

NOVEMBER 7, 2014

AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

from the desk of **PRINCIPAL PAUL MARIETTA**



REPORT CARDS

It is hard to believe that we are already through our first quarter. Report cards will be mailed in the next few weeks. We recommend that you continue to use the parent portal to see up-to-date information on your child's performance.

Our belief is that homework is important for practice and learning, while assessments are used for demonstrating mastery. Therefore, more weight is assigned to your child's assessments and quizzes. In other words, when you look at the parent portal, please encourage your child to retake assessments or quizzes if necessary.

DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

As the weather gets colder, I want to emphasize that our building is open to students after 8:50 AM. If they have an appointment to meet with a teacher, they are able to enter before 8:50 AM with a pass from that teacher.

In the past, students were allowed to sit in the stairwells, or the doorway, but with 650 students this year we can no longer accommodate this practice. Our official school day begins at 9:10 AM. Please do not drop off students before 8:50 AM in the cold weather!

Minneapolis Kids is an option for your student/s if you need to drop them off before 8:50 AM. To check the availability of Minneapolis Kids, please call 612.668.3890.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

There are some changes on the horizon at Ramsey.

First of all, we are exploring the Community Partnership Schools initiative with the district. This may allow Ramsey to sustain some of the innovative practices that we initiated as a new school, while continuing to grow.

We recently shared a draft of preliminary “autonomies” from the district, and will share this information more broadly with the community in the next few weeks.

The best source of information about what the district is calling “Community Partnership Schools” can be found at:

<http://newschools.mpls.k12.mn.us/partnership>

COLLABORATION WITH WASHBURN

A few weeks ago a group of parents, teachers, and administrators from both Washburn and Ramsey met to discuss potential collaboration.

There have been a lot of rumors around the community about 9th grade being at Ramsey, or a shared campus. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding the future collaboration.

Washburn is a thriving and growing high school in our community and we look forward to our continued partnership as our 8th graders become 9th graders.

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Lastly, we will begin our Give to the Max campaign next week. I will send an additional email to you with more information about this important fundraising campaign for our school. Thank you for all you do for your children and our school community.

- PRINCIPAL PAUL MARIETTA

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Need Wrapping Paper?!? No? Didn't think so...so Give to the Max!

Don't forget! The Ramsey PTA is participating in the Minnesota Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 13th!

Supporting our school has never been easier! Simply click on this link anytime throughout the day and make a donation; any amount makes a difference. Give to the Max also works on mobile devices, so you can donate whenever it's most convenient for you. An added bonus, Metro Transit is giving out free passes at GiveMN.org (no purchase or donation is required).

Finally, keep your eyes open early next week to learn what our very own Principal Marietta has planned for this day...all we'll say right now is it might involve a costume and a stunt as part of the Principal's Challenge!

RAMSEY SPIRITWEAR AVAILABLE

Ramsey spiritwear is available to order now through Tuesday, November 11. This is pre-order only, so don't miss out.

Look for the order form sent out in an email last week, or pick up an order form in the school office.

Colors, sizes, and styles are listed on the order form.

Questions? Contact Jan Sadusky at rmsspiritwear@hotmail.com or at 612.240.9874.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Ramsey PTA is sponsoring Toys for Tots again this year.

You can drop new, unwrapped toys in the school office during regular school hours beginning Wednesday, November 19 through Wednesday, December 17.

- THE RAMSEY PTA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 11

8th Grade EXPLORE Assessment

Thursday, November 13

Give to the Max Day

Tuesday, November 18

PTA Meeting

(featuring the Science department)

6:30 PM

Thursday, November 20

Native American Family Day

Thursday, December 4

Orchestra and Choir Concert

7:00 PM

Thursday, December 11

Bands Concert

7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 16

PTA Meeting

(featuring the Social Studies department
and Transition to High School)

6:30 PM