



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

JANUARY 27, 2016

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS & NOTES

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the year. Monday we began a new semester at Ramsey Middle School. Many students have a new elective class in their daily schedule and it's a great opportunity for students and staff to start fresh.

Wow! I really enjoyed my first intersession. I spent two mornings leading my winter hiking class in the neighborhoods surrounding school. I also spent time in many interesting, creative classes. What a fantastic experience! Thank you to the many volunteers that helped make these few days possible. From our staff and students, we deeply appreciate your support.

In addition to the robust offerings during Intersession, students and staff celebrated cultures and new successes that truly represent the diversity within our school.

- Ms. Abir Ismail, a math teacher at Ramsey, in partnership with PTA, hosted an amazing Egyptian dinner with over 100 people in attendance.
- Ms. Rita Farah hosted our first ever Arabic Night was a new event at Ramsey this year and was hosted by our very own Arabic teacher, Ms. Rita Farah. She shared Arabic culture, food and dancing with 100+ people who attended. I even learned to dance the Dabke and it was quite fun.
- For the first time this year Ramsey had students compete in the State of Minnesota Future City Competition. Three teams of 8th graders represented RMS. Ultimately, Ramsey took home an Honorable Mention trophy as well as trophies for Best City Infrastructure and Best First Year team, bringing out total to 3 awards for the day. Only the winning team (Olson Middle School of Bloomington) managed to take home more awards. This was a tight competition between 41 teams! Thank you Mr. Koupal for your time with this group!

These are only a few highlights from the last week! I continue to be inspired by our students' dedication and impressed with the diverse gifts and talents that all our staff and students bring to Ramsey each day.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 3rd

Treats for Teachers

February 4th

Multicultural Pot Luck/

Ramsey Open House

February 6th

MPS School Fair Showcase

February 8th

MPS African American

Parent Involvement Day

February 11th

PTA Feed the Teachers dinner

February 11th-12th

School Conferences

February 16th

PTA meeting

Great things are happening at Ramsey Middle School!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Online school request site is open. Requests due by March 5th!

For elementary and middle school requests <http://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us>
And for high school requests please visit <http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us>

For the 2016-17 school year, please use the school request site to request:

- o A school for an incoming kindergartner
- o A new school for a current K-11th grade student
- o A middle school (only if your 5th grader wants to request a school other than the middle school pathway)
- o A high school for all incoming 9th graders

The site is easy to use and requires your address with zip code to learn more about your school options.

MPS School Showcase
Saturday, February 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center
<http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us>

One-stop opportunity to meet school principals, staff and parents to help inform your school search. Free parking and child care available. Spanish, Somali, Hmong & Oromo interpreters on-site to assist families.

Questions? Please call 612.668.1840 or 612.668.3700

Spanish/Español: http://ramsey.mpls.k12.mn.us/feria_escolar
Somali/Soomaali: <http://ramsey.mpls.k12.mn.us/soomaali>
Hmong/Hmoob: <http://ramsey.mpls.k12.mn.us/hmoob>

Celebrate African-American Family Involvement Day on Feb. 8

At Ramsey:

Look for details soon about our reception for African-American Families on Feb. 8th

District event:

As a parent, you are a school's strongest ally in helping students achieve success. Let's strengthen this partnership by having fun together! Join us for a great, free, family event.

What: African-American Family Involvement Day

When: Monday, Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m.

Where: Roller Garden, 5622 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park

We look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday February 11th and Friday February 12th are Parent Teacher Conferences. Thursday evening conferences are reserved for group conferences with the core teaching team. Teachers will reach out to families to request a conference. Families may also contact your child's advisor if you have concerns and wish to schedule a conference. Priority is for students that the team

identifies. Friday morning is for all families to come for drop-in conferences with individual teachers.

Thursday, February 11 4:30 - 8:30 - scheduled by teachers (in teams)

Friday, February 12 8:00 - 12:00 - OPEN Drop-in

Multicultural Night and Information Night for Incoming Families

This fun Ramsey event will take place on February 4th, from 6:00-8:00 PM. This is an evening to build community and welcome incoming families. The staff will share general information about the school as well as offer an opportunity for a tour hosted by our student ambassadors.

This same evening our Ramsey PTA is also hosting a multicultural pot luck dinner. We encourage our families to bring a dish to share that represents their culture. New families are welcome to bring a dish to share or simply enjoy conversations with current Ramsey families at the pot luck event.

The schedule is as follows:

5:30 Set up begins

6:00- 8:00 Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share!

6:00- 6:45 Welcome and presentation in the auditorium for incoming families

6:45-7:45 School Tours

Current Ramsey families, please help make this event great by **signing up for a shift:**

5:30-6:15: Set up/Welcome table

6:45-7:30: Clean up

Spirit Wear will be available for purchase at the Multicultural Pot Luck event!

Drop Off/Pick Up

With the winter upon us, I cannot stress enough the need to keep our children safe. For this reason, please do not allow your children to arrive to school too early. Children are not allowed in the building before 8:10 AM unless they have a scheduled meeting with a teacher. I also want to remind parents that the drop off and pick up location for the children is on 49th Street. This keeps our students safe as they arrive and depart each school day.

After School Classes

Our new After School session is off to an exciting start. Students may still register for these classes. Please contact JoEllyn Jolstad at joellyn.jolstad@mpls.k12.mn.us for more information or you can pick up an information packet outside the office.

Spring Musical

The “cat is out of the bag” as they say. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be the spring musical this year. This show is open to any Ramsey student who wants to participate. Auditions will be on Monday March 7th and Tuesday, March 8th. Auditions are to determine roles and no one will be cut. Everyone will be cast in the show. More information will be coming soon.

Transition to High School:

The High School Request Center is now “live” on the Student Placement website. This means that all students, with their families, can sign-up for their high school of choice for the 2016-2017 school year. The website is: <http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/> and the deadline is March 5th. Please email the school counselor at carolyn.tibbetts@mpls.k12.mn.us if you have any questions.

Recycle your Gift Cards

Give them to Ms. Vicki in the main office. She will make them into guitar picks. Make sure there is a zero balance on the cards before you donate them!

PTA NEWS

Teacher Appreciation Treats Day is February 3 (and the first Wednesday of each month)! Show your appreciation for this amazing staff with a little treat. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544abaa2aaafe3-teacher>

Next Meeting

February's PTA meeting on Tuesday, 2/16 will be focused on high school choice as well as the transition to Washburn High School. Our counselor, Carolyn Tibbetts, will talk about how it all works. We have also arranged a panel of parents of 9th grade students who transitioned from Ramsey to Washburn this year. They will share their experiences and insight. Please note there is a time change for the night: We will meet from 6:30-8:30.

Conference Dinner

Let's help feed our hardworking and devoted teachers on Thursday, February 11th when they put in a long day for conferences. Items can be dropped off at Ramsey 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.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544ABAA2AAAFE3-dinner3>

Ramsey Rendezvous 2016!

The latest Ramsey Rendezvous offering is on our site--the ever-popular Hunt & Gather shopping spree event is slated for Thursday, Feb. 25, and tickets are available now. Click on the link below for tickets to the event.

[Ramsey Rendezvous - Ramsey Middle School Fundraising](#)

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Host Family needed

Washburn High School has a male German exchange student who needs a home for second semester! Lasse Scholz is a 17 year old from Hamburg, Germany. He has been a B student at Washburn and participated on the Cross-Country and Nordic Ski teams.

Please contact Washburn school counselor, Herb Crowell, at herb.crowell@mpls.k12.mn.us if interested and able to host Lasse!

Media Center

Help keep the media center well organized. Our goal is to have volunteers 5 days per week. Sign up for whatever dates work for you and in the notes column, please write what time you will be coming. Volunteering can be done as a single volunteer, or two people can come together, double the fun! Instructions for volunteering can be found in the attachment. Thanks for helping in the Ramsey Media Center!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544ABAA2AAAFE3-media4>
