



## The "PACK" Newsletter October 2012



### Inside This Issue:

- Financial Aid Information
- Aaron Thomas Visits IKM-Manning
- High School Band Students Keep Busy!
- All-Star Book Fair Coming Soon!
- From The Desk of Dr. Ward
- IKM-Manning Middle School Assistance Team
- Community Health Needs Assessment

### **Financial Aid Night**

Seniors and their parents are invited to attend the Iowa College Access Network presentation on October 22 at 7:00 pm. This will be held in the high school library and happens to coincide with Parent-Teacher Conferences, so plan to attend both! Topics will include the financial aid process, how to complete the FAFSA, understanding college costs, financial aid options, the scholarship process, etc. This is always very informational, especially to those who will be sending their first child off to college. You will receive a letter in the mail also. Hope to see you there!

Amy Bemus, High school counselor

### **Aaron Thomas Speaks at IKM-Manning High School**

On Monday, September 10, Aaron Thomas, son of the late legendary football coach, Ed Thomas, came to IKM-Manning High School to speak to students. He spoke about the tornado that went through his hometown of Parkersburg and how it affected the community and brought them together. He told us he was blown away by how many people helped the town clean up and by how many people that came home to assist. The message he tied into the tornado was not to forget where you come from. He wanted students to be aware that, later in life, people don't remember what material things you owned, they remember the kind of person you were. He also recapped what

happened to his father, the late head football coach at Aplington-Parkersburg, who was shot by a former football player in the school bus barn/weight room. Aaron's main focus in his speech was to encourage students to try their hardest, be nice to others, and have a good attitude every day. Something he told everyone to remember was this, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you, and 90 percent how you deal with it."

Various students and teachers were asked what they thought about his presentation, and they all said it motivated them to be better people. "It was nice to be reminded how we need to handle things thrown at us in life," Mrs. Hagedorn said. Evan Dreesen, a sophomore, had this to say, "I thought his speech was very inspiring to all of us."

Article written by Katie Sextro,  
interviews by Carolyn Opperman

### **High School Band News**

Anna Dentlinger and Mikasia Jacobsen have been doing extra duty in band for this part of the school year. In July and August, they attended band camps for the Southwest Iowa Honor Marching Band that will take them to Atlanta, Georgia in December. They spent four days at a mini-camp to learn their music and to practice marching with the rest of the 180 Southwest Iowa students. Anna and Mikasia then traveled to Des Moines in August to march with the honor band in the State Fair Parade. They also attended the Clarinda Band Days festivities on Saturday, September 29th and marched with the honor band for that event. After one more rehearsal in November, they will be ready to go

during our Winter Break. They will march in Atlanta for the Chic-Filet-Bowl Parade and also play for the pre-game and half-time shows! This is a nationally broadcast bowl game, so hopefully we'll get to see part of their performances!

The High School Band has been busy with the Marching Band Season. The half time show this year is the music from Disney's "The Lion King". The band is also preparing to begin their work on concert band music for the Winter Concert, as well as beginning work on jazz band music. Dates for concerts will be provided in future newsletters.

Don Struve, H.S. Band



Dear Parents and Families:

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most.

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: *encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.*

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – **All-Star Book Fair: Every Reader Is a Star!** – is

part of an exciting reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get.

Reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they're young. Now is the time. Since there will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in his/her child's education, please make plans to visit our Book Fair. Hope to see you there!

**Book Fair Dates:** OCT. 17 – OCT. 23, 2012

**Shopping Hours:** Students will be attending the fair during their regularly scheduled library times.

**Special Events:** Family Nights - Oct. 18 & Oct. 22, 2012 4-8 p.m. each night.

If you're all booked up during Book Fair week (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit the Book Fair online at [www.scholastic.com/fair](http://www.scholastic.com/fair). The online Book Fair is available for an extended time from Oct. 17 to Oct. 26, 2012.

- Find an expanded selection of books for the whole family—preschool to adults
- All orders ship to school for FREE and each purchase benefits our school

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hammrich  
Principal

***From The Desk of Doctor Ward***

**“Our mission is to lead and challenge our students to excel through rigorous and relevant instruction.”**

Knowing Your Child's School

Research shows that one of the most important factors that affect a child's performance in school is parental involvement. To actively participate in the relationship between your child and the school, it is important to be familiar with the school. Below are some ways to know your child's school better.

- **Make an appointment to visit the school**
- **As appropriate, call or write to your child's teachers**
- **Talk to other parents about their experiences**
- **Read the minutes of the school board meetings that are posted in the local papers**
- **Read the school newsletter**
- **Try to attend school functions.**

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 16<sup>th</sup>-**End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

October 17<sup>th</sup>-**1:30 dismissal**

October 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. and Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Below are some questions parents need to ask during conference time.

- **Is my child performing above or below grade level in school?**

- **What are my child's strengths and weaknesses in the major subject areas?**
- **What subjects does my child enjoy most?**
- **Does my child need special help in any academic subject?**
- **How does my child interact with other children?**
- **Has my child regularly completed homework assignments?**
- **Has my child attended class regularly?**
- **Have you observed in changes in learning progress during the year? Has the learning improved or declined?**

### **RTI?**

Some of your middle school students have probably been coming home and talking about their RTI class in school. This year our middle school has developed the concept of Response to Intervention (RTI) which is an extension of the Wolfpack in the elementary.

We all know we need to do better in our classrooms. Consider:

- 61 percent of our schools have not reached the point where 80 percent of the students are proficient in reading at all levels.
- 35 percent of our children in grades 4 and 8 have not made at least one year's worth of progress in reading in a year's time.
- All students who did not make a year's worth of growth should receive targeted intervention, but we lack a way to verify that students received the support they needed. To that end we have moved RTI into the middle school, with the goal of it being in every classroom in our district.

Parents and patrons might ask, "What is RTI?" It is a process for teachers and building teams to produce the most efficient outcomes for student learning. Teachers will use researched-based reading programs to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality universal curriculum. Teachers will assess all students at least three times a year, using a valid screener, to determine which students need more targeted instruction. Teachers then provide that instruction through evidence-based interventions.

Stay tuned to further updates on the progress of RTI. This is just more evidence on the way IKM-Manning is striving to provide the best for all our kids and to prepare them for further success.

### **Things are a little fishy at the high school!**

Our new agriculture instructor, Ben Booth, has brought in some new ideas for our students at the high school. One of those innovative ideas is –fish farming! Mr. Booth has setup two 500 gallon tanks in the greenhouse with the hope of raising tilapia. I encourage all of our patrons to stop in to see the setup. A big thanks to Mr. Blankman for his expertise in this venture. Could there be a fish fry in the future for the agriculture department?

### **Site Visit**

Every five years all public or private schools in the State of Iowa go through a Site Visit Review. The purpose of the Site Visit is to:

- Assess progress with the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)
- Make recommendations with regard to the visit findings for the purpose of improving educational practices above minimal compliance
- Determine that a school or school district is in compliance with the accreditation standards

- To provide a general assessment of educational practices.

The IKM-Manning CSD will be under review during the days of November 13, 14 and 15, 2012.

### **Parent Notification Regarding Open Enrollment**

If you are considering open enrollment for your student(s), you need to be aware of the following:

- 1) The deadline for making a request for the next school year is March 1 for a student who will enter grades 1 through 12. The deadline for making an open enrollment request for a kindergartener is September 1. Applications for Open Enrollment are available in the central office at the Middle School in Manilla. Applications after the deadline can only be approved if there is “good cause” as specified on the application.
- 2) Parents of Open Enrolled students are responsible to transport the pupil(s) without reimbursement to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving district. A parent/guardian shall be eligible for transportation assistance from the resident district if the household income of the parent/guardian is at or below 160% of the federal income poverty guidelines as stated by household size. For more information on the specific income levels and how to request transportation assistance, please

contact the IKM-Manning Business Manager at 712-654-2852.

- 3) If an Open Enrollment request is denied by a district board of education, the parent/guardian has 30 days to file an appeal with the state board of education only if the open enrollment request was based on repeated acts of harassment or a serious health condition of the student that the district cannot adequately address; and that all other denials must be appealed to the district court in Crawford County.
- 4) Open Enrolled students may face a loss of athletic eligibility for a time. For more information contact the Athletic Director at 712-655-3781.

If you have questions or concerns I can be reached at 712-654-2852 or e-mailed at [tward@ikm-manning.k12.ia.us](mailto:tward@ikm-manning.k12.ia.us).

**Yours in education, Dr. Ward**

***IKM-Manning  
Middle School Student  
Assistant Team (S.A.T.)***

Each week the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade teachers meet to discuss and assess individual student progress both academically and behaviorally. The staff utilizes a S.A.T. action plan in determining the instructional strategies and steps to be taken to increase individual students becoming successful in the educational environment. The action plan may include an increase of teacher to student contact, modifications in assignments, preferred seating,

developing organizational skills, test taking strategies, attendance, and parent contact. Throughout the quarter the individual student's progress is monitored by the team of teachers using data to drive their decision as to whether the student is successful and no longer requiring assistance and/or needs further evaluation.

The IKM-Manning middle school students and staff would also like to give a warm thanks to those community members who financially and volunteer support to the IKM-Manning School Foundation. This month the middle staff was awarded three educational mini-grants. The grants approved by the IKM-Manning Foundation include a SMART Board for the 7th grade reading room and two technological Scholastic Magazines orders for all 5th and 6th grade students to use during literacy classes.

On October 1st the IKM-Manning middle school will be working in unity to "Stomp Out Bullying." Thanks to the "Hall of Pride" personnel the students will be attending an assembly to learn more about recognizing and putting a stop to bullying. The middle school students will also be dressed in "Stomp Out Bullying" t-shirts to represent a unified front to control bullying.

Sharon Whitson

## **Community Health Needs Assessment Available**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Please take a few minute to tell us about your healthcare!

A community health needs assessment will be available from October 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

**online at**

[www.mrhcia.com](http://www.mrhcia.com) or  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/2M22MNL](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2M22MNL)

**Paper copies available at :**

Manning Regional Healthcare Center  
Manning Regional Healthcare Clinic  
or at area drop-boxes