



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 6, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS AND NOTES

Unfortunately, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and the groundhog in Wisconsin bit the ear of the mayor, so I can only assume we still have a lot of winter to go. February is an interesting time at school as we continue to operate the school and prepare for testing, but we are also in an important planning time for next year.

NEW STUDENTS | MARIETTA

The most important shift for next year is that we will be welcoming 160 new students from Richard Green Central Park. All of the students who currently attend Green Central will be coming to Ramsey next year (essentially 50 students per grade level). It will help Ramsey maintain a more sustainable program, allowing us to function as a true middle school with full teams at each grade level.

Additionally, the students at Green are going to gain access to a more robust program than they have been provided in a smaller K-8 school. The students at Green currently live in our attendance zone, and they pathway to Washburn. This will make our school demographic match that of Washburn, solidifying the K-12 pathway.

IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, February 6 –
Saturday, February 7**

Northpoint Health and Wellness Center
Free Dental Clinic

Monday, February 9

National African American
Family Involvement Day

Wednesday, February 11

6th Grade Vision Rescreening Test

Friday, February 13

No School (Parent-Teacher Conference Day)

Monday, February 16

No School (Presidents Day)

Tuesday, February 17

Site Council Meeting
PTA Meeting

Friday, February 20 -

Friday, March 20

Virtual Garage Sale

Saturday, February 28

School Request Application Deadline

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS PROPOSAL | MARIETTA

In addition to the increase in students, we continue to pursue the Community Partnership proposal that will allow us to sustain much of what we had enacted as a “new school” over the last three years. Our hope is to gain higher levels of autonomy to help us continue our 1:1 iPad program and human resource flexibility. Ramsey is special because of the people who work here. We want to continue to have the latitude to staff the building with the best teachers in each classroom.

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY INVOLVEMENT DAY | MARIETTA

There is still much to be accomplished this year and many opportunities to stay engaged. This coming Monday is National African American Family Involvement Day. We invite you to have lunch with your child and attend a few of their classes with them. At 3:00 there will be an opportunity to have a small group conversation with me in our conference room.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES | MARIETTA

School conferences are Thursday, February 12th from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM and the morning of Friday, February 13, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The conference schedule is:

Thursday, February 12 - 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

- 6th Grade - Scheduled Conference Appointments Only - Room 115
- 7th Grade - Drop-in Conferences - Front half of Media Center
- 8th Grade - Drop-in Conferences - Back half of Media Center
- Math Teachers - All grades - Drop-in - Math Classrooms
- Elective Teachers - Drop-in - Media Center

Friday - February 13 - 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- 6th Grade - Drop-in Conferences - 2nd Floor Gym
- 7th Grade - Drop-in Conferences - Front half of Media Center
- 8th Grade - Drop-in Conferences - Back half of Media Center
- Math Teachers - All grades - Drop-in - Math Classrooms
- Elective Teachers - Drop-in - Media Center

SITE COUNCIL AND PTA MEETINGS | MARIETTA

On February 17th, we will have a Site Council meeting at 4:30 PM to have our “State of the School” and discuss next steps for the Community Partnership Proposal. All parents are invited to attend the Site Council meeting. Following the site council, we will have our monthly PTA meeting. The curricular focus for the PTA meeting this month will be math. Our math teachers will lead a discussion on what mathematics instruction looks like at Ramsey and how you can help your child succeed. This will also be open to all families.

AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES | JOLSTAD

There will be no After School Community Education Classes on Thursday, Feb. 12 due to parent-teacher conferences.

A GREEN IDEA | GREEN TEAM

Ramsey Middle School's Green Team has organized a fundraiser that you can be a part of, without paying any money! What we would love for you to do is donate old cell phones that you might otherwise throw away. We will have a bin for them right by the school office at all times. Then, at school activities such as plays, movie nights, and other get-togethers, we will bring it to the auditorium right by the ticket booth.

You may be wondering what we could possibly use these for. Some of us also had the same question when a member of our team brought up this idea. We then did some research and found an answer. The Minnesota Zoo has a program that recycles old cell phones called "Recycle for Rainforests." What they do with them is donate the working ones, and then sell the unusable ones for the metals. All of the money raised is then used to preserve the rainforest and the animals living there in Africa.

So, if you would like to help our effort to help save the rainforest, then simply bring an old phone of yours or anyone else's you know and drop it in the box. We appreciate your support of our green idea.

FEED THE TEACHERS | PTA

Let's help feed our hardworking and devoted teachers on Thursday, February 12 when they put in a long day for conferences.

Items can be dropped off at Ramsey on Wednesday or Thursday. Please have items at Ramsey no later than 3:30 PM on Thursday. Non-perishable items may be dropped off in the PTA room. Perishable items should be taken to the office. Please label dishes, utensils, or items otherwise needing to be returned. They can be picked up in the PTA room on Friday.

To sign up click [here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-dinner), or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-dinner>

RAMSEY RENDEZVOUS ON SALE NOW | PTA

Are you looking to fill your social calendar with some unique and fun outings? Hang with friends and meet new ones? We have the perfect opportunity for you...Ramsey Rendezvous!

What's a Ramsey Rendezvous you ask? You may already know them as Great Gatherings, Adventures, or FUNdraisers from your elementary school. But for those uninitiated, Ramsey Rendezvous are social gatherings that Ramsey parents host in their homes and elsewhere.

Tickets will be sold online starting on Thursday, February 5. All proceeds help support and enhance Ramsey classroom activities. Events range in price and activities in order to appeal to all families and interests.

To view our current list of Ramsey Rendezvous and sign up click [here](#), or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ramseyptafundraising/ramsey-rendezvous>

Additional events will be added as they become available. If you're interested in hosting or co-hosting an event, please contact Beth Gyllstrom at bethgyllstrom@yahoo.com

REUSE, RECYCLE, AND RAISE MONEY FOR RAMSEY | PTA

You've gathered a few items over the last few weeks that you want to donate for the virtual garage sale, proceeds of which will benefit Ramsey, so now what?

Exchange for Good is an online consignment service. You will have an opportunity to designate Ramsey as the recipient of net proceeds from your sales. To get your items posted to the website click [here](#) (or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser:

<http://fs30.formsite.com/exchange4good/form1/index.html>) and fill out a description of your item, define the price, designate your method of communication for a potential buyer and upload a photo. Once you submit your item(s), you will receive an email confirmation that your item(s) has been received. Your item will go live on the website (<http://www.exchange4good.com>) starting February 20.

After February 20, potential buyers may contact you for additional information. If your item has sold, it will no longer appear on the website. The buyer should contact you to schedule a pickup of the item and you should ask them to bring along a copy of their receipt (via phone, tablet or paper copy) so you know the transaction went through. Exchange4Good will take care of getting the funds to Ramsey.