



# AROUND THE HORN

**RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**DECEMBER 20, 2014**

**CURRICULUM  
NEWS AND NOTES**

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## INTERSESSION

In the week of January 20-23, 2015, Ramsey Middle School students and staff will take a break from regular classes to study topics of special interest, such as CO<sub>2</sub> Cars, Dancing the Dabke, and many, many more options!

We are seeking parent volunteers to support this special work. If you are available to help out for one day or many, please fill out our volunteer survey clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

[https://docs.google.com/a/mpls.k12.mn.us/forms/d/18vWTK0SF\\_xCHJ3CFKcXmggYNa-l3xN6UkTHTd0wxkqI/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/mpls.k12.mn.us/forms/d/18vWTK0SF_xCHJ3CFKcXmggYNa-l3xN6UkTHTd0wxkqI/viewform)

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## ELA 6 | BAUCK AND MARR

Students in 6th grade ELA have just finished their Seedfolks unit exploring the question: “How can one person impact a community?”

We had a very successful Café Lit performance last week where students were able to share their personal narratives about a time an impact was made on them, and showcase their illustrations for parents and peers. We spent the last week before break determining our classroom spelling bee finalists and writing one more reader’s response before January.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, December 22 –  
Sunday, January 4, 2015**  
No School (Winter Break)

**Thursday, January 15, 2015**  
First Semester Ends

**Friday, January 16, 2015**  
No School (Record Keeping Day)

**Monday, January 19, 2015**  
No School (Presidents Day)

**Tuesday, January 20, 2015 –  
Friday, January 23, 2015**  
Interession

**Monday, January 26, 2015**  
Second Semester Begins

**Friday, January 30, 2015 –  
Saturday, January 31, 2015**  
Seussical, Jr. Performances  
7:00 PM

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**  
School Request Application Deadline

## ELA 6 (CONTINUED) | BAUCK AND MARR

After break, students will be working on some close reading strategies and taking the ELA benchmark assessment. Shortly thereafter we will begin our Touching Spirit Bear unit where we explore themes about justice and tie it into what students learned in Minnesota Studies about the injustices of the US/Dakota War. Students will use this knowledge and their own ideas about justice to compose a persuasive multimedia essay.

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## SOCIAL STUDIES 6 | CISCO AND SOMMERS

We've spent this last part of December finishing up one unit – Westward Expansion and the making of the state of Minnesota – and beginning another – The US Civil War and Minnesota's involvement in it (not the happiest of subjects to end the year!).

After break, we will continue our investigation into the choices Minnesotans made in both the US Civil War and the US/Dakota War of 1862. We will look into the causes and consequences of each of these wars to the lives of everyday Minnesotans.

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## ELA 7 | BAUCK

Students in 7th grade ELA with Mrs. Bauck are in the middle of our second novel of the year, The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake.

After break, students will work on some close reading strategies and take the ELA benchmark assessment. We'll also begin working on independent projects to end our unit, exploring text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world connections to our novel.

## ELA 7 (CONTINUED) | BAUCK

After this unit we'll be reading Diary of Anne Frank – look for more information in January!

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## ELA 7 | WENDER

Students in 7th grade ELA with Mrs. Wender have concluded our two-week media literacy unit (which ended in some riotous advertisements).

Students will return from break to practice some close reading strategies and take the ELA benchmark assessment, and then we will dive into Diary of Anne Frank. Students will start the unit researching various aspects of WWII, including the perpetrators, bystanders, and victims. Then we will narrow our focus to Anne Frank, and her role as a voice from that time.

Please send me an email if you are curious about any resources we are using, or have concerns regarding the subject matter.

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## SCIENCE 7 | FOWLER AND HOLLAND

We are wrapping up our first Chemistry unit. We have discussed some properties of matter including density and melting and boiling point. The last day before break we experimented with dry ice. This allowed us to practice our safety procedures while looking at the properties of a substance and a physical change. When we come back we will be looking at mixtures and pure substances. Have a restful break!

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## SOCIAL STUDIES 7 | KRAGTHORPE AND SOMMERS

7th graders have been juggling between their History Day topics and US Studies curriculum during December. In terms of History Day, students have already chosen a topic to investigate for the project on Leadership & Legacy. Over break would be an excellent opportunity for students to gather primary and secondary sources, visit libraries, and more. We will be moving fast forward into the research part of the project when we return from break.

In terms of US Studies, we've been investigating the causes and effects of the US Civil War. Students have been analyzing the Gettysburg Address and other historical documents to get a sense of the motivations and actions of Union and Confederate leaders and soldiers during this seminal event in US history. When we return from break, we'll pick up with Reconstruction and how the USA tried to heal after the war.

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## ELA 8 | CONSTANT AND MILLER

We have wrapped up our work with poetry and Bronx Masquerade. Ask your student to share his/her extended metaphor poem with you (a spin-off of "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes). At this point all work should have been turned in for The Giver and Bronx Masquerade. Please check the portal to see your child's progress. After break we begin work with Harper Lee's classic, To Kill a Mockingbird.

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## SCIENCE 8 | FOWLER AND SCHULTZ

In 8th grade Science we are investigating our changing Earth. We have explored earthquakes in great depth – why earthquakes happen, where earthquakes happen, and what earthquakes have taught us about the interior of our planet.

## SCIENCE 8 (CONTINUED) | FOWLER AND SCHULTZ

Next we will focus on volcanoes – why volcanoes form, where volcanoes form, and what volcanoes have taught us about the interior of our planet.

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## ART 6, 7, AND 8 | BUTLER AND ELISSA

We are finishing up Unit 2: Sculpture with the Assemblage Mixed-Media Project and a Soft Sculpture Stuffed Animal/Ugli Doll/Yet Monster Project. The students are working hard on learning ways to assemble and work with a variety of 3D materials.

All of the lessons and demo videos for the projects can be found by clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL into a web browser: [https://prezi.com/\\_f38lbqtrkkj/unit-ii-sculpture/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](https://prezi.com/_f38lbqtrkkj/unit-ii-sculpture/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)

The Art room would love donations of felt, fleece, buttons, or do-dads from junk drawers or work rooms. Also, parents can peek into our art room without getting messy! Enter by clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL into a web browser: <http://ramseyart.edublogs.org>

Thank you for supporting Ramsey Middle School Arts!

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## HEALTH AND PE 6 | LOCH

Now knowing the fundamentals of refusal skills and decision-making, students in Health 6 are going to apply those skills to a peer pressure situation in a short skit. Ask your 6th graders about ways they can say “No!” and refuse peer pressure.

## HEALTH AND PE 6 (CONTINUED) | LOCH

In PE 6, students are focusing on their fitness this month in preparation for fitness testing in January. Please encourage your student to find ways to be active in these cold winter months!

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## HEALTH AND PE 7 | LOCH

Students in Health 7 now have an understanding of what an appropriate serving size is, and know how to read a food label. As they prepare for their assessment, please remind your 7th grader to track what they eat for one day. We will be analyzing our diet after Winter Break, and students will set goals to improve their diet.

In PE 7, students are focusing on their fitness this month in preparation for fitness testing in January. Please encourage your student to find ways to be active in these cold winter months!

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## SPANISH A | SUO

We are in the middle of our unit “What Am I Like?” Students in Spanish A have been learning how to describe what they look like and their personality as well as ask others about themselves. When we get back from break we will be preparing to read our first Spanish novel. Once we start the novel, your student may be asking you to listen to them read a passage to practice reading fluency.

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## SPANISH C | SUO

Students just finished writing and filming short skits for our first annual Spanish Film Festival. Each class voted on their favorite student video. The videos were very creative and fun to watch!

We are now moving into a unit where students will be practicing some high frequency verbs in the past tense, as well as practicing asking and answering questions about a text.

## SPANISH C (CONTINUED) | SUO

Coming up at the end of February/beginning of March, students will be taking their high school Spanish Level Placement Writing Assessment. More information about the writing assessment will be communicated in February.

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## ATHLETICS | KENNEDY

Attention all 7th and 8th graders: Don't forget to sign up for the Washburn Sunday Softball Clinics, which will be held Sunday, January 11-Sunday, February 22! These are very affordable and you should make every effort to use this as an opportunity to get ready for the very short high school softball season. Click [here](#) for a description of the clinics and the link to register for them, or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser: <http://washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/softball>

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## SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL | JOLSTAD

There are no rehearsals over Winter Break. Students are asked to study their scripts, music, and blocking notes. All cast is called to rehearsal on Monday, January 5, 2015. At that time the rehearsal schedule for the remainder of that week will be announced. Contact Mrs. Wender, Ms. Kochanowski, or Mrs. Jolstad if you have questions.

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## COMMUNITY EDUCATION JANUARY JAMBOREE | JOLSTAD

Join us for one month of fun and learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:40 PM-5:40 PM from Monday, January 5- Thursday, January 29, 2015! To download a flyer or to find more information, click [here](#), or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser:

<http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>

Some of our classes continue for the entire year. If your student is in these classes, they will receive a confirmation form from their advisor this week listing the classes they will continue to attend. Students who take the bus may have gaps in their schedules to fill, and this has been noted on the confirmations where applicable. Registrations are due as soon as possible in order to ensure a smooth transition into the new year. You may scan and email registrations to us at [jennifer.antila@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.antila@mpls.k12.mn.us), drop them by our office (Room 106), or drop them by the main office. Checks should be made out to SSD #1.

We welcome new students to our program! If your student did not receive a confirmation, you are welcome to enroll for January Jamboree. Please stop by our office or click [here](#) for both the flyer and the Student Information form (which only needs to be filled out once this year), or copy and paste the following URL into a web browser: <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>

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## SAVE THE DATE | RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

The annual Ramsey Middle School Movie Night will be Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM in the auditorium. Come join us for fun and raffles and conversations and – well, an all-around good time! Let's celebrate the end of the first semester together!