

MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER

RONALD PACHECO - PRINCIPAL

www.manhattan114.org

November , 2016

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!

NOTE FROM THE VILLAGE

Trick or Treat hours within the village limits are 3:00pm to 7:00pm on October 31, 2017.

PARENTS

If you **haven't** sent in your email address or it has changed please send me an email with your changes to: gjohnston@manhattan114.org so we can send you the newsletters, and other important information.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher conferences are on, November 20, 2 - 9 PM and November 21, 8 - 1 PM. Letters went out Friday, Oct. 27. If you haven't received a letter by Nov 3rd, there are no academic concerns for your student. You can schedule conferences by calling the school to set up an appointment.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

There will be **NO SCHOOL** on Wednesday, November 22, Thursday, November 23 or Friday, November 24. On behalf of all faculty and staff, we wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

CHEERLEADERS 2017-18

Congratulations to the cheerleading squad of 20162017-18. Elizabeth Chowanec, Deven Darlinger, Elise dust, Amanda Gerl, Brooke Grahovac, Jordan Groch, Haidyn Haglund, Nina Hammod, Jamie Hein, Jessie Hein, Olivia Holldendoner, Aubrey Lenard, Ali Saldivar, Emerson Shaw, Miyon Stallworth, Rachel Turay.

2017-18 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

- 8th gr. – Theo Arnold, Nico Borrelli, Josh Boswell, Will Brandau, Jaden Fehrenbacher, Payton King, Carter LaMarche, Laz Liriano, Evan Pruium, Aidan Sears, Isaac Shaffer, Emmett Thompson.
- 7th gr. – Nicholas Becker, Danny Bergin Mickey Ceh, Owen Crafton, Bobby Elsinga, Josh Gray, Trent Guzek, Reagon King, Garrett Konopack, Chance Lorde, Colin Moore, Travis Thompson.
Managers: Seth McWilliams & Rylan Cupp
- 6th gr. - Chris Aleo, Austin Bloom, Josh Boeringa, Devin Burklow, Cole Crafton, Braden Erwin, Mason LaMarche, Anthony Massa, Tyler Mrozek, Daniel Reniguntala, Caleb Scapardine, Michael Sestak, Jake Steffek, Spencer Thompson, AJ Tortorella.

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On November 10, 2017, Manhattan Junior High School will be hosting its annual Veterans Day program. All veterans are invited to attend the program that morning. Beginning at 7:30 A.M. coffee and doughnuts will be served followed by an assembly in the gym. MJHS's outstanding choir and band will be performing for the veterans.

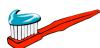
We look forward to seeing local veterans as well as all students' family members who served our country.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Thanks to everyone for participating in our Box Top Competition. The winning class was Mrs. Smith's first period class who collected a total of 1148 Box Tops. 2nd place went to Mrs. Petschinsky first period class with a total of 861. Total box tops collected from everyone is 4,771 great job everyone. Mrs. Smith's will receive a donut breakfast and special prize for the 2nd place winners. Please keep sending in your Box Tops or save them for the Spring competition we will be having starting in January.

Thank you for your support.

From the Nurse's Office:



Dental examinations are required for all children entering Kindergarten, Second, and Sixth grade. Dental examinations must be completed by a licensed dentist in Illinois. The completed exams are due by May 15, 2018 for the 2017-2018 school year. The exam must have been completed within 18 months prior to the May 15th deadline. Any exam done on or after November 15, 2016 is acceptable.



Any student interested in trying out for any sports team must have a Sports Physical. Sports Physicals are good for one year. Any questions regarding this contact the schools nurse.

BAND NEWS

If your band student sold Butterbraids or cookie dough for the band fundraiser, pick up will be Tuesday, November 7 between 2:30-4:00pm in the JH band room. Please be sure to pick up your order on time for we do not have freezer storage for items not picked up.

The Symphonic Band will be performing at the Veteran's Day Assembly on Friday, November 10 at 8:00am. Students are to come to band practice at 7:00am wearing their band uniform, which consists of band pants, band jacket, royal blue Manhattan JH band shirt, BLACK KNEE HIGH socks and black shoes. No cape or sash. Be sure to bring a change of clothes and your garment bag for after the performance. Parents and any Veteran's are welcome to attend this assembly.

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

ORCHESTRA/CHOIR NEWS

November is our ONLY fundraiser for the year, and every family is asked to sell 10 Lottery tickets to win cash! During December, if your number is called, you will win \$25.00 for Monday through Saturday, \$100.00 on a Sunday and \$50.00 for Christmas Day and New Year's eve. Good luck and thank you!

November 10th the choirs and Chamber Orchestra will be performing for the Veteran's Assembly, formals will be worn, and bring a change of clothes.

STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

We had a wonderful Salute To Heroes week October 23rd to October 27th. In addition to daily dress up days and information on what makes a hero, we held a poster contest and a fundraiser for Operation Care Package. Poster winners included Alyssa Drynan; Anna Zheng; and Kamrin Reniguntala. Each winner received a \$10 gift card from Target and will have their picture placed on our website. In addition our fundraiser raised \$250.00 (that's 500 lollipops sold) for our local chapter of Operation Care Package. Thank you students and staff for a great week.

PARENT PRESENTATION: Manhattan School District is pleased to have Guardian Angel Home present an informative educational session to all district parents on the topic of child sexual abuse prevention. This presentation will

be held Monday, November 20th from 4 PM to 5 PM (during parent-teacher conferences) at Wilson Creek Elementary. It is an opportunity for parents to hear what will be shared with their children and how it will be shared when Guardian Angel will once again provide Illinois mandated training on the prevention of child sexual abuse to all of our district students on January 30th. The focus of the parent presentation will be on how to protect our children from predatory behavior, including the tactics of groomers and what to do if our children disclose. This presentation will also address why our children may not disclose, particularly in cases when abuse is perpetrated by a trusted adult, the need for open communication with our children regarding personal body safety, the knowledge that child sexual abuse is never the child's fault and that they are not responsible in preventing it, and the need for our children to have good information on how to tell on someone and to identify the safe adults in their world. Guardian Angel does want parents to know that they will not teach anything regarding "safe sex" but instead want to help children remain "safe sexually." It will be an insightful and helpful opportunity for parents to learn more about this important topic so that they can feel comfortable in talking with their children about this issue. **If you are planning on attending we ask that you please register no later than Wednesday, November 15th by emailing Jan Nass at Manhattan Jr. High at jnass@manhattan114.org. Please include your full name as well as your preferred phone number and email address when registering. If we do not have a sufficient number of parents registered by November 15th the session will be cancelled. You will be notified if it is cancelled.**

NOVEMBER ASSET OF THE MONTH: This month Manhattan Junior High will recognize those students who possess the character trait of Integrity. We believe that integrity is a collection of values, including honesty, courage, honor, respect, restraint and responsibility. Students who demonstrate these values do not go along with the crowd because it is the popular thing to do but act in ways that are consistent with these values and by doing so are seen as role models for other students. They are the students who are kind when it is hard to be kind, to accept challenges when they are afraid, to be respectful even if they are not being treated with respect, to show courage to stand up for what they believe is right even though they may stand alone, and to show tolerance for the differences in others that they may not see in themselves.

As parents we know that our children are living in an age where integrity often takes a back seat to power and material success, where "the end justifies the means". We see this played out publicly in our politics and on social media where deceit, dishonesty, and lack of tolerance show our children the flip side of integrity. Whether responding to a stranger's Facebook post about a social issue or a friend's unkind comment about a public figure, quick, off-the-cuff, and nasty replies are the new normal. Many see it as a fun, entertaining game with few consequences. Unfortunately, the consequences of ignoring integrity are real, and the psychological damage can run deep, even for those who sit silently on the sidelines. Like second-hand smoke, the effects of disrespect and dishonesty often seep invisibly into the bodies and minds of children.

To reverse these hurtful trends, parents need to ask themselves tough questions about what their values are and then teach their children to live those values. As Gandhi so eloquently said, "To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest."

As parents, what steps can we take to help our children develop integrity? #1: Know what your values are and teach them to your children through your words and actions; #2: Develop a moral vocabulary. Use words like honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage when talking with your child, be it over the family dinner table or in your car; #3: Reward respectful behavior. Ask yourself if you are rewarding your children more for their grades and for making a point in a sports game than you are when they are being honest and respectful? If you are then it is time for a change; #4: Discuss consequences with your child and respond appropriately when mistakes are made. Learning integrity takes practice just like everything else does in life and like all learning mistakes are inevitable. With mistakes come consequences and learning how to deal with these consequences will build character. Respond with consistency and make your child's mistake a teachable moment for everyone; and finally, #5: Be a good role model. Review what you say or share with others face to face as well as on social media. Does it reflect your values? Is it hurtful to others? Are there more respectful ways to share what you believe? Our children are watching and learning from us.

PARENT DIGITAL CORNER: APPS THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

How certain apps become popular with teens can be confusing. The best ones mix all the stuff teens love like gossiping, hanging out, clowning around, and meeting other teens coupled with some unknown factor that makes them go viral. Once an app gains critical mass (like, when everyone in school is on it) can be when the real fun begins. But that's where things can go very wrong, too.

While recent app crazes were all about the new and novel, such as Snapchat's disappearing messages and WhatsApp's free texting, this year's social media giants mostly serve up familiar features. And though some new offerings correct safety issues of the past, and many teens are getting savvier about responsible use, social media can still stir up drama. The ones to watch out for this year include anonymous apps, live streaming, group chatting, and friending. Some apps to pay particular attention to as they can potentially stir up lots of unwanted, and sometimes dangerous, drama include:

Anonymous Apps:

These apps allow teens to provide anonymous and unsolicited feedback to other users. Since these apps can allow teens to feel emboldened to say things they wouldn't normally do they are can be hotbeds for cyber bullying. They include: 1)

Kiwi: This app and website lets people ask questions of friends or all users. Posts are tagged with your location (unless you turn it off), so all the teens at one school can be on the app. The combination of anonymity and proximity led to the downfall of similar apps such as YikYak; 2) **Sarahah:** An Arabic word that translates roughly to "honesty," in this app you can send anonymous comments to a friend including mean things one would never say to a friend's face; 3) **TBH:** Standing for "to be honest," TBH lets kids answer mostly wholesome questions about friends. The app's launch was pretty tame, but with anonymous apps' poor track record, TBH's planned chat function could get out of hand.

Live Streaming:

As with live TV, users simply aim the camera on themselves and broadcast to whomever is following them. Since there's no delay, and teens often stream from their bedrooms, there's a real risk of giving away personal or even intimate information. This level of sharing can make teens vulnerable to "sextortion" because users can record the live streams. If a teen reveals too much, others can use the recordings against them. Examples of live streaming apps include: 1) **Bigo Live:** This app lets users make video blogs or live stream their activities with the object of monetizing their videos and possibly becoming the next YouTube sensation. User-generated content can include bad language, violence, and nudity; 2) **Live.ly:** This app is an extension of the lip-synching app Music.ly, which is known for its young users dancing suggestively. The app has no screening tools, so users who watch the streams are never entirely sure what they're going to see when they open it up. And though the terms of use clearly define what objectionable content is *not* allowed, it also states that the developers have no obligation to respond to reports about violators 4) **live.me:** This app is known to have a racier feel than other live streamers. You'll see everything from racial slurs to kids being asked to take off their clothing. The emphasis on getting followers and fame is even embedded in the title, which may propel people into doing more outrageous acts; 5) **YouNow:** A very popular gathering place for teens, this app has its own celebrities and culture. Not only can you comment and like someone's video, but you also can buy them gold bars or other gifts, which generates money for the broadcaster.

FRIENDING APPS:

The new "friending" apps enable teens to easily connect and chat with people they don't know. While many of them rely on Snapchat or Instagram, they make it very easy to widen your circle of contacts to strangers. Friending apps also use location, so the new "friends" are all nearby, increasing the possibility of face-to-face meetings. Privacy and safety are real risks with these apps. Popular ones include: 1) **MyLOL:** This app and website advertises for "teen dating" but is really meant for users over the age of 17. Users often post provocative, half-naked pictures of themselves and engage in flirty or even sexually explicit conversation. Chat topics also can include references to drug use, alcohol, or violence. Some users post their real names, IM handles, email addresses, and phone numbers; 2) **Spotafriend:** Billing itself as a Tinder alternative, this risky location-based app lets you rate other members (and lets other members rate you) by swiping left or right. It's marketed as a teen "friend" app for users age 13 to 19, but comes with a Mature 17+ rating in the app stores; 3) **Yellow:** Called "Tinder for teens," Yellow works with your Snapchat or Instagram account and similarly to Tinder in that users swipe left or right on photos to find a match. Users don't have the option to make their profile private, and your profile can be viewed by anyone in a particular radius of your real-life location.

Group Video Chatting:

Group video chatting is the newfangled party line from the olden days of rotary phones. By using their webcams or phones, teens can communicate with several friends at once via live video. Since there is no screening, there's always the possibility of teens sharing private information or encountering age-inappropriate content. Chatting apps include: 1) **Airtime:** It has most of the same features as other video-chat platforms but with the added twists of letting users watch videos and listen to music from across the web together. They can also live stream themselves. Viewing age-inappropriate content is a big risk, since there are no filters. And Airtime's ability to create private "rooms" means teens could have one-on-one video chats with strangers; 2) **Houseparty:** Unlike FaceTime or Skype, Houseparty lets you have up to eight people in a room and have several "parties" going at once. The app makes it easy for teens to connect with people they don't know and have private conversations; 3) **Monkey:** This app randomly connects teens with other Snapchat users around the world for a 10-second video chat. As with so many social networking tools, a teen's experience will depend a lot on other users' behavior. Some users report abuse and requests for baring body parts, so it could be easy for some teens to get into trouble with this one.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov.

- 1 GBB(7&8) @ Troy 4pm
GBB(6) @ Orenic 4pm
BBB(7&8) @ Peotone 4:15pm
- 2 GBB @ Peotone 4:15pm
- 4 BBB@ Bradley 9am
- 6 O/C Fundraiser Begins
GBB(7&8) vs. Mokena 4pm
GBB(6) @ WC vs. Mokena 4pm
- 7 BBB(7&8) vs. Mokena 4pm
BBB(6) @WC vs. Mokena 4:15pm
- 8 Board of Education Meeting @ WC 7pm
GBB(7&8) @ Hickory Creek 4pm
GBB(6) @ Hickory Creek 4pm
BBB(7&8) vs. Hickory Creek 4pm
BBB(6) @ WC vs. Hickory Creek 4:15pm
- 9 B/O Concert grades 4-5 @ MJHS 7pm
- 10 End 1st Trimester
Early Release Noon
Veteran's Assembly 7:30am
- 13 GBB(7&8) vs. Liberty 4pm
GBB(6) @ WC vs. Oakview 4:15pm
BBB(7&8) @ Wilmington 4:30pm
BBB(6) @ Wilmington 4:30pm
- 14 BBB(7&8) @LWW vs. Liberty 4pm
BBB(6) @ Nelson Ridge 4pm
PTO Meeting @ WC 6:15pm
- 15 GBB(7&8) vs. Martino 4pm
GBB(6) @ WC vs. Spencer Crossing 4:15pm
BBB(7&8) @ Martino 4pm
BBB(6) @ Spencer Crossing 4pm
- 16 O/C Fundraiser ends
- 17 Report cards available
GBB(6) Conf. @ Mokena
- 18 GBB(6) Conf. @ Mokena
- 20-24 NO SCHOOL
- 20 P/T Conference 2-9pm
- 21 P/T Conference 8-1pm
- 27 GBB(8) Regional
- 28 BBB(7&8) @ Summit Hill 4pm
BBB(6) @ Hilda Walker
- 29 GBB(7) Sectional
- 30 BBB (7&8) vs. Troy
BBB(6) @ WC vs. Orenic 4:15pm

Dec.

- 22 Early Release 1:30pm
- 25-29 Winter Break

Jan.

- 2-6 Winter Break
- 9 School Resumes