



IronKid News

Mancelona Elementary School
Mancelona Public Schools

September/October
2008

Welcome to the 2008-09 School Year

We hope this school year has gotten off to a great start for your family. This will be a year full of wonderful educational opportunities. As always, communication is a huge part of your child's success. This newsletter, and the individual classroom newsletters, are vital tools for delivery of information. We will use this forum to give you the most recent elementary news and/or policy changes. If at anytime you have a questions about your child's classroom or the school, please contact their teacher. Anyone in the office can also assist in getting you important information.

Hopefully you'll find these pages useful. This edition, and past editions, can be found on our new and improved district web site: www.mancelonaschools.org. On this web page you can also find out important information about other events and activities taking place in our schools.

Together, we are all going to have a great school year!

Choose Success!

The numbers are in! During our kick-off year, Choose Success reached 394 elementary, middle and high school students by providing quality academic, enrichment, and recreational programs. In the elementary and middle schools, students that regularly participated in after-school and before-school programs increased their language arts grades. Regular participants in the elementary school programs increased their math grades (and outperformed the rest of the elementary student population). And, in both the elementary and middle schools, a higher percentage of regular participants showed more growth in overall grades than those students not participating after school.

The success of our program is due to the overwhelming support we have received from administration, teachers, staff, and the community of Mancelona. Over the school year, feedback from school staff helped shape the activities offered. And, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant funded teaching staff and busing which allowed Choose Success to bring extended day learning opportunities to more students.

This year, programs begin September 22 Monday-Thursday and include the following academic, enrichment and recreational activities: Writing Workshop, tutoring, Recharge, self-esteem workshop, book club, arts and crafts, guitar lessons, Girls on the Run, Club Soldier, Photography and Yearbook, Imaginature, and F.R.O.G.S (on Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm). Program times are 7:00-8:15 am and 3:05-5:00 pm. Students must be fully enrolled prior to attending our programs. Contact Stacey Knoertzer at 231-587-8661 ext 304. Starting October 13, afternoon busing will be provided.

Choose Success is partnering with our Elementary School and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan to bring Love & Logic parenting classes to our families! Classes will include course materials and light refreshments at no cost to parents. Please watch for additional information in future IronKid Newsletters.

Student Handbook

The 2008-09 Student & Parent Handbook is available online at our district web site. www.mancelonaschools.org is the place to visit for the most current information on our school and the school district. To access the handbook simply click on the elementary link and you will find our handbook. If you like, our office can print you a copy. Please stop in to make this request.

Get Involved!

Our parent group is back at it this year. They have taken charge of the Pizza Sale fundraiser, Popcorn Thursdays, and host a *Mom to Mom Sale* on October 18. They need more parents to support their efforts this year. Call 587-8661 ex. 357 or email getinvolved@mancelonaschools.org

Mancelona Elementary is going
GREEN this year!



More information coming in future editions of IronKid News.

Ironmen Apparel

Stop by the library to check out the latest selection of school spirit. Wear school colors to support our sport teams during the year.

Important Info

What happens when nobody is home to get a student off the bus? Your child may be taken back to school (587-8661) or the Early Childhood Center (587-9021). The office needs all students to have current emergency contacts on file. Make sure you keep this information up to date.

MEAP

Testing in 3rd and 4th grades begins on October 16. Be sure your students get to school on time after a solid night of rest. A nutritious breakfast will help them perform to the best of their ability.

Thanksgiving Dinner for Lunch

Put November 24 on your calendar. Again this year, each child will be allowed to invite one guest to a special Thanksgiving lunch. An informational flier and sign-up sheet will be sent home sometime in the next few weeks.

Welcome Visitors

We invited all of our families to visit and volunteer in their children's classrooms. As a courtesy, we ask that you schedule this in advance with your child's teacher. A simple note, phone call, or face-to-face conversation with the teacher will do. For the safety of all our students, we need and appreciate your cooperation.

Mark Your Calendars

- September 22 Picture Day
- October 24 No School
- October 31 Halloween
- November 3 No School
- November 11 & 13 Conferences
- November 13 Half-Day



Library Corner
By
Mrs. Weeks

This week students in grades 1-4 started checking out books from the school library. Just a little reminder, books are due back each week on their regularly scheduled library day. These books need to be returned before they can choose a new book.

We certainly have some excited readers ready to tackle some chapter books. If students need longer than a week to finish their book, it is okay. They just need to re-check it out.

Here are a few books that I have enjoyed reading and they are available for check out at the elementary library.

“The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures,” by Brian Selznick

“Violet Bing and the Grand House,” by Jennifer Paros

“Fancy Nancy,” by Jane O’Connor

Keep Reading,
Mrs. Weeks

One of our goals this year is to recognize and support positive behavior and good choices. At Mancelona Elementary we do this by presenting two types of awards. One is “Star Student of the Month” and the other are the “Principal’s Awards.”

“Star Student of the Month” is by nomination from the classroom teacher. Only one student is selected from each class. A ceremony is held each month to recognize our “Stars” in the Elementary. Their names are then posted on the bulletin board in the lobby.

The “Principal’s Award” recognizes a class or individual. These honors are selected by Mr. Naumcheff and are posted on a bulletin board in the cafeteria.

By accentuating the positives, we strive to help all of our students become stars!

Exciting Accelerated Reader News

Explore the world as we travel to the seven continents! This year’s Accelerated Reader theme is, “*Read! Around the World.*” Each month students will be traveling to all seven continents learning about the geography, famous places, the people that call that region home, the language and much, much more. All the while challenged to read 8,000 miles (points) to conclude our travels in Antarctica. The reward for this effort, if achieved, will be a school wide celebration at the end of the school year.

Accelerated Reader is a program our elementary school uses to help enhance students reading comprehension. Students are encouraged to choose a book to read based at their reading level. Once the book has been read, they answer some questions about the book. They are then given points for each correct answer. We use these points to give individual rewards for each level reached and combine all students for the school-wide total.

This program encourages reading and rewards for a job well done. Our students are very excited to read and explore the world!

The Mancelona Sports Boosters will once again be selling spirit clothing. Children and Adult sizes are available.

	<u>Kids/Adult</u>	<u>2x & 3x</u>
Football sweatshirts	\$20/\$25	add
Long sleeve T’s	\$13/\$13	\$2
Orange T’s	\$5/\$10	
Beanie hats	\$5	

You can call Mrs. weeks at 587-8661 ext. 343, or stop in at the library to purchase an item.