



RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Author Mark Tatulli

Monday, October 6

Picture Day

Tuesday, October 7 (flyer attach)

Conferences

October 9th - 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

October 14th – 4:30-8:00 p.m.

These scheduled conferences are student led with your child's advisor. If you have not scheduled your conference, please call the main office at 668-4040.

Wednesday October 15th will be "open" conferences for you to drop in to meet with the other teachers.

After School Flyer Attached

Curriculum News

6th Grade Health & PE (Loch)

Last week, we wrapped up fitness testing, and have now moved on to our first team sport unit: lacrosse. The experts from Homegrown Lacrosse will teach students the basic skills. Following a week of skill development, students will get the opportunity to play in a modified game.

In Health, we will begin to look at the many health resources we have available to us. Students will analyze the best resources in school, online and in the community.

6th Grade Science (Halbach)

In Science, students will begin working on applying the practices of an engineer learning target. Students will learn the engineering design process and have opportunities to put it into practice by creating actual products or models. This will lead to a large project where students will be assessed on their ability to perform the engineering design process of making and testing a product. After that, we will begin to determine the differences between scientists and engineers.

This provides a great opportunity for Ramsey parents to be involved! Mrs. Halbach's Science class will be hosting a Science and Engineering Career Day on Thursday, October 30th. I would like 3-4 parents working in the science and/or

engineering fields to come and speak to my 6th Grade Science classes. Your talk should include information about what your work day is like and you may share some examples of the work you have done. This could include visuals or telling stories, etc. and last about 15 minutes. I need volunteers to speak in each of my classes. If you are available to speak to more than one class, that would be great too!

The times that I am looking for volunteers for Science and Engineering Career Day (October 30th) are:

Period 1 (9:10 AM-10:00 AM)

Period 2 (10:04 AM-10:54 AM)

Period 3 (10:58 AM-11:48 AM)

Period 5 (1:02 PM-1:52 PM)

Period 6 (1:56 PM-2:46 PM)

Please email Beth Halbach at elizabeth.halbach@mpls.k12.mn.us if you are interested in volunteering to speak at Career Day!

7th Grade Health & PE

Last week, we wrapped up fitness testing, and have now moved onto our first team sport unit: lacrosse. The experts from Homegrown Lacrosse will teach students the basic skills. Following a week of skill development, students will get the opportunity to play in a modified game. In Health, we will begin to look at the many health resources we have available to us. Students will analyze the best resources in school, online and in the community. Additionally, students will learn general rules to follow when locating valid and reliable websites.

8th Grade English Language Arts

We are reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. In the first half of the novel, we examined the utopian qualities of the community in which the story is set. As we move into the second half, students will begin to discover the problems in the community and the choices the main character must face. We continue to work on critical thinking skills through reading, writing and a variety of discussion formats. Students are saying that between ELA and Social Studies, "We're writing so many essays!" We're happy to see continued improvement in their skills. Students are also reading a choice dystopian novel at home, which we will periodically compare and contrast with *The Giver*. If you have not checked the Parent Portal, please do so to see your child's progress.

8th Grade Global Studies

We have been collecting many tools for our Global Studies toolbox before we start our journey around the globe! We began the year predicting the biggest global concerns and examining education through the lens of some remarkable students in Afghanistan, Brazil, Japan, India and Kenya. It was an amazing journey and it really opened our eyes to the world. We have learned the A.R.E. method for asserting our opinion using civil discourse, and we have been practicing it a lot! We have analyzed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and are learning about international organizations set up to protect these rights. We will evaluate them and see how well they are doing in each country we study. The UDHR will be our focus as we begin our journey learning about the world, and the A.R.E. and the Habits of Mind will be a few of our tools.

Ramsey Middle School Welcomes Author Mark Tatulli

Ramsey Middle School will be hosting author Mark Tatulli (author of the Desmond Pucket series and creator of the comic strip Lio) for an all-school assembly on Monday, October 6. Following this assembly, a celebration for students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge will be held in the media center.

6th Grade Field Trip to Camp St. Croix

Ramsey Middle School's 6th Grade Team is getting excited about our upcoming field trip to Camp St. Croix, and we are hoping you and your student are as well! We will be at camp from Monday, October 20 through Wednesday, October 22, and will arrive back at Ramsey in time for busses on Wednesday afternoon. Please be sure your student packs light and appropriate clothing for the weather.

As a reminder, permission slips and fees are due Monday, October 6th. There are scholarships available if the camp fee is too great at this time. We don't want money to be the reason students do not participate in this great opportunity!

If you have any questions regarding the Camp St. Croix field trip, please contact your student's advisor.

Scheduled Conferences - Thursday, October 9th and Tuesday, October 14th - 4:30-8:00 p.m.**Drop-in Conferences - Wednesday, October 15 - 8:00 a.m. - Noon**

We have been working hard to get ready for your child's goal-setting conference. In each of your child's classes, teachers have been working with students to choose meaningful goals. During advisory classes, we have also been working with your child to identify strengths and areas for growth. We are excited for the opportunity to sit down with you and your child at conferences.

We have successfully hired interpreters for the families who requested these services. The interpreters will be here to help facilitate the conferences.

We look forward to discussing ways to help your child achieve his/her goals. Please try to arrive 5 minutes before your scheduled time.

Wednesday, October 15, is an opportunity for you to drop in to talk with your child's other teachers.

Querido Padres y/o Guardianes,

Hemos estado trabajando duro para la conferencia de fijación de metas de su hija/hijo. En cada una de las clases de su hijo/hija, los maestros han estado trabajando con los estudiantes para elegir metas significativas.

Durante las clases de asesoramiento, también hemos estado trabajando con su hijo para identificar fortalezas y áreas de crecimiento. Estamos entusiasmados por la oportunidad de sentarnos con usted y su hijo en las conferencias.

Hemos contratado con éxito intérpretes para las familias que solicitan estos servicios. Los intérpretes estarán aquí para ayudar a facilitar las conferencias.

Esperamos con interés las maneras de ayudar a su hijo a alcanzar sus metas. Por favor trate de llegar 5 minutos antes de la hora programada.

Picture Day

Picture Day is Tuesday, October 7, which is this coming Tuesday. The forms went home this week in Advisory classes so look for that in your student's backpack. There are a limited number of scholarships available. If you need a Lifetouch picture scholarship, please contact Mary Beth Wyne, Social Worker, or Vicki at 612-668-4040.

Yearbook wins 3 Honorable Mention Awards!

Entourage Yearbooks has awarded our yearbook Honorable Mentions in Cover Design, Page Design and Photography for 2014! The cover was drawn by **Emma Foley**. This is pretty big for a small group of kids who met an hour a week before school to put the book together.

Didn't get a copy of the yearbook? We have extras! Visit Vicki in the office to buy one.

For more on the awards here is the link:

http://www.entourageyearbooks.com/YearbookContest.asp?academic_year=2014&school_category=MIDDLE%20SCHOOL

Ramsey Middle School Celebration-Eligible

Ramsey is proud that we were recently designated by the State Department of Education as a "Celebration-Eligible" site. This means that we have exceeded expectations for proficiency, growth, and addressing the achievement gap in both reading and math. We are very happy about this recognition by the state. More information about our school will be shared during our first site council meeting on October 28th at 4:00. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at paul.marietta@mpls.k12.mn.us

Stock Your Pantry

Want to stock your pantry for the weekend? Ramsey, with the support of The Sheridan Story, is starting Fuel Up Fridays. If your family needs food support, e-mail Ramsey School Social Worker, MaryBeth Wyne, at <Mary.Wyne@mpls.k12.mn.us> to participate or to get more information. Participation is confidential, free and no application is needed. Contact us to Fuel Up your family for the weekend!

[Ramsey PTA is planning to increase our fundraising efforts this year.](#) This funding is critical for supporting individual classroom teachers, arts and sports, and providing scholarships to ensure all Ramsey kids can participate in field trips and extracurricular opportunities. Looking to the future, we hope that our fundraising efforts will enrich the Ramsey experience for all of our kids and build our Ramsey community. There are a couple easy ways to contribute to Ramsey fundraising efforts: When you shop at Target with your RedCard, designate Ramsey as your beneficiary school; and, when you shop at Kowalski's, put your receipt in the Ramsey mailbox.

Mark your calendars for two fundraising events! The Monster Dash (October 25th) and Give to the Max Day (November 13th). We still need volunteers to help with the Monster Dash and for fundraising in general. Want to help out with fundraising? Please contact Beth Gyllstrom at bethgyllstrom@yahoo.com

Fundraising Events! Volunteers Needed!

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Media Center Volunteer Start Up Meeting

Interested in helping out (or even just hanging out) at the Ramsey Media Center? Come to the next Volunteer Start Up meeting on Tuesday, October 28th from 2:30-3:30 PM in the Media Center.

Find out what's involved, what's where and ask questions. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Bridget McGinnis (bfginnis@gmail.com) or Ann Prentice (ann@annprentice.com).

Gather. Read. Explore.

MPS is looking for volunteers who like to plan their calendars way in advance!

MPS is beginning work on the calendar for SY 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. They are looking for 2 parents from Area C who would like to serve on the Calendar Committee. Last time around, we looked at staff development days, school breaks, school year start and finish, added days for heat and/or snow days. It was an interesting process and a chance to work with other parents, students and MPS staff. Let Charles Spolyar, PTA President (charles@spolyar.com) know if you are interested, and he will pass on your name.

Upcoming Events:

Oct 15-17 - No School MEA

Oct 20 - 22 - Camp St. Croix for 6th Grade

Oct 20 – After School Classes Start this Week

Oct 25 - Monster Dash - Hand out candy AND earn money for Ramsey!

Nov 13 - Give to the Max day

Student Hours – 9:10 a.m.-3:40 p.m.

Office Hours – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Office – 612-668-4040

Fax – 612-668-4040

Somali – 612-668-4045

Spanish - 612-668-4032

Attendance Line – 612-668-4030

Transportation – 612-668-2300