

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 1, Issue 5
January 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

Happy New Year from all of us at Ramsey! I feel very good about everything that we have been able to accomplish so far this first year. We share the pride with you in seeing the progress your children have made.

This is the time of year when we start planning for the next school year. School-choice time in Minneapolis is when families are making decisions for next year. During this time, we need your help! Here are a few things you can do:

- Talk up your experiences. Nothing helps promote a school more than word of mouth. Encourage your neighbors with students at various elementary schools, public and private, to take a look at our program. We host tours every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. and every Friday at 10 a.m.
- Participate in our upcoming Ramsey Family Dinner on January 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. We would like our current and prospective families to have a shared experience. Following a potluck dinner, we will have information sessions for current families on Standards Based Grading, and iPad integration efforts. We will host tours and have a Q&A session for prospective parents. [See the website](#) for more details.
- Provide a testimonial. As we accumulate promotional material, I would love to include your voice. If you feel comfortable, please [share with us](#) a short testimonial of how Ramsey has benefited your child.

I would like to invite you to the various opportunities we have for you to learn more about our program. Every third Tuesday, we have an informal "coffee with the principal" at 9 a.m. This is

Contact Information

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

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Fri, Jan 11
School-Wide Spelling Bee

Tue, Jan 15
5-6 pm
School Science Fair

Fri, Jan 18
Record-Keeping Day
NO SCHOOL

Mon, Jan 21
MLK Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL

Wed, Jan 23
6-8 pm
[Ramsey Family Dinner](#)

Thu, Jan 24
District Spelling Bee

for people who cannot attend the evening PTA meeting, or who prefer a more informal setting for conversation.

Also on the third Tuesday, the PTA meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We attempt to make these meetings more than the traditional PTA meeting that discusses fundraising, etc., by focusing on various educational topics relevant to our program. So far, we have covered *STEM/Arts Integration* and *Raising Joyful Readers*. We have more great topics planned for the remainder of the year.

Please stop in for coffee and discussion at 9 a.m. on January 15. There will not be a PTA meeting that evening; instead, join us for the Ramsey Family Dinner on January 23.

It was this week last year that I was interviewing for the position here at Ramsey. This has been the most exciting professional year of my life. I am thankful every day to be able to work with you and your children!

PTA Update

There will not be a PTA meeting on the evening of January 15. There is, however, a presentation at Southwest High School that night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. called ["Why Kids Do What They Do: A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain."](#) It is open to anyone interested in attending. We will still have our usual coffee and discussion the morning of the 15th at 9 a.m. in the Media Center.

World Savvy Challenge Launches This Month

At Ramsey Middle School, we have an interdisciplinary, project-based intercession between first and second semester at the end of January. This year's intercession is the [World Savvy Challenge](#). The World Savvy Challenge engages middle- and high-school students in project-based learning and collaborative problem-solving around a global theme.

This year's theme is sustainability. Students will work together to research sustainability, identify a local problem, and develop solutions to the problem at the local, national, and global levels.

The World Savvy Challenge is being introduced during advisory this week. Intercession will be January 22-25. Students will have a modified schedule during the intercession. [See the website](#) for more details.

School-Family Compact Coming Soon

The Family Engagement Council has created goals for family engagement as well as a [school-family compact](#) that will be going home during the first week of the second semester. The compacts should be signed and returned to your child's advisor.

Extra, Extra!

Ramsey journalism students make headlines with their first issue of the school's online news journal. Learn more about the elective journalism class and read *The Stampede* [here](#).

After-School Class Updates

After-school classes resumed this week and end Thursday, January 17. Our spring session starts Tuesday, January 29 and ends Thursday, May 9. Registration forms go home with students this week, so please look over our great offerings and send your forms back as soon as possible. It takes up to two weeks to secure buses once we receive your registration. New courses for spring include Rocketry (GEMS/GISE), and Introduction to Theater. We hope all of our fall students continue, and we welcome all Ramsey students to the program.

GEMS/GISE Students Compete in Lego Robotics Tournament

On Saturday, January 19, our GEMS/GISE students will show their robotic programming skills at the [Lego Robotics Competition](#) and Exhibition at Anishinabe/Anne Sullivan School. Ramsey's group consists of three teams--two boys teams and one girls team--who have programmed their Lego robots to perform tasks that simulate daily activities of senior living. The competition starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends around 5 p.m. Students involved in the competition have received details about the tournament, but if you have further questions, please e-mail [Linda Madson](#) or call 612-668-4044. Come support our Rhino engineers!

Receipts at Kowalski's Benefit Ramsey

Ramsey Middle School will soon have a receipt box at Kowalski's on Lyndale. Through its Groceries for Good Causes program, the store will donate money each quarter to organizations based on how many receipts

are in the boxes. Because there are more requests from schools and organizations than there are boxes available, the organization with the lowest number of receipts is removed each quarter. Ramsey was the lowest last quarter, so our school will not have a box there this quarter. Ramsey will be added again in the early part of April. Please remember to put your receipts in the Ramsey box when you shop at Kowalski's this spring, and tell family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your support of Ramsey Middle School!

Do Rhinos Tweet?

Ramsey Rhinos do! Follow @Ramseyrhinos on Twitter for all the latest school news.

Next Publication Date: February 14

The next issue of *Around the Horn* will be published on Thursday, February 14. Please send any [submissions to the editors](#) by Friday, February 8. To sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter, please send an e-mail request to opt-in to the mailing list to ramseyscommunications@gmail.com.



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