



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

JANUARY 9, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS AND NOTES

WELCOME BACK FROM PRINCIPAL MARIETTA

2015 will be a year of more transitions for Ramsey Middle School:

MOVIE NIGHT

Our auditorium renovation is expected to begin on Sunday, February 1, so it can be completed by the start of school next year. Because of that renovation, we have had to move up a few key events, the first of which is our movie night.

Next Thursday, January 15 (we don't have school next Friday), we will be showing the movie *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* in our auditorium. Along with the movie, there will be an opportunity for students and families to purchase tickets for a chance to win fun items and experiences in a drawing.

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

We take great pride in our arts program, and we are excited about our musical this year: *Seussical*. Again because of the auditorium renovation, our students are working hard to prepare for their performances, which are right around the corner. The musical will be performed Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31 at 7:00 PM.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, January 15

First Semester Ends

Friday, January 16

No School (Record Keeping Day)

Monday, January 19

No School (Presidents Day)

Tuesday, January 20

PTA Meeting

(featuring the Math department)

6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 20 –

Friday, January 23

Intersession

Monday, January 26

Second Semester Begins

Friday, January 30 –

Saturday, January 31

Seussical, Jr. Performances

7:00 PM

Thursday, February 5

Multicultural Potluck

Saturday, February 28

School Request Application Deadline

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL (CONTINUED)

At this point, 90 students are involved in the musical in one way or another. A special recognition needs to go out to JoEllyn Jolstad, Hayley Wender, Julida Kochanowski, and Andy Nelson, who are all supporting the program.

INTERSESSION

Also in the month of January, we will be having our Intersession classes (Tuesday, January 20 – Friday, January 23). This is an opportunity to learn a little differently for a week. Students choose classes from a robust set of offerings, and there will also be a field trip for each grade during this time. It breaks up the year nicely and allows students to have experiences outside of the norm. Please be aware and return the necessary permission slips as soon as possible.

STUDENT SCHEDULE CHANGES

As the new semester begins, students' schedules may be changing. The schedule changes this year are amplified due to two factors: First, we are trying to lower class sizes for our sixth-grade classrooms. Additionally, Holly Kragthorpe-Shirley will be departing our school at the end of the semester to work with educational policy issues and the state legislature. Ms. Kragthorpe has been instrumental in the development of Ramsey Middle School. We are thankful for the foundation that she has created. She will continue to impact student learning, now through the lens of educational policy efforts.

PTA MEETING

On Tuesday, January 20, during our PTA meeting, we will be focusing on math at Ramsey. We will also have our second-quarter report regarding performance towards our school improvement goals. Additionally, we will provide more information during the PTA meeting about potential changes for next year. This includes our continued steps towards becoming a "Community Partnership School."

2015 is going to be a great year at Ramsey! We are glad you are with us.

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Principal

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INTERSESSION

In the week of Tuesday, January 20 – Friday, January 23, Ramsey Middle School students and staff will take a break from regular classes to study topics of special interest, such as CO₂ 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

WELCOME BACK FROM THE RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA

Welcome back from Winter Break (and from the bonus “Cold Day”)! We have a lot of things happening this winter that we want you to join us for:

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night is Thursday, January 15. This movie night is earlier than last year because we need to get it in before the auditorium closes for renovation. The movie, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2*, will be a fun way for families to kick off the four-day Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the movie starts at 6:30 PM. Admission to the movie will be \$5.00 per family and includes one drawing ticket. Popcorn and snacks will be available to purchase.

There will also be drawings for great items! Students, family, and friends can buy tickets prior to the drawing (each chance will be \$1.00, but you may enter as many times as you want). Items will include gift baskets, gift cards, and events hosted by Ramsey staff. Drawing items will be available to bid on at lunch on Wednesday and Thursday for students who won't be able to attend the movie.

We will need volunteers to help at this event. You can sign up now by clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544ABAA2AAAFE3-movie>

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

Ramsey Middle School students are working incredibly hard to bring the world of Dr. Seuss to life; however, we need your help! If you have any half-full paint cans lining your basement wall, or leftover painting supplies taking up unnecessary space, please donate them to the *Seussical* Set Team!

Over Intersession, students will be putting together the *Seussical* set, and we need your help to make it possible. If you have donations, you may either bring them to the school office, or bring them to Room 111. The cast and crew of *Seussical* thank you for your support!

INTERSESSION

Intersession begins on Tuesday, January 20. This will probably be the week students remember the most out of the year. Help is still needed. Please sign up by 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-13xN6UkTHTd0wxkqI/viewform

We are also in need of snowpants, heavy-duty mittens, hats, and good winter boots for a small group of students during Intersession. If you have any we could use or borrow, please drop them off in the office for Kara Cisco. Put your name in them if you want them returned.

IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

If your child needs a hat or some mittens please call social worker MaryBeth Wyne at 612.668.4048 or send your student to her office during school to pick some up.

SPRING CLEANING IN JANUARY?

Does your house seem to be a bit smaller than before the holidays? Have you accumulated more stuff than you had anticipated? Well, now is the time to start thinking about what you no longer need, but what someone else might want.

Ramsey Middle School school is going to be participating in a virtual garage sale with a few other local schools and organizations from Friday, February 20 – Friday, March 20 because we support re-using, re-cycling, and raising money for our wonderful school. All the proceeds of your gently used, donated goods will go to supporting Ramsey.

So start organizing your items, because someone else could use your student's outgrown sporting gear, you don't really need four crock pots, and that tent in your basement is collecting dust, and someone else could use it! More details to follow – stay tuned!

DO-DADS AND JUNK?

And if you find that some of that stuff would be better categorized as random do-dads and small junk (not worth selling), please consider putting it in a box and dropping off for the Art department. We are in need of lots of small junk scraps for our Semester 2 Assemblage Project.

STUDENT DIRECTORY

It's here! If you haven't received it, be sure to check your student's backpack. We realize that a lot of families aren't included in the directory, but we are sending the directory to all families.

We would like for everyone to be included, however. While it is too late for this year's print version, you can still add your family to the electronic version of the directory by clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

<https://www.myschoolanywhere.com/new-family.a5w?fam=RamseyMiddleSchool15164>

Please note that the directory is a PTA project and doesn't (and can't) use the school's list of families. The only way to be included in the directory is to send us your information.

PTA MEETING

This month's meeting features the Math department and takes place on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM.

MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK

This event takes place Thursday, February 5. Look for more information in the coming weeks from the Family Engagement Council.

TWINS GAME

Join us – along with families from Burroughs and Lyndale – to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Chicago White Sox on Friday, May 1 (really, the cold and snow will go away). Tickets will be \$11.00 each and will need to be purchased by Friday, April 10. Order forms will be coming soon.