



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 9, 2015

CURRICULUM NEWS AND NOTES

ELA 6 | BAUCK AND MARR

Our Community unit is coming to a close, and this week students are prewriting and drafting their own personal vignettes (short stories), modeled after the vignettes from our class novel *Seedfolks*. We are also doing an arts integration with Ms. Elissa, our fabulous art teacher. Students will be creating self-portraits to go along with their stories. This unit will end with Cafe Lit, a two day performance where we transform our classrooms into coffee (or hot chocolate!) shops and students take turns sharing their stories and presenting their artwork. This year Cafe Lit will take place on January 6 and 7 - look for more info about the day/time your student will be sharing soon.

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IMPORTANT DATES

December 3rd-16th
Warm Clothing Drive

December 10th
Choir concert 7:00-7:45

December 15th
Orchestra concert 7:00-7:45

December 17th
Concert/Jazz band concert 7:00-8:00

December 18th
Daytime music assembly

December 21st-January 3rd
No school – Winter break

January 6th
PTA Treats for Teachers

January 12th
PTA Meeting 6:30-8:30

January 14th
Varsity/Beginning Band concert 7:00-8:00

January 15th
No School – End of 2nd quarter

SCIENCE 8 | KOUPAL AND SCHULTZ

Our WEATHER AND WATER unit is quickly coming to an end. After investigating Earth's climate over time, we will take the unit test next week before winter break. After winter break we begin our second major unit of the year, CHANGING EARTH. In this unit we will investigate many exciting topics including earthquakes, plate tectonics, volcanoes, and the rock cycle.

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SOCIAL STUDIES 8 | JACQUES AND MILLER

Our Southwest Asia/North Africa unit focuses on Jerusalem and the three monotheistic religions (Islam, Judaism, Christianity) that refer to Jerusalem as their Holy City. In our diverse world and city it is more important than ever to raise consciousness amongst people in order to combat intolerance. Hot topics include; are we more similar than different? Can there ever be peace? How does the media paint an inaccurate picture of monotheistic religions? We will close this unit by looking at social movements, like The Arab Spring.

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ARABIC A,B,&C | FARAH

Arabic A

Level A students have finished the Arab World countries Project and they did very well in presenting an Arab country that they have chosen. Now we are covering the weather and the climate in the four different seasons.

Arabic B&C

Level B & C students have finished working on their pottery piece of art as we integrated Art in the Arabic class this year for the first time. Students really enjoyed working in class with clay and creating their own piece of art and we finalized the project by writing a small paragraph in Arabic describing the pottery piece and their experience in working with clay.

ART 6,7,&8 | CEDARLEAF-DAHL AND BUTLER

Students are finishing some clay bas relief (or low relief sculptures). They have just come out of the kiln and students will glaze (color) them right before break. Thanks to all the parents that helped us get our brand new kiln! It is spectacular and we are so happy to have a reliable and excellent tool. Many more wonderful ceramics coming in the future. We are starting our final unit, Painting and Color. Students will have time to complete a color wheel and make an individual painting before the semester ends.

If you would like to help out the Art Dept, we could really use reams of cardstock (index) paper in white and other colors for our drawing projects! Below is a list of student with Still Life drawings displayed at the MPS Headquarters Art Gallery. Congratulations!

Erin Thill	Alice Duncan	Sean McAneney
Kate Romanelli	Ava K	Winnie Hoyt-Niemiec
Gigi D.	Arlette	Emma Foley
Laura Weil	Anyia Jackson	Faruk
Ivan	Dayanna F.	Chloe Bitney
Andrew Renville	Abril Perez	Jacqui Kelly
Jesdel E-N	Zoe H	Grace F
Julianna Harritt	Susan	

AVID 7&8 | WERNER

AVID students had their first career-focused guest speaker just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Students heard from a county judge, learning about his background, including his education, past work experiences, and what the job of a judge entails. Students asked great questions!

Students also continue to work on Tutorials, which are student-centered, inquiry-based study sessions that occur every Tuesday and Thursday in class. Students should be coming with their "TRF" (tutorial request form) completed every Tuesday with a question that they need their classmates' assistance on. The model teaches students how to effectively collaborate to answer academic questions - a great skill for high school and college!

STEM | BUTLER AND REMILLARD

Students finished Sound Unit and successfully made instruments that are playable, re-producible and sound pretty good! We've moved into an electricity and circuits mini-unit. This week students are making Brush Bots. Essentially they are homemade Hexbugs. Our design challenge is to create an obstacle course for the bots to travel around and through.

Shameless STEM plea: we need shoe boxes. If you have regular sized shoe boxes please send them to the art or STEM room with your student. Thanks so much!

ESL 6 | SUO

We have been reading an article called Yes, Aliens (probably) Do Exist. This article discussed the scientific possibility of whether or not aliens exist. Students also completed researched on our space. Students just finished a class discussion where they shared their opinions on if they believe aliens exist or not. We will be spending the time between now and winter break working on our writing, specifically on grammar and adding good details.

PTA UPDATE

Next Meeting: January 12th, 2016 6:30-8:30

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many people who supported Ramsey PTA on Give to the Max Day! We raised \$6,100, which will be put to good use supporting our students and teachers. We so appreciate your generosity during this hectic holiday season. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warm Clothing Drive – Student Council

December 3 - 16: Please consider donating new and gently used (clean) warm clothing to benefit Sabathani Community Center -- scarves, hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, etc.

Rhino Report – Student Newspaper can be found on the RMS web page.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Vision Screening:

On January 14th, every 6th grade student will have a vision test administered by the Phillips Eye Institute. Parents will receive written notification about this test after winter break. We are seeking parent volunteers to assist with managing students during the vision testing. Shifts are as follows:

January 14th: 9:45-11:45 OR 11:45-1:45

January 29th – Make up date. 11:00-1:00

If you can help, contact Kate Goeddeke at Kathleen.Goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us

Organics Recycling is coming to Ramsey!

Hooray! Ramsey will be starting an organics recycling program (composting) in the next months! We will collect organics separately from the trash and recycling in the lunchroom.

We need volunteers in the cafeteria to help students as they learn to separate organics (food scraps and other compostable material) and mixed recycling from the rest of their lunch trash. The time commitment is 2 lunch shifts per month (11:41-1:03).

If you are interested in helping on this important committee, please contact Kate Goeddeke kathleen.goeddeke@k12.mn.us.

Intersession

After first semester, on January 19 – 22nd, we will have Intersession. This week is filled with some “untraditional” classes and field trips for the students. Classes will include Guitar, Knitting, Social Activism Through Art, Theater Set Design, and more! It provides a nice break in the year before we begin the second semester. Thanks to a few parents who have already committed to volunteer! We could still use more parent volunteers. If you are available to help for a half day, a full day, or more than one day, please contact Kate Goeddeke at kathleen.goeddeke@mpls.k12.mn.us.