

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 2, Issue 3
November 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

As the seasons change, so do the opportunities at Ramsey. As many of you know, Ramsey has been in the news a lot recently. First, there has been a great deal of discussion about the 5-year enrollment plan from the district and the proposal of a potential 6-12 shared-campus with Washburn. The proposal is to help accommodate growth in our region of the city. There are many benefits that could emerge from this collaboration. The Ramsey Site Council has been diligently advocating for more time to implement the proposal. I am optimistic that we will be afforded that time to plan purposefully so that it is beneficial for everyone involved.

The second piece of news is in regards to our school's recognition as "celebration eligible" by the State Department of Education. This is a recognition for meeting or exceeding expectations for proficiency and growth. We are very pleased with this recognition in only our first year! Additionally, the national conference for the Association of Middle Level Educators was in Minneapolis recently, and 60 educators from around the world came to Ramsey to learn more about the innovative practices we have begun to implement. The responses from this visit were overwhelmingly positive.

Please encourage friends and family to support Ramsey TODAY as part of their Give to the Max donations. These funds funnel directly to our students' education.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please [send me an e-mail](#)! One of my favorite things is connecting with parents and the community.

Give to the Max...TODAY!

Contact Information

[Join Our E-Mail List](#)
[Ramsey Middle School website](#)
[Ramsey PTA website](#)
[Homework Help](#)
[After-School Classes](#)

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Thu, Nov 14
[Give to the Max Day](#)

Nov 14-26
Advisory Penny Wars

Nov 18-21
4-5:30 pm
Boys and Girls
Basketball Tryouts

Tue, Nov 19
9:15 am Coffee and
Discussion with
the Principal

Tue, Nov 19
5-6:20 pm First Sports
Booster Club Meeting

Tue, Nov 19
6:30 pm "Protecting the
Online Footprint"
Seminar in Ramsey's

What if you could help our school win \$1,000 just by giving ten bucks? By making a donation for [Minnesota's Give to the Max Day](#), you could help us win one of the hourly Golden Tickets for schools, which would add \$1,000 to a randomly selected person's donation.

You are [one click away](#) from providing much needed support to Ramsey Middle School via the GiveMN website. As our school grows, so do our needs. The money we raise today will help to fund art, music, sports, classroom programs, media center supplies, school dances, grade-level field trips, and more.

Together, we hope to raise more than \$15,000 on *Give to the Max Day*, and we're counting on your help! No donation is too small. Anyone who makes a donation of any size will be able to view a special message from Principal Marietta. And remember, your donation is 100% tax deductible and eligible for employer matching! We appreciate your support.

U-locks Available for Student Bikers

After a very unfortunate series of bike thefts last month (which just happened to coincide with Bike/Walk to School Day), Ramsey contacted local distributor **Quality Bike Parts**. The company generously donated more than a dozen heavy-duty U-locks for students to borrow if they need one. We now have a program that allows students to check out a U-lock and key from the office to use during the school day.

The Penny Wars are Back!

Starting this week, and concluding on November 26, all advisories will participate in a friendly competition to raise money to keep our bikes safe and contribute to our community. Money raised in the Penny Wars will go towards purchasing additional U-locks for our student bikers and donating to Free Bikes 4 Kids (fb4k.com) to help provide earth-friendly transportation to kids in need.

How do Penny Wars work?

- The object of the game is for each advisory to collect as many pennies as possible during the "war" while simultaneously "sabotaging" the other teams. Of course, the ultimate object of the game is to give the students an opportunity to raise money to support a project that helps others.
- Each advisory collects coins in a see-through

auditorium

Nov 27-29
Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL

- labeled jug, kept in the main office.
- Students bring pennies to school and put their pennies in the container that belongs to their advisory. Their advisory receives one point for every penny in the container.
 - But it gets more complicated: Students may sabotage the other advisories by putting "silver" coins (nickels, dimes, and quarters) or paper money (dollar bills, five dollar bills, etc.) into the containers of the other advisories. Each silver coin or bill subtracts points from that container by its respective value. A nickel subtracts 5 points from the total, a dime reduces it by 10, and a quarter by 25. This is where strategy comes into play. This is why the game is so much fun.
 - There will be two winners to the Penny Wars this year: the advisory with the highest points (after subtracting silver coins and bills), and the advisory with the heaviest jar.

Don't have many pennies at home? Head to the bank and exchange some bills for penny rolls! Please contact [Kristin Bergsagel](#) with any questions.

PTA Update

A Big Thanks to Monster Dash Volunteers! On Saturday, October 26, seven brave and costumed Ramsey students (along with parents) handed out 5,000 pieces of candy to runners at the Monster Dash in St. Paul. Ramsey volunteers saw a parade of creative costumes, including many "despicable Minions" and even one "Sharknado" among the runners. Best of all, they raised \$500 for the Ramsey PTA for the second year in a row.

If you are a hearty soul, please join us for a similar fundraiser at the upcoming Polar Dash on January 1. Send an e-mail to [Ramsey Volunteers](#) for more information.

Join us for a special PTA event this month. The PTA and Ramsey's Family Engagement Council present "Protecting the Online Footprint" for RMS parents (both current and future). This special event, presented by Alison Feigh of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation will take place on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. \$5 suggested donation.

Designed for parents, caregivers, and teachers, this presentation helps bridge the gap many adults feel when talking with teens about making safe choices with technology. We go past the shocking headlines to provide accurate information and steps to help prevent cyber-bullying, sexting, and the online exploitation of youth.

Childcare for children 10 and under available, but please RVSP to 612-668-4040.

Ramsey Sports Update

Basketball Tryouts Next Week! Tryouts for Boys and Girls Basketball will be held Monday through Thursday, November 18, 19, 20, and 21. They will take place each day from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Lower AND Upper Gyms.

- All students wishing to participate *MUST* have a sports physical turned in to the Nurse's Office or to the Athletic Director, Akua Kennedy, *BEFORE* the first day of tryouts (on Monday, November 18).
- All students wishing to participate *MUST* attend the first day of tryouts (on Monday, November 18).

Get involved with the Sports Booster Club. All Ramsey Sports Fans (for all sports!) are invited to a Booster Club meeting before the PTA meeting on November 19. We will meet in the Media Center from 5 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Agenda items include: mission of the sports booster program, general sports budget, special funding need for winter sports (basketball), and evaluation of fall sports seasons.

Get Involved with Arts Booster Club

The Ramsey Arts Booster Club will have its inaugural meeting before the January PTA meeting. Supporters of Performing and Visual arts are invited to join together to form a group of parents to support our music and art programs. If you are interested in joining the leadership for this club, please contact [Andy Nelson](#) (Band and Orchestra Teacher) or [Nancy Clauss](#) (PTA). Mark your calendars now for the first meeting to be held Tuesday, January 21, 5-6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Get Ready for Year Two of Intersession

Ramsey Middle School Intersession is an experiential learning opportunity that aligns with our school's mission and occurs the week after the last day of semester one. Breaking from normal routine, Intersession empowers learners to explore, innovate, and create. Intersession is an experience in which students, staff, and the community can build relationships, build on strengths, and learn together in new ways. Intersession provides students a way to

explore the yearly theme of relationships through STEM, the arts, projects, service, and field studies.

This year's Intersession format:

- Will occur January 21-24
- Grade-level workshops on January 21
- A catalog of choices for January 22-24, featuring half-day or full-day options, including field experiences
- Workshops and field studies will align with school mission and/or vision
- Community members are invited to help with intersession offerings
- Students will rank their top workshop choices from the catalog and then receive a schedule for the week

Parents and community members are invited to help with Intersession! If you are willing to co-facilitate one of the Intersession workshops, please [contact Holly Kragthorpe](#).

Your Old Shirts Get Another Go-Around

The art room needs 10-15 old, button-down shirts to use as smocks during our clay unit. Please drop them off in the office (attn: Ms. Elissa) if you have any! Thank you!

Communications Volunteers Needed

The Ramsey communications team is looking for parent volunteers to help with monthly e-communications. If you are interested, please [send an e-mail to the editor](#).

3 Ways to Stay Connected at Ramsey

Sign up for [Ramsey E-News](#), which provides this monthly newsletter--Around the Horn--as well as PTA updates.

Sign up for the [Student Directory](#).

Sign up for the [Parent Portal](#).

Send Us Your Submissions

If you have any suggestions or contributions for the next issue of *Around the Horn*, please [send an e-mail to the editor](#) by December 6.

