

# RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 2, Issue 5  
January 2014

## An Update from Principal Marietta

What a strange start to the new year! Many schools were closed at the beginning of the school year because of extreme heat; the recent extreme cold resulted in the same outcome. In spite of Mother Nature's efforts, we are glad to be back in session and back to our regular routine.

Our first semester officially ends on January 16. Report cards will be coming out shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that we will have our Standards Based Report Cards ready for distribution, so we will be defaulting to the composite score for each class instead of the individual breakdown of each specific learning target. If you have questions about Standards Based Grading, please [visit our website](#).

As we enter our second semester, we are taking a full week to immerse our students in a robust Intersession experience. We still need volunteers for field trips and specialty classes. Please [fill out the online form](#) if you are interested in helping! See our website for more information about [Intersession](#).

We will have our next Site Council meeting on February 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Topics will include an update on budget, staffing, and programming for next year. This meeting is open to all.

We love to share why Ramsey is such an outstanding school, so we look forward to two events in the coming weeks: our Information Night on January 21 and a Multicultural Potluck followed by a prospective family tour on February 6. The potluck is a great opportunity for our current families to mingle and to meet new families as well.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please [send me an e-mail](#).

## Counting Down to Intersession

Intersession occurs at the beginning of second

## Contact Information

[Join Our E-Mail List](#)  
[Ramsey News Archives](#)  
[Ramsey Middle School website](#)  
[Ramsey PTA website](#)  
[Parent Portal](#)  
[After-School Classes](#)

612-668-4040

## Important Dates

**Fri, Jan 17**  
NO SCHOOL

**Mon, Jan 20**  
MLK Day  
NO SCHOOL

**Tue, Jan 21**  
6 pm  
Information Night for  
Prospective Families

**Tue, Jan 21**  
6th Grade Field Trip  
7th Grade Courage  
Retreat

**Jan 22-24**  
Intersession

**Sat, Jan 25**  
9 am - 2 pm  
School Choice Fair at  
Minneapolis Convention

semester. Students will attend grade-level field trips on Tuesday, January 21. Wednesday through Friday (January 22-24) students and teachers take a break from regular classes to explore topics of special interest in depth. These vary from year to year, but the purpose of Intersession is to engage learners through unique, project-based authentic learning experiences.

This year's offerings include building CO2 cars, knitting hats for a local charity, dissecting sheep brains, and much more! Further information can be found on the [Ramsey website](#). If you are interested in volunteering to help out with Intersession, please [sign up here](#).

## Seventh Graders Commit to Courage

On January 21, seventh-grade advisers are providing all seventh graders with a Courage Retreat hosted by Youth Frontiers. We decided to go off site for the day's activities: Our meeting place is Mount Olivet Church; however, the church is not facilitating this non-religious retreat.

The day will be filled with music, games, and small group sessions. The day's objectives are for students to deepen relationships with classmates to break down social barriers, to identify personal fears and understand that everyone has them, and to commit to acting with courage to make our school a better place.

Youth Frontiers is known for providing fun and engaging experiences. We have asked student leaders from Washburn to join us for the day, so we will not need parent chaperones, and we respectfully request your child's independence during this experience. Also, we ask students to wear comfortable clothing appropriate for physical activity (i.e., not skirts).

Learn more about Youth Frontiers in this [MinnPost article](#) or by viewing this [Youth Frontiers video](#).

If you have questions about the retreat, please [contact Holly Kragthorpe](#).

## Ramsey Welcomes Prospective Families

If you know families with soon-to-be sixth-graders, please encourage them to attend the Ramsey Informational Night on Tuesday, January 21 at 6 p.m. or the Multicultural Potluck on Thursday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m.

## Center

**Thu, Feb 6**  
Multicultural Potluck  
Dinner  
5:30 pm Dinner  
7 pm Prospective Family  
School Tour

**Thu, Feb 6**  
4-8 pm  
Empty Bowls Community  
Fundraiser at MLK Jr.  
Park

**Thu, Feb 13**  
Evening Conferences  
4:30-6:30 Drop-ins  
6:30-8:30 Appointments

**Fri, Feb 14**  
NO SCHOOL  
Conferences  
8-10 am Appointments  
10-noon Drop-ins

**Tue, Feb 18**  
9:30 am Coffee and  
Conversation with  
Principal Marietta

**Tue, Feb 18**  
4:30 pm  
Site Council Meeting

**Tue, Feb 18**  
5 pm  
Arts Booster Club  
Inaugural Meeting in the  
Media Center

**Tue, Feb 18**  
6:30 pm PTA Meeting

At the January 21 event, families will gather in the auditorium for a presentation by Principal Marietta, followed by tours provided by student ambassadors and parents. If you have questions, please [e-mail Bridget McGinnis](#).

## PTA Update

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***Volunteers Needed for School Choice Fair.*** Help represent Ramsey on January 25 at the district-wide School Fair Showcase at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Ramsey will have a table there from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you can volunteer for all or part of the time, please [e-mail Bridget McGinnis](#).

***Need Rhino Gear? Spirit Wear Available for Purchase!*** Support Ramsey by picking up some blue and gray Spirit Wear for your young rhino and yourself. Items include pajama pants, long- and short-sleeve t-shirts, hats, and sport towels. Spirit Wear will be available for purchase during the Ramsey Information Night on Tuesday, January 21 (6-7 p.m.), on Wednesday, January 22 (3:30 to 4 p.m.), and on Thursday, February 6 at the Multicultural Potluck dinner. You can also purchase Spirit Wear anytime by [e-mailing Jan Sadusky](#) or by calling/texting 612-240-9874. She can set up a convenient time for pickup in the office.

### ***Next PTA Meeting: February 18***

The Social Studies Department will be our featured topic at next month's PTA meeting on February 18 at 6:30 p.m. If you can't make it to the evening meeting, please stop by Ramsey for coffee and conversation with Principal Marietta that day at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center.

## Try New After-School Classes This Session

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Another session of fun and learning with after-school classes through Ramsey Community Education has begun! In addition to the great classes we had in the fall, we have added some new classes to our schedule, including History Day Support and Greek Cooking. Red Cross Babysitting training starts on Thursday, January 16 and group ukulele lessons with Twin Town Guitars are starting Wednesday, January 22.

Community Education classes at Ramsey are on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school, from 3:40-5:40 p.m. Students receive a snack, and bus transportation home is available to students who live in the Ramsey busing area. Registration forms are

available in the main office or can be downloaded from the [Ramsey website](#). If you have questions, please call the Community Education office at 612-668-3450.

## Join Us for Food and Fun on Feb. 6

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Ramsey's Multicultural Potluck Dinner gives families a chance to celebrate their heritage and to mingle with current and prospective families. The dinner, presented by the PTA and Family Engagement Council, begins at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a tour of Ramsey for prospective families at 7 p.m.

Please bring a culinary dish to share that has a connection to your family's ethnicity. We will have labels for your dish so that you can write down its name, ethnicity, and key ingredients. Try to divide your dish into 30 to 40 servings (small samples are OK!) and bring a serving utensil for it if needed. We will provide plates, napkins, eating utensils, and water. Get to know families of different backgrounds! Families will also enjoy entertainment by the Jazz Band and will be able to view the Student Work Showcase.

## Students' Art Benefits the Community

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Ms. Cedarleaf Dahl's art students made clay bowls for Empty Bowls, an event to build community relations and raise funds for Nicollet Square, a home for formerly homeless youth in Kingfield. Attendees of the event purchase a bowl of their choosing (made by area youth and professional artists) and fill it with soup as part of a large communal meal that will take place on Thursday, February 6 from 4 to 8 pm at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. [Learn more online](#).

## Send Us Your Submissions

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If you have any suggestions or contributions for the next issue of *Around the Horn*, please [send an e-mail to the editor](#) by February 7.