

News from around the district at MSD114

- **We have been very busy since the end of the school year, hosting summer camps, the Science camp. Vacation bible school, and ESY. In addition to those activities, we have been busy preparing for the new school year. We are always very excited to welcome in a new school year as it provides us the opportunity to improve on an already outstanding school district. Here is some additional news from around the district over the last month.**
- ESY (extended school year) is going well. Students and staff are happy to be there and enjoying their time together! There are two weeks left.
- A new curriculum is being trialed by Meghan Muckian, our Early Childhood teacher. It is ***Read it Once Again***. Seven of our 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 outstanding 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.
- **Camp Invention** was held at Wilson Creek the week of June 13th. Thanks to the coordination of 2nd grade teacher, Stacy Tomasiewicz and the support of teachers from all three buildings, over 100 kids enjoyed a week of engaging science activities. The teachers seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the students and many parents made a point to provide glowing feedback, hoping we'll continue to offer this camp next year. In addition to students from Manhattan, participants were from surrounding districts as well as high school "interns" from area high schools participated. You can see photos from the week on the MSD114 homepage: <http://www.manhattan114.org>
- On June 22nd, 12 Manhattan staff members attended an **Advanced STAR Training** at Homewood School District 153. During the full-day training, participants were offered a refresher in accessing STAR assessment data, learned new ways to access resources based on student assessment data, and spent the afternoon learning more about SGP, the information that will be used in Manhattan to contribute to the student growth component of the teacher evaluation process. Thanks to the teachers that took time from their summer break to attend!
- Sports camps are underway. Cross-country, track, basketball, and cheer are offered for our athletes. Music Camps will start in Late July/Early August.
- As always, a special thanks to Pete, Dave, and the entire summer crew for all of their hard work during the summer months to make sure everything looks new and is completely ready for our staff and students to return.
 - **The asphalt patchwork and resealing at Anna McDonald is complete.**
 - **Junior High and Anna McDonald cleaning/waxing is complete and the cleaning crew has begun at Wilson Creek.**
 - **The 10-year Life Safety review has been scheduled and will be completed by the end of July.**

- **All other projects are on schedule and will be completed prior to the start of the new year, with the exception of the JH Gym floor. It will be completed over the Christmas break.**
- **A new camera system will be installed inside the JH building. It will be completed by the time the staff returns on August 22, 2016.**
- **Two new teachers were hired at the July board meeting, Mrs. Regina Najewski (4th grade) and Ms. Paige Podgorny (5th Grade). Both are outstanding candidates and we are very excited what they bring to Manhattan 114. We are very excited to bring them on staff and can hardly wait to see them in their classrooms.**
- The FY16 Budget was reviewed at the July Board meeting and because Expenditures came in 5% under budget and Revenues were 2.3% higher than projected, the FY16 budget was a surplus. The FY17 proposed budget was previewed as well. The initial proposed budget for FY17 is projecting revenues of \$14,503, 349 and Expenditures of \$14,252,290. However, Superintendent Ragon indicated that revenues may be up slightly with the passage of a State K-12 budget, and that he is currently looking into additional technology for the schools as well as getting costs estimates on the replacement of the cooling towers at both Anna McDonald and the Junior High. If there remains a surplus budget, Superintendent may amend the proposed budget to account for those changes. The proposed budget is on review in the district office and will also be published on the district website. There will be a public hearing prior to the Board acting on a FY17 budget at the September board meeting.

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***