

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN



MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 1, Issue 3
November 2012

It's Give to the Max Day!

Please consider [supporting the Ramsey PTA](#) today. It's easy to make an online donation, and your donation could help us win one of the hourly \$1,000 drawings. Your generous support helps enrich the educational experiences of students and staff. Gifts of any amount from friends and family are welcome and appreciated as well. Click [here](#) to support our school.

A Note from Principal Marietta

Dear Families,
We are really starting to find that sweet spot at Ramsey where kids are totally into their routines and staff members have found their grooves. As I go through classrooms, I am continually amazed with the level of engagement. There are many things that we will continue to refine as we go, but, by and large, we feel proud of what has been accomplished. From an iPad pilot program to student-led conferences, we continue to strive to be experimental. Preliminary survey information from community members is overwhelmingly positive. If you haven't already done so, please [complete the survey](#) on our website.

Now that we are in the swing of things, it is time to begin to look forward. School Choice time in Minneapolis presents an opportunity to start talking with prospective parents about our program. Please consider attending a prospective parent/current parent meet-and-greet in January or participate in our scheduled tours at Ramsey. We thank you for all your support!

One last note: Your kids may have noticed that all the male teachers have mustaches. "Movember" is a movement about raising awareness for male-based cancers in the month of November. Please feel free to [visit our website](#) (team name Ramsey Middle School Staff) to donate to this cause.

Contact Information

[Join Our E-Mail List](#)
[Ramsey Middle School website](#)
[Ramsey PTA website](#)

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Thu, Nov 15
[Give to the Max Day](#)

Tue, Nov 20
9-10 am PTA Coffee and
Conversation
6:30-8 pm PTA Meeting

**Tue, Nov 20 and
Wed, Nov 21**
NO AFTER-SCHOOL
CLASSES

Nov 22-23
Thanksgiving
NO SCHOOL

Dec 10-14
Spirit Week

Fri, Dec 14
School Dance

Update on Ramsey After-School Classes

After-school classes at Ramsey are in full swing! We have a small but diverse offering of classes this term, and students really seem to be enjoying them. Here are a few upcoming items to note:

There are no after-school classes Thanksgiving week (Tuesday, November 20, or Wednesday, November 21). Classes resume the following Tuesday, November 27.

In GEMS and GISE, we plan on entering three teams for the Lego Robotics tournament in January. Students are working hard to create their own robots, which they will program to perform tasks related to the theme "Senior Solutions." If you know of a senior who would be interested in sharing his or her perspective with these students, please e-mail [Linda Madson](#) or call 612-668-4044. It would be an added bonus if the senior has some teaching or math/science background.

The Math and Science Family Fun Fair takes place on Saturday, November 17, at Coffman Union on the University of Minnesota campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event with activities and exhibits for the whole family. Make your own earthquake, create color-changing jewelry, or attend one of the very popular "Physics Force" exhibits. [See the website](#) for more details.

The Student Creativity Festival takes place on Thursday, November 29 at the Science Museum of Minnesota, from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is a special event for our GEMS/GISE students. We currently have limited tickets available for this event, which allows students to spend a school day at the Science Museum attending unique exhibits and events of their choice. In our GEMS/GISE classroom, we are using these tickets as an incentive for students to do their best work. We may be in need of chaperones for this day-long event. If you could join us, please e-mail [Linda Madson](#) or call 612-668-4044.

On Monday, December 17 at 7 p.m., Ramsey's After-School Choir will join Washburn's choirs for their Holiday Concert! We will be singing two pieces with the Millers, and perhaps one of our own. Parents of choir students will be contacted soon about logistics and possible extra practices. Please come and support our brand-new Ramsey Choir and get a glimpse of where they're headed musically at Washburn. It's a great event to get in the holiday spirit!

Thank you for all your support as our program gets off the ground. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [JoEllyn Jolstad](#), Community Education Coordinator, or [Linda Madson](#), ALC Coordinator, at 612-668-4044.

Join the PTA on November 20

Parents are encouraged to share thoughts and input with the Ramsey PTA, which will meet on Tuesday, November 20 from 9 to 10 a.m. for coffee and conversation and again from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for the monthly meeting. Both meetings take place in the Media Center.

Collect Change, Create Change

Ramsey students will be reaching out to victims of Hurricane Sandy by collecting loose change and other cash donations that will be sent to help an organization in need with relief efforts. Please bring any size donation to advisory classes between November 19 and November 21.

Rhinos Support Toys for Tots

Ramsey will be an official drop site for [Toys for Tots](#). New toy donations can be made from December 3 to 19. Students and parents are especially encouraged to bring toy donations to the school dance on Friday, December 14.

Get Your Spirit On!

Rhinos unite! Get ready to show your Ramsey pride the week of December 10-14. Look for more information to come from the student council about Spirit Week activities, including a dance on Friday, December 14. Parents are welcome to attend the dance and enjoy coffee and dessert with other Ramsey families.

Students Take Part in Second Step

The Ramsey advisory theme for Quarter 2 is empathy. Advisors at Ramsey will begin teaching a district-wide social-skills curriculum called Second Step. Second Step is a researched-based, comprehensive social-skills curriculum for Pre-K to 8th Grade. Second Step lessons focus on empathy, impulse control, and problem solving. Lessons are

sequential, developmentally appropriate, and provide opportunities for modeling, practice, and skills reinforcement.

The curriculum includes discussion, teacher modeling, coaching skills, and role playing. Advisors will continue to use the Circle of Power and Respect, and they will also include a weekly lesson from Second Step. Second Step supports our philosophy of explicitly teaching pro-social skills that are needed to navigate middle school. It is the highest-rated social-skills curriculum, receiving a 5-star rating from the U.S. Department of Education.

Parents can [view the curriculum outline](#), talk to their children about what they discuss in class, and reinforce those skills at home. If you are interested in learning more about improving a child's academic success, you can visit the [Committee for Children](#) website and look at the Community tab. You can also contact [Kate Houghton](#), MPS Social-Emotional Learning District Program Facilitator.

Raising Dollars at the Dash

On Saturday, October 27, a handful of Ramsey students, future Ramsey students, parents, and siblings volunteered at a water station at the Monster Dash. Thanks to everyone who helped by pouring more than 100 gallons of water into cups for the 4,000+ runners and cleaning up the station afterwards. Their volunteering earned \$500 for the Ramsey PTA. Special thanks to Charles Spolyar for coordinating the fundraiser.

'Tis the Season for Colds!

Ramsey students are quickly going through the boxes of donated facial tissue. We would greatly appreciate any additional tissue and hand sanitizer donations. Items can be dropped off in the main office or in any classroom. Thank you!

Next Publication Date: December 13

The next issue of *Around the Horn* will be published on Thursday, December 13. Please send any [submissions to the editors](#) by Friday, December 7. To sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter, please send an e-mail request to opt-in to the mailing list to ramseymcommunications@gmail.com.



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