

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 2, Issue 4
December 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

The shortest day of the year is fast approaching, and to me, it feels like we are packing as much as possible into these very short days!

As the weather turns colder and road and sidewalk conditions get worse, it is important that we remind ourselves of a few key practices here at Ramsey. First, students will have an option to go outside for recess/movement this year through the winter. We will provide that option on days that are above zero. Second, please continue to use 49th Street to drop students off and pick them up. Although it may seem easier to use the parking lot off 50th Street on the south side of the building, a long line of cars can create unsafe conditions for pedestrians, block parked cars, and create a jam on 50th Street. Please use 50th Street only if you are willing to park and walk your child into the building.

Finally we do our best to keep our website up to date on sports-related events. When there is a change, we will alert families via the School Messenger system. If you are not receiving messages from us, please contact the office to provide your contact information.

Please remember there will be no school Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 for winter break. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please [send me an e-mail](#).

New After-School Activities Begin in January

Fall session after-school classes wrap up on Thursday, Dec. 12. The winter/spring session will begin on Monday, Jan. 6. Many classes will be offered again, and a few new options will be added, including History Day Support and Recreational Basketball. Registration forms will be available in the coming week.

Contact Information

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

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Thu, Dec 12
7 pm (students arrive
at 6:30)
Band/Orchestra Concert

Thu, Dec 12
Last day of
Fall After-School Classes

Fri, Dec 13
3:45-6:30 pm
School Dance

Tue, Dec 17
9:15 am
Coffee and Discussion
with Principal Marietta;
6:30 pm
PTA meeting

Dec 19-20
6th Grade Cafe Lit
in English Language
Class

Parents Welcome to Attend Sixth-Grade "Cafe Lit"

Ramsey Middle School invites you to the "Cafe Lit" Vignette Reading on Dec. 19 or Dec. 20 during your child's Language Arts class. Please join us to hear original stories written and illustrated by every sixth grader, inspired by the book *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman, with help from Ms. Bergsagel, Mrs. Marr, and Ms. Cedarleaf-Dahl. Half of the students will be sharing their personal narratives each day, so be sure to ask your child which day he or she will be presenting. Refreshments and good vibes served!

Dec 23-Jan 3
Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

Fri, Jan 10
Noon to 1 pm
School-Wide Spelling Bee

PTA Update

Ramsey Friends and Families Gave to the Max!

On Nov. 14, our school received nearly \$6,000 in donations from Ramsey supporters. These funds directly benefit Ramsey students. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Volunteers Still Needed for School Dance.

Tomorrow after school, students have the option to attend the Friday the 13th-themed school dance. We need parents in attendance from 3:45-6:30 to assist in setting up and taking down decorations; supervising the dance; monitoring the hallways and the movie, *Ghostbusters*; and serving snacks. If you can join us for all or part of the afternoon, [sign up here](#). **Please note:** Students must go to the event directly after school (they cannot leave and return later), and they need to arrange for their own transportation afterwards.

Next PTA Meeting: Dec. 17

The Math Department will be our featured topic at this month's PTA meeting on Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. If you can't make it to the evening meeting, please stop by Ramsey for coffee and conversation with Principal Marietta that day at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center.

Make Memories with the Yearbook Club

This year, the Ramsey Yearbook is becoming a PTA project. Students meet once a week to collect photos, write copy, and lay out the book.

Yearbook Club meets Tuesday mornings before school at 8 a.m. in the computer lab on the 2nd floor.

Students can attend as many or as few meetings as they wish to. We will work with students who can't make the meetings. There is no fee for being part of

the club!

The Ramsey Yearbook Club needs your used digital cameras. The yearbook is underway, and we need digital cameras to capture the day-to-day fun of being a Ramsey Rhino. If you happen to be upgrading your camera this holiday season and no longer need your current digital camera, we'd love to take it off your hands and put it into the hands of a Yearbook Club member.

We are looking for cameras of at least 4 megapixels. Point-and-shoot (compact) cameras are probably easiest for the students, but we can work with just about anything. Please include batteries and chargers if the camera uses them; memory cards would be nice too, but not necessary. Drop off donations in the office collection box.

Encourage New Students to Take a Tour

Ramsey Middle School tours for prospective families are offered every Tuesday and Friday through Feb. 11. The tours are led by current students, Principal Marietta, and other staff. The Tuesday tours begin at 10 a.m., and the Friday tours begin at 2 p.m. Tours will last approximately 60-90 minutes and include a program overview, classroom visits, and an opportunity to ask questions. If you are interested in taking a tour of our school, please [sign up here](#).

Potluck Dinner Moved to February

The Multicultural Celebration Dinner, hosted by the PTA, has been changed from Jan. 23 to Feb. 6. Please mark your calendars, and plan to bring your family's favorite ethnic dish. The dinner will be potluck-style with entertainment and showcases of our amazing diversity of cultures at Ramsey. Not to be missed!

Intersession Classes Coming Soon

Teachers are busy putting together a course catalog for intersession, and students will be able to list their preferences during Advisory. The course options will include arts and crafts, indoor sports, theater, writing, science, and engineering. If there are parents who have an interest in any of these areas and are available to help in classrooms on Jan 22, 23, and 24, please [contact Holly Kragthorpe](#).

Time for a Friendly C-O-M-P-E-T-I-T-I-O-

N

Ramsey students will soon have the opportunity to participate in classroom spelling bees to determine who will compete in the school-wide bee. There will be two finalists per language arts class. The school-wide bee will be held in the auditorium on Jan. 10 from 12 to 1 p.m. If you can help with auditorium supervision, please [contact Holly Kragthorpe](#).

Judges Needed for History Day

Seventh graders are working hard on their History Day research projects. All students will participate in the school level showcase and competition on Thursday, Feb. 28. We will have a showcase and judging during the school day and then a showcase for parents with refreshments from 4 to 6 p.m. that same day. If you can help judge projects during the school day please [contact Holly Kragthorpe](#).

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 January 10.