- 22 Bowling @ Laraway Lanes 3:45pm
GVB vs. Elwood 4:30pm
8th gr. Stem Career Day
Scholastic Bowl @ Liberty 4pm
- 23 End 2nd Trimester
- 24 GVB(7th) Regional
Band Education Day 8:30-2:30pm
- 27 Graduation Picture Retakes
- 28 Science Club meeting 2:30-3:30pm