



WOLFPACK EXPRESS

Focusing On Activities In The School District of Manawa

April 16, 2020

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While You Are Away

BY DR. MELANIE OPPOR
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Hoffman Planning, Design, and Construction Inc. personnel have been very busy mobilizing contractors who can accomplish projects at both schools during the closure. Manawa Elementary School has new flooring in the classrooms and common shared space, the library, staff workroom, multi-purpose (band) room, and music room.



The fitness center addition on Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School is progressing quickly. The concrete foundation was poured now that the frost has gone out of the ground. Electrical and plumbing utilities are expanding into that area. The large windows that are a showcase feature of the fitness center are being installed.

The foundation preparations are being made for the new secure entry to Little Wolf High School/Manawa Middle School. Old lockers that were unusable have been removed from the corridors. The elevator from the ground-level fitness entrance up to the main floor gymnasium and classrooms is being installed. The band and choir room soffits are being removed. If time permits, the band room pit will be filled. There is a flurry of activity wherever you turn.

Some of you have asked if all this construction/remodeling work going on now means that the referendum projects at both schools will be completed earlier



next summer. Unfortunately, the answer is no. The greatest challenge in moving forward is not mobilizing contractors or their work crews. The greatest challenge will be getting the supplies. For example, one of the contractors' shipments coming from overseas is on a ship that the U.S. will not presently allow into port. It is not known how long it will take for the supplies to be

Oppor
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GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES! GO WOLVES!

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Oppor

FROM PAGE 1

trucked to Manawa once the ship has permission to dock. Given the uncertainty of access to critical supplies, the timeline for completing the referendum work may need to be adjusted. Rest assured, everyone at Hoffman is working hard to prepare both schools to welcome students next fall.



NOTES FOR NOW... BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

The School District of Manawa is partnering with Kobussen, LTD to run bus routes with the addition of a city route to do once-daily home delivery of breakfasts and lunches. All children aged 18 years or younger are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch. Any families living within the district boundaries to include public and private school students, home-schooled students, open enrolled students, and parents with children not yet in school (birth to three years of age) may request the free meal service by contacting either the Manawa Elementary School or Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School office.

Thank you to Business Manager, Carmen O'Brien and Kobussen Buses LTD terminal manager, Jacob Elsner, for coordinating this effort. On a typical day, the district prepares and delivers at least 341 breakfasts and 341 lunches for about 150 families across the district. In addition to the meals, deliveries include MES and LWJSHS educational materials.

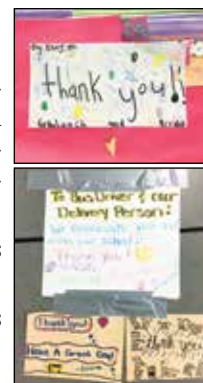
The district has strict guidelines to protect staff doing deliveries. They each carry a backpack with gloves, masks, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer. There is no person to person contact. Deliveries are left on the front doorstep or hung from a doorknob. Some families have placed a cooler or another container outside their door. Families are also reminded to keep pets on a leash or in their kennels during the delivery time.

WE MISS YOU, TOO!

The daily delivery system has provided many members of our support staff along with our partners at Kobussen with meaningful and purposeful work as well as a steady source of income. More importantly, the daily reward is knowing that our students are receiving nutritious food and the learning materials they need to continue to thrive.

Students are leaving cheerful messages of thanks for the bus drivers and delivery staff.

While we can't make any physical contact with our students at this time, we are forging unbreakable bonds!



MANAWA ELEMENTARY AND LITTLE WOLF JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL MATERIALS PICK-UP

Be reminded that every Wednesday is the SDM public school materials pick-up day using the bus delivery system. Please be sure to:

- Put completed assignments/projects, work packets, used USB drives, library books to return, and so on into a plastic bag.
- Use a permanent marker to label the outside of the bag with your child's first and last name and the name of your child's teacher (elementary) or grade-level (secondary).
- Place the bag outside your door or hang it from the doorknob by 9:00 a.m.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Please also know our school counselors, Ms. Ujazdowski and Ms. Connolly, will be in their school offices on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Feel free to telephone your child's school to talk with one of the counselors.



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Learning Continues Even During Closure

Even though the school doors are forced to close, learning does not need to stop. Doing everyday chores around the house can turn into fun learning experiences for any age child. What a great way to apply academic skills to everyday life! The following list offers some simple ways to keep educating children while they are at home:

While reading a story with children, have them tell you what is happening in the story, who the characters are, predict what will happen next, or add sounds to the story.

Also try:

- Singing songs together
- Reciting nursery rhymes
- Matching socks when doing laundry
- Going on a scavenger hunt around the house looking for different shapes, colors, or letters
- Drawing and coloring pictures
- Counting how many steps it takes to walk from one room to the next
- Playing board or card games
- Helping cook or bake; this can be a science lesson (how does yeast work), a math lesson (what is one half cup plus one third cup?), or a reading lesson (does this label say "baking soda" or "baking powder" and what is the difference between the two items?)
- Planting seeds in a cup with soil, watering the seeds to help them grow, measuring weekly how tall the flower is growing



*Michelle Pukita,
Manawa Elementary
School Principal*



*Jacqueline Sernau,
Reading Specialist*

- Using recyclable items such as egg cartons, paper bags, water bottles, toilet paper rolls to make art projects
- Taking photos together, making funny faces, and funny poses; making them into a collage
- Finding rocks around your yard and painting them
- Creating play forts
- Writing a letter to a pen pal or family member

The possibilities are endless! We hope that even during this time when students are away from school, they find plenty of ways to keep learning. Be creative and work together to make the best of this situation.

Low Interest Rates Benefit Taxpayers

The School District of Manawa entered the market for the second borrowing for the \$12 million referendum project in February 2020. An interest rate was secured at 1.84% for \$4.5 million. In 2019, \$7.5 million was borrowed at a rate of 3.24%.



*Carmen O'Brien,
Business Manager*

Throughout the referendum process, district financial consultants at R.W. Baird estimated 4% in interest. Due to these secured lower rates, the referendum payments will be smaller each year for the next 20 years than what was projected. This totals \$1.5 million less in interest payments than what was previously communicated to taxpayers.

Referendum payments are outside the revenue limit and have no bearing on how much the district can tax to cover expenses. Lower payments, though, do reduce the mill rate.

Thank you to Premier Community Bank for purchasing some of our bonds.

Manawa Lions Club Continues To Give Back

The Manawa Lions Club is instrumental in what it does for the senior class of Little Wolf High School.

Every year, the club sponsors a Senior Banquet to showcase the accomplishments of the graduating class. They provide a meal for the students and allow their families to attend for a minimal fee.

The club also provides meals for all scholarship donors and their representatives. After the dinner, the awards presentation takes place in the gymnasium. The Manawa Lions Club, along with many generous donors, present scholarships to LWHS seniors. The School District of Manawa currently has three of the recipients of the Manawa Lions Club scholarships working for the district.

We thought you would enjoy knowing how the scholarship they received has helped make a difference in their lives. Mrs. Bessette reached out to each of them and asked the following questions:

- How did the scholarship help you?
- What are your future plans?
- How do you plan to impact our community?

Please enjoy their responses:

• Ali (Dean) Burkart (Class of 2011): I am currently in my fourth year of teaching second grade in Manawa and I couldn't imagine teaching anywhere else. I live in

Manawa and within the last year I got married and expanded my family with a beautiful baby boy. I received the Lions Club Scholarship when I graduated in 2011. This scholarship helped me tremendously during my time studying at UW-Eau Claire. I used the scholarship money to help pay tuition, which allowed me to focus more on my academics rather than working long hours to find the money to continue school. My future plans are to continue to give back to the School District of Manawa by teaching and inspiring every child in my path to be successful and follow their dreams.

• Megan Schuelke (Class of 2016): I attended the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for 3 1/2 years and graduated in December 2019 with a bachelor's degree in education. I am licensed to teach children 0-11 years old. By receiving the Lions Club Scholarship, I was able to live on campus for three years and had amazing roommates that have become my best friends. I was fortunate enough to be able to do my student-teaching here in Manawa in second grade. After I completed my student-teaching, I was able to long-term substitute in the same classroom. I plan to get a full-time teaching position in the area so that I can stay in the Manawa community.

• Casey Johnson (Class of 2014). I chose to continue my education at Ripon College, where I could also

play football for the Ripon Redhawks. The scholarship I was awarded from the Manawa Lions Club was used to help pay my tuition, which really helped reduce the amount I had to borrow. I earned my degree in general education (K-8) and physical education (K-12) from Ripon, completing my student-teaching in January 2019. I was hired on as a substitute teacher in Manawa for the spring semester. In May, I accepted the first-grade teaching position at Manawa Elementary School for the 2019-20 school year. Along with teaching, I am also the defensive coordinator for the LWHS football team and an assistant coach for the wrestling team. I am excited to be teaching and coaching in my hometown.

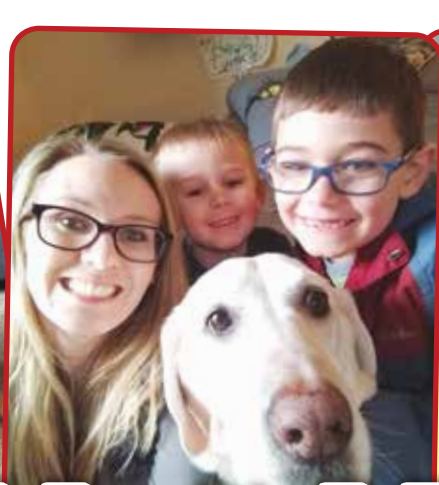


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Mutt Monday



Popeye



Spirit



Motivation

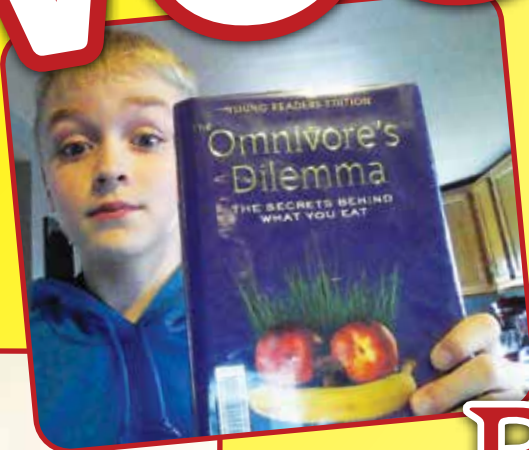


Red, White & Blue

Tie Dye



Week!



Reading



Helping Your Child with Digital Learning

Now that the digital learning age is well upon us, and due to unforeseen school closures from Covid 19, it seems timely that we have conversations with our children about how to support their technology and how they best learn with this medium. Learning the ins and outs of technology as parents seems a daunting task. The ease that students take to it is like many things in life, that it comes easier or more naturally the younger you are. Parents have enough challenges keeping up with the traditional delivery of instruction. As schools shift toward online platforms and E-learning devices, tech-challenged parents may feel intimidated.



*Daniel Wolfgram,
Little Wolf Jr./Sr.
High School Principal*

After reading many articles about digital learning several tips are universal to assist parents in being involved in their child's education. One of the first things recommended is to ask your child to show you how they are proficient in their technology. Many children embrace the opportunity to be "the teacher" to their parents about technology. This strategy is used by educators at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. You are demonstrating that you are a life-long learner!

The second recommendation is to simply Google what it is you are looking to learn. The world of YouTube virtually covers a myriad of tutorial videos. Surprise your child by contacting them via a new medium like Google Hangouts or Facebook Messenger. The connections that you will make will demonstrate your willingness to be engaged in their world.

Often overlooked by parents is the importance to keep technology public in the home. Keeping the computer in common living spaces as opposed to the bedroom allows parents to monitor digital interaction and communication. What your child is doing on the computer should not be a secret. Parents should "friend" their students on Facebook, follow them on Twitter, and know their online friends. Checking browser histories are also important to know where your child is going online.

Lastly, get excited with your child about digital learning. Education has changed dramatically since the time most parents were in school. Information about everything is at a child's fingertips. With proper supervision, children get to gain insight on career paths, culminate and foster new interests, and demonstrate proficiencies that will lead to promising lives and cutting edge careers. While the face of education is changing, and the challenges are daunting for parents, taking the first step in engaging with your child is just a few clicks away!



SDM Teachers Hard at Work - From Home

SDM teachers are all working hard to ensure that each of their students is receiving a quality educational experience during the school closure. With just a few days' notice, teachers created learning packets or trained themselves in how to do distance learning lessons using Google Classroom. A number of students do not have internet access due to poor cellular connectivity in their area so paraprofessionals download the course content onto USB drives and those USB drives are delivered to student's homes as part of the daily delivery program.

This type of preparation and launching of online learning often takes one to two years. Our teachers poured their hearts into this process and made this new way of teaching/learning a reality because that is how deeply they care for your child. The district could not be more proud of our amazing staff and what they have accomplished in such a short amount of time.

Watch for family updates on school news and information via the Skylert system through Skyward, the district's student information system.

The SDM staff and administration also wants to thank you and the many caregivers across the community for guiding the children in your care as they "do school" at home. We appreciate your feedback, patience, and gratitude as all of us continue to refine our skills in this new way of doing things.

Virtual Teaching

All teachers are providing office hours Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. except on official school recess days as announced by the district. Teacher email will be available and teachers will respond within 24 hours in most instances. Students and families can communicate through Google Classroom for students in grades 6-12. Families are also welcome to telephone the school office during normal business hours and you will be put through to the teacher's voicemail so you can leave a message. The teacher will return your call no later than the following weekday.



LESSONS IN EARTH SCIENCE

BY KATHY FIELD
GRADE 2 TEACHER



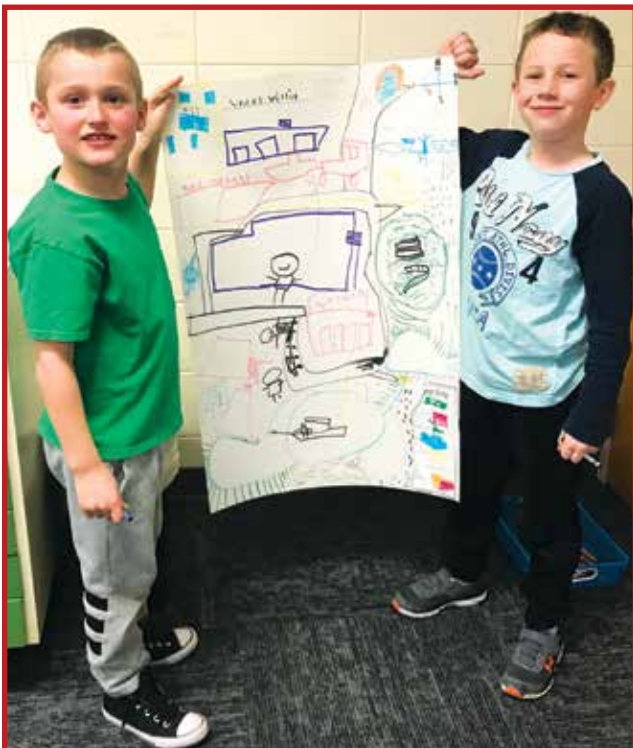
Second-graders are working on their unit of Earth Science.

Part of this unit focuses on the resources that earth provides for us. Students understand that water is a resource and is found in many different forms on earth. Rivers and lakes provide food for us like fish. We use water for fun when we swim and boat.

Rocks are another resource. We find rocks and sand in so many places and use them to make other useful things like sandpaper and concrete.

Reading and making maps are one of the second-grade standards. Students designed their own community map. They had to have things like a compass rose and map key on their map.

Students had to work as a team for many of the aspects of this unit. Working together is also an important standard in the second-grade curriculum.



Mason and Karstyn are proud of the community they designed and named Waterville.

BOARD RECOGNITION

Spring Into Success Teachers Recognized

The Manawa Board of Education recognized four district staff members at the March 16 board meeting for their participation in the Spring Into Success Regional Inservice.

Danielle Brauer, Janine Connolly, Jacquelyn Sernau and Corrie Ziemer received recognition from Board President Joanne Johnson.

Danielle Brauer presented “Para and Teacher Relationships: Make Them Great!” The session covered practical strategies and tips to make relationships thrive.

Janine Connolly presented “Get Real with Self-Care” and discussed the importance of all educators and school staff making a self-care plan to practice each day. The plan should include items that staff can do at school and at home in the areas of social, emotional, physical, sensory and spiritual items.

Corrie Ziemer covered “Instant Activities” and how she uses it in the gym. At her session, PE teachers had the opportunity to play a number of Instant Activities and learn how to get students active as soon as they enter the school.

Jacquelyn Sernau presented a session called “Bringing Joy into Literacy Learning.” It was based on a book called “Start with Joy” by Katie Cunningham. She talked about the pillars of happiness and how to incorporate intentional, purposeful social-emotional learning into the literacy classroom.



School Perceptions Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent School Perceptions Survey. The information is currently being compiled and will be shared with the Board of Education at their regular meeting on April 27. The survey will provide invaluable information about your priorities for the district for the future to include whether to move forward with a School Resource Officer program. It is so important to hear your voice as important district decisions are being considered!

TECH CORNER

Digital Learning

Teachers from Manawa Elementary School have published educational resources on a public website. Each teacher has a page on the site with resources to help educate your child during the school closing. Click on the picture of your student's teacher to view their published resources.

The QR code pictured can be scanned with a mobile phone to quickly navigate to the distance learning website. To scan the QR code, simply take a picture of the QR code with your phone. The phone should prompt you to open a website.



<https://sites.google.com/manawaschools.org/manawa-digital-learning/home>

Tech Questions?

Students experiencing an issue with their Chromebooks are encouraged to request help by opening a support ticket. A support ticket may be opened by sending an email to support@manawaschools.org or calling 920-596-5737. A website is also available with troubleshooting tips. The QR code pictured can be scanned with a mobile phone to quickly navigate to the website. <https://sites.google.com/manawaschools.org/technology/home>



School District of Manawa Information

District Office

Phone: 920-596-2525
800 Beech Street
District Administrator: Dr. Melanie J. Oppor
Business Manager: Carmen O'Brien
Curriculum & Special Ed. Director: Danielle Brauer
Technology Director: Bryant Cobarrubias

Little Wolf Jr./Sr. High School

Grades 7-12
Phone: 920-596-2524
515 E. 4th Street
Principal: Daniel Wolfgram

Manawa Elementary School

Grades PK – 6
Phone: 920-596-2238
800 Beech Street
Principal: Michelle Pukita

Paving the Way

Phone: 920-596-2526
407 S. Bridge St.
Director: Danielle Brauer

Manawa Board of Education

President: Joanne Johnson
Vice President Russ Johnson
Clerk Bobbi Jo Pethke
Treasurer Hélène Pohl
Director Russell Hollman
Director Stan Forbes
Director Bruce Scheller

Board Meetings:

Regular Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except April – 4th Monday) in the Board Room located at the Manawa Elementary School at 7:00 pm. Any additional meetings are duly posted on the district's website, in the City Hall and at Sturm Memorial Library. For additional information please contact the District Office at 920-596-2525.

The Board of Education and Administrative Team would like to thank all the individuals, groups, and businesses that so generously contribute to the District. Your gifts of money, time, materials, and talents support and enhance programs for all our students and staff!

The School District of Manawa does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

Mission Statement:

The School District of Manawa is the place where students choose to excel academically and realize their strengths.

Vision Statement:

The School District of Manawa engages students to reach their full potential in a changing global society through highly effective instruction and leadership.

Website Accessibility

The School District of Manawa strives to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of all district residents. Anyone finding district information or website functionality to be inaccessible to persons with disabilities is asked to contact the District Webmaster, Mr. Cobarrubias, by telephoning 920-596-5737 or emailing him at: bcobarrubias@manawaschools.org

The following links provide direct access to the School District of Manawa Policies related to Section 504 and Title II along with the names and contact information for the District's 504/ADA Compliance Officers and can be accessed from the district website under Board of Education > Board Policies > Link to Policies:

- 2260.01 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY
- 1623 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 3123 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 4123 - SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- 2260 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- 1422 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 4122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The School District of Manawa's Section 504 and ADA Compliance Officers are as follows:

Carmen O'Brien
Business Manager
School District of Manawa
800 Beech Street
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-5332
cobrien@manawaschools.org

Daniel Wolfgram
High School/Junior High School Principal
School District of Manawa
515 E. Fourth Street
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-5310
[dewolfgram@manawaschools.org](mailto:dwolfgram@manawaschools.org)



WAYS YOU CAN HELP MANAWA SCHOOLS

Boxtops Needed – Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and Huggies.

STEP VOLUNTEERS:

Senior citizens can save on their property taxes by volunteering in the schools through the Senior Tax Exchange Program. Contact Ruth Lord, Director at 920-596-5673 for more information.

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANAWA** is the place where **STUDENTS** choose to **EXCEL** academically and realize their **STRENGTHS**.