

MANHATTAN JR HIGH NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 17, 2015
RON PACHECO, PRINCIPAL **WWW.MANHATTAN114.ORG**

REMINDER

Just a reminder winter break begins December 21, 2015 through January 3, 2016. School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2016. No school on January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Early dismissal day on January 15, 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 20, 2016.

REPORT CARDS

The second quarter ends January 15. Report cards will be ready January 22.

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: Morgan Spikings, Kelsey Evans, Gina Bass, Kaitlyn Adams, Saedy Branch, Tera Spartk, Kirsten Leitshuh, Karleigh Baran, Emma Doyle, Madilyn Bernhard, Sydnie Lenz, Alyssa Aleo.

7th: Bella Been, Shelby Bergeron, Cate Cosgrove, Emma Elliot, Olivia Froling, Olivia Gonda, Emma Grahovac, DJ Herring, Macenna Kamrowski, Sara McCormack, Rayne Oliver, Sophia Sestak.

Managers: Madison Dudeck, Hailie Forsythe, Meaghan Fitzpatrick.

BAND NEWS

Congratulations to the Concert Band and Symphonic Band on their GREAT performance at the Holiday Concert on December 10. I could not be more proud!

Thank you to Kelly Honan for once again arranging a successful Secret Santa Fundraiser at Wilson Creek and Anna McDonald. Thank you as well to all the band parents who helped work at this fundraiser and making it a HUGE success!

THANK YOU!!

UPCOMING BAND DATES:

Sat. January 16: Lincoln Way All Star Festival for nominated band students.

Thurs. January 21: Beginning B-O-C Concert, 7:00pm in JH gym.

Sat. February 6: Band Education Day. ALL BAND students are REQUIRED to attend this event.

Sat. Feb. 13: IGSMMA Solo and Ensemble Contest at Hilda Walker in Tinley Park. This event is only for students participating.

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

ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS

If you are participating in the I.G.S.M.A. Solo & Ensemble contest on February 13th in Tinley Park, all information is due to Mrs. Pacheco on Wednesday, January 6th, no exceptions.

We will be having our annual Carnation Sale at the end of January to celebrate Valentines Day. Please contact Mrs. Pacheco if you would like to send your child a red, white, or pink carnation or bouquet!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Manhattan Jr. High's Student Council is absolutely thrilled and stunned by the generosity of our students. Our December's Angel Tree Fundraiser raised over \$900.00! Coupled with the kind donation of \$125.00 from our own wonderful Blue Crew, we were able to purchase presents for 6 children and provide Berkot's gift cards to each family as well. Thank you students and parents of Manhattan Jr. High. You are the best

8th GRADE PLAY: Calling all aspiring actors and actresses! USHER: A TOTALLY TEEN COMEDY, a twist on the famous Poe story, has been chosen for the Class of 2016. Auditions for the play will be after school on Friday, January 8th with the play date set for March 8th. Circle those dates now! Both Mrs. Kozlowicz and Mrs. Nass, Co-Directors, are encouraging all students to try-out. It is a fun activity to do with friends and everyone gets in! Nervous about being on a stage? After being part of this production, like the raven, you will be saying "Nevermore"!

TEAM ASSET: The asset for the Month of January is Constructive Use of Time. Students will be recognized this month for managing their time well. This will be evidenced by daily homework completion, strong organizational skills, and involvement in clubs and organizations. Students who take pride in being able to manage their workload successfully are good role models and reflect responsible character.

With a schedule full with an increasing amount of school and extra-curricular activities, not to mention family obligations, it is easy for students to fall behind in their academic work. Coupled with the expected twin hurdles of disorganization and challenged decision-making that is developmentally normal in the teen years, teens need help to address effective time-management. Here are some tips for parents to help their teen manage their responsibilities without leaving them, and us, frustrated.

First, parents need to help their teen clearly define what needs to be done and when. Encourage your teen to write down what they need to do on a schedule (separate schedules for school, sports, social life is even better). Listing responsibilities with dates will help teens more easily achieve their goals.

Secondly, help your teen prioritize. Let's face it. For many teens, completing schoolwork is not number one of the list. Parents can encourage and motivate their teens to accomplish school tasks first by tying in privileges for task completion.

Finally, ensure that your teen is keeping up a routine. More can be accomplished when a set routine is kept. Routines also help your teen manage stress better when they know what to expect and when to expect it.

PARENT CORNER: To start off the new year parents may want to have some new and helpful resources available to them to address some of their most pressing issues when raising a teen. Here are some resources you may find to be particularly helpful:

Website: www.helpguide.org. This site has information for teens and their parents on a range of issues including depression, cyberbullying, drug use, loneliness and shyness, self-harm, drug use and more. Easy to read and chock-full of information this is a must check-out site.

Books: NUTURE SHOCK (Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman). This book takes the latest in science and applies it to parenting in areas like motivation, siblings, sleep, and more.

MIND IN THE MAKING: THE SEVEN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS EVERY CHILD NEEDS (Ellen Galinsky). This book helps parents with issues such as Focus and Control; Perspective Taking; Communication; Taking on Challenges; Making Connections; Critical Thinking, and the Self-Directed Engaged Learner.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 21-Jan 1, 2016 Winter Break

- Jan. 4 School Resume
- 5 7th & 8th BBB @ Mokena 4pm
6th BBB @ Mokena 4pm
- 7 7th & 8th BBB vs. Summit Hill 4pm
6th BBB @ WC vs. Hilda Walker 4:15pm
GVB @ Oak Prairie 4pm
- 11 7th & 8th BBB @ Kelvin Grove 4pm
GVB @ Home vs. Wilmington 4pm
- 13 7th & 8th BBB @ Martino 4pm
6th BBB @ Nelson Ridge 4pm
GVB vs. Bourbonnais 4pm
Choral-Fest @ LWC 7pm
- 14 7th & 8th BBB vs. Liberty 4pm
6th BBB @ WC vs. Oakview 4:15pm
- 15 End 2nd qtr.
End 1st semester
Early release 12:00pm
- 16 Band - LW All Start Fest @ Liberty Jr High 8am
- 18 NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day
- 19 7th & 8th BBB @ Troy 4pm
6th BBB @ Orenic 4pm
GVB @ LWW vs. Hickory Creek 4pm
- 20 8th gr. Graduation pictures
7th & 8th BBB vs. Coal City 4:30pm
- 21 GVB @ Troy 4pm
Beginning Band Concert @ MJHS 7pm
- 22 6th BBB Tournament @ Summit Hill/Hilda Walker
- 23 6th BBB Tournament @ Summit Hill/Hilda Walker
7th BBB Regional
- 26 GVB @ Liberty 4pm
- 28 GVB vs. Mokena 4pm
- 30 8th BBB Regional