



# AROUND THE HORN

**RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### Note from Principal Janecek

Hello Families,

Since the opening of Ramsey Middle School 4 years ago, one of the pillars of student engagement has been learning through the use of technology, specifically iPads. The use of this learning tool has created unique opportunities for our students to demonstrate their thinking and creativity, which we fully support. Technology is constantly evolving and we do our best to keep up with those changes. We recently learned that one of the apps frequently used in our classes, Pic Collage, is evolving into the realm of social media. The change in the app means students can “follow” each other extending to other users of the app beyond Ramsey or other MPS students. Therefore, the district’s Integration Technology Team has determined that this is no longer an appropriate learning app and we are in the process of deleting the app from the iPads.

We are working with our teachers and site based Tech Team to review other app’s that provide a similar experience for our students. The district is exploring a different version of Pic Collage for students 12 years old and younger. We want to continue to ensure a safe and positive learning environment for all our students and will communicate with all of you any school wide technology changes we make moving forward.

**Amy Janecek**  
Principal  
Ramsey Middle School

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> 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

## IMPORTANT DATES

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Feed the Teachers dinner

**February 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

School Conferences

**February 16<sup>th</sup>**

PTA meeting

**February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Illusion Theater production for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**

History Day – 7<sup>th</sup> grade

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

School request deadline

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

## **8th GRADE ANNOUNCEMENT**

On Thursday, February 18, the Illusion Theater will be visiting Ramsey to perform for 8th grade students. The show, "Keepin' It Real", is about real-life issues students face in high school. Please look for your 8th grader to bring an information letter home on Thursday for more information about the program. All students will participate unless parents choose to have students opt out by sending the signed letter back to your child's advisor.

## **CURRICULUM NEWS & NOTES**

### **ELA 6 | BAUCK AND MARR**

During 3rd quarter students will explore a variety of short texts, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, in order to answer our Essential Question: *what can these texts teach us about humans and human nature?* We will take 1-2 weeks for each text, practicing a variety of reading strategies to help us comprehend, analyze, and respond to what we read. The final project will be a portfolio of short responses and an art integration project that connects the Essential Question to at least one text. This unit will help prepare students for the Reading MCA, which will take place for 6th graders the week of April 11.

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### **SCIENCE 8 | KOUHAL AND SCHULTZ**

In 8th grade science we continue investigating "CHANGING EARTH." Students have explored how earthquakes and volcanoes change the surface of our planet and have developed a working understanding of the theory of plate tectonics to explain why these events and changes happen. Next we will be digging into Earth's crust to explore rocks, minerals, and the processes by which rocks and minerals form. Keep your eyes and ears open for examples of our CHANGING EARTH in the news! Real life examples are a great way to apply and see the importance of the understandings we develop in class.

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### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8 | JACQUES AND MILLER**

In 8th grade global studies we are writing our Model UN position papers. In these papers students are able to really put all of their country research to good use as they assess their country's current policies regarding refugees and come up with viable solutions. The next phase of this project involves getting ready for the model UN simulation on March 2. Ask your student about their country's stance on refugees and what solutions they have in mind!

## ELA 8 | CONSTANT AND WRIGHT

We are nearing the halfway point of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. We are trying to figure out what's going on with Boo Radley, and if he'll ever come out of his house. (Those of you who know, please don't give this away to your student!) Students are analyzing the book through a variety of writings and discussions.

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

Students with Ms. Elissa and Ms. Butler will be drawing in their first unit. They will experiment with multiple media, pencil, chalk and oil pastel to create expressive line and contour line. The culmination of many experimental drawings will be a still life where student groups design their own composition and draw using a full range of value, shadow and light.

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## AVID 7&8 | WERNER

In both AVID classes, students are working on improving their skills for the AVID Tutorial process. Students are reviewing how to ask higher level questions, how to present in small group tutorials and how to participate/ask questions of their classmates to help them to answer their questions.

Each week, students bring in questions that they have prepared (including vocabulary and where they are stuck) so that their tutorial groups can help them to solve their problem or answer their question. When students bring in higher level questions, Tutorials lead to in-depth conversations about different classes that students have at Ramsey.

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## ESL 6 | SUO

In 6th grade ESL we just finished WIDA testing. We have started reviewing similes and metaphors. We have also just started studying odes. This week we started pre-writing our own odes. We will be presenting our odes to the class. After writing poetry, we will begin a research project about invasive species in Minnesota. This project will take us almost to spring break.

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## HEALTH & PE | HENDERSON

6th Grade HPE:

In Phy Ed we just finished up the Basketball unit & we will start Soccer next week.

In Health, we are in the middle of our Goal Setting/Decision Making unit.

8th Grade HPE:

In Phy Ed we just finished up the Basketball unit & we will start Soccer next week.

In Health, we are in the middle of our Alcohol, Tobacco & other Drugs unit.

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## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### **NO Drop Off/Pick Up in the parking lot!**

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. Do NOT drive into the parking lot to drop off or pick up your students! There have been a number of dangerous situations where staff or students were nearly hit by cars driving a loop through the parking lot.

Additionally, 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.

### **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-11<sup>th</sup> grade student
- o A middle school (only if your 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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](mailto:carolyn.tibbetts@mpls.k12.mn.us) if you have any questions.

### **Community Education:**

The second session of after school classes has begun at Ramsey. Visit [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com) to view classes and register online or download a paper registration form: [http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/ramsey\\_youth\\_w16.pdf](http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/ramsey_youth_w16.pdf).

Registration for the Ramsey Musical, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”, will open next week! Placement auditions for roles in the cast begin on Monday, March 6. There will also be a Technical Crew class on Mondays and a Costume Crew class on Tuesdays starting the week of March 14. Flyers will be passed out in Advisory and registration can be done via paper, in person, over the phone, and online at [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com). Call the Community Education office at 612-668-3450 for more information.

There will be enrichment classes for Youth and Adults this summer at Ramsey. Registration for all Minneapolis Community Education summer programs opens on Monday, March 7 at 9:00am at [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com).

### **Ultimate Frisbee is Here!**

Ramsey Middle School students can join an Ultimate Frisbee team this spring. Registration is open to boys and girls interested in this co-ed, worldwide, non-contact sport. Teams of seven players work together to win points by moving a flying disc into the opponents' end zone. It's fun and fast-paced. No previous Ultimate experience is necessary.

The team will practice after school at MLK park twice a week with games on weekends against neighboring middle school teams. The league starts the week of April 11 and goes until the first part of June. To register and find more information, click on Spring League at [www.youthultimateprogram.org](http://www.youthultimateprogram.org).

## PTA NEWS

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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! More Ramsey Rendezvous Now Available!

Spring is coming soon...so now is the time to sign up for new Ramsey Rendezvous. On April 23rd, the Ramsey Spring Scavenger Soiree...so if you love to mix a little healthy competition into your social life...this is the event for you. on May 15th, don't miss the 8th Grade Moms' Coffee...hard to believe they're heading off to high school! Let's celebrate!! And...in case you've missed it, tickets are still on sale for the Hunt & Gather party on Feb. 25th. This is an amazing night of shopping and socializing!

Details and tickets for all three events are available:

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

### Teacher Appreciation Treats Day

The next chance for you to show your appreciation for our fantastic Rhino teachers is March 2<sup>nd</sup> (and the first Wednesday of each month)! Bring a treat to show your appreciation for this amazing staff. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544abaa2aaafe3-teacher>

## 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](mailto: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>