

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 2, Issue 8
April 2014

An Update from Principal Marietta

Welcome back! It is very hard to believe that there is only 25 percent of our school year remaining. The 7th graders who made up our first class at Ramsey are now more than halfway done with their time in middle school!

Even when the weather starts warming, we need to remain focused on learning. Students will be taking the MCA test in the coming weeks (see schedule below). The tests will be administered during their ELA and math classes. We hope that this schedule is least disruptive to the learning environment. We also want to give students every opportunity to "show what they know" on the MCA test. The best way you can help your children prepare for the test is to ask them about it. When the students are aware that you are interested, they will strive to do their best. Encourage your children to be persistent and not give up when tests become challenging.

During our most recent Site Council meeting, we discussed the size of Ramsey and the potential for a 6-12 collaborative with Washburn. Conversations with the administrations of both Washburn and Ramsey are in the works. In the coming months, we will begin to engage the community and look for input on how to establish the most ideal framework for that relationship. I will keep you posted on opportunities to participate in the conversation in the coming months.

Additionally, we are hiring the staff for next year and look forward to building on the excellent foundation we have here at Ramsey. We will have an opportunity for the community to meet the new staff before school starts next year.

As a reminder, we request that parents use 49th Street to drop off and pick up their children instead of

Contact Information

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

612-668-4040

Fri, Apr 11

6:30 pm

Movie Night and Drawing

Sat, Apr 12

8:30 am-1:30 pm

District Math Challenge
at North High School

Tue, April 15

9:15 am Coffee and

Conversation with
Principal Marietta

6:30 pm PTA Meeting

Wed, Apr 16

6-8 pm

Area C Meeting at
Lake Harriet Community
School, Lower Campus

Wed, Apr 30

Latino Family
Involvement Day

Sat, May 3

driving through the parking lot. You are more than welcome to use the parking lot, but you will need to park your car and meet your children inside or at your car. The number of cars in the parking lot will become more problematic as we increase in size. Additionally, please use 49th Street like an airport pick-up/drop-off zone, so we can maintain a continuous flow of traffic. Please be considerate of the neighborhood, and do not block residents' driveways.

On a final note, we want to encourage as many students as possible to bike or walk to school now that the weather is improving. However, the school will not be responsible for lost or stolen bikes. We highly encourage students to use a "U-Lock" instead of a chain or cable lock. We have 15 locks available for students to use for the day in the office.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am always open for a phone call, an e-mail, or a conversation.

Help Your Student Get Ready for MCA Testing

Over the next month, sixth and seventh graders will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in reading and math. Both tests are computer-based this year, and they will be taken over multiple days in your child's language arts and math classes.

Each subject and grade level are allotted one week for testing, though many students will not need the whole week to complete the test. The testing schedule is as follows:

- 6th grade reading: April 14-18
- 7th grade reading: April 21-25
- 6th grade math: April 28-May 2
- 7th grade math: May 5-9

It is important that your child is in school each day for testing. Also, please help him or her get a good night's sleep ahead of time, and make time for a healthy breakfast each morning.

If you have questions, please contact our Instructional Council lead, [Randy Niemiec](#), or your child's ELA or math teacher.

Friday is Movie Night at Ramsey

Current and prospective students and their families are invited to join us for Movie Night on Friday, April

State History Day Competition

May 8-9

Bye Bye Birdie Musical

Thu, May 15

Spring Concert

Fri, May 16

Twins Game

Mon, May 19

3-5 pm

Plant Order Pick-up

Tue, May 20

After-school 5K on
WHS track

May 20-23

Half-Price Book Fair

11, for a showing of *Despicable Me 2*. Your \$5 admission includes popcorn. Bring extra money for \$1 tickets to enter prize drawings for great experiences, like a student's name as student of the month on our outdoor school sign, lunch on the roof of Ramsey with friends, and dinner gatherings hosted by RMS parents. Other prizes include gift cards to places like Freestyle Yogurt, HB Fitness, and George and the Dragon. Tickets for the drawing will also be available for purchase over the lunch hour today and tomorrow.

Concessions and ticket sales for prize drawings begin at 6:30 p.m., and the movie begins at 7. Parents are welcome to socialize in our foyer or in the Media Center during the movie. (No drop-offs, please.)

The money raised will benefit Arts and Sports Boosters as well as the 6th-grade trip to Camp St. Croix in the fall.

Parent and staff volunteers are still needed to help this event run smoothly. Please sign up for a short shift on the [RhinoTeers Google Doc](#).

District Budget Talks Continue at Area C Meeting

Help represent our school and our community by attending the Area C meeting on Wednesday, April 16. Robert Doty, CFO, and finance staff will discuss the next phase of the school budget process, and Assistant Superintendent Cecilia Saddler will take part in a Q&A session.

The meeting takes place at Lake Harriet Community School, lower campus, at 4030 Chowen Avenue South, from 6 to 8 pm. Childcare available for ages 3 and up. E-mail [Liz Short](#) or [Margaret Richardson](#) with questions or comments.

Don't Miss Out! Yearbooks Orders Due!

Final Ramsey yearbook orders are due Friday, April 18. Yearbooks are now \$17. [Order online](#), or drop off a check to the office (extra paper forms also available). We want every student to have a yearbook. Please considering donating extra money to help those that cannot pay full price. Thank you!

Also, if you have photos from school events earlier this year, please send a high-resolution image and description of the event to the [Yearbook Club](#).

PTA Update

PTA Meeting on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The April PTA meeting will include a roundtable discussion about parenting and motivating our middle-school children. Come prepared to share strategies that have worked for your family as well as struggles you have encountered. If you can't attend the evening meeting, feel free to drop in at 9:15 on the morning of the 15th for coffee and conversation with Principal Marietta.

Plant Order Deadline Extended

Spring is really here, and there is still time to get your plant order in. Submit your order to the office by the end of the day Friday, April 11. Order forms are available on the [Ramsey website](#). Funds raised from sales will benefit Ramsey.

Plants will be available for pick-up on Monday, May 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed on May 19 to organize plant orders. If you can help, please sign up on the [Rhinooteer Google Doc](#).

Twins Tickets Available Soon

Ramsey, Burroughs, and Lyndale families are invited to purchase tickets as part of a block for the May 16 game at Target Field. Flyers for the outing will be coming home soon. These discounted tickets (\$11 each) will be given out on a first-come basis.

Half-Price Book Sale Coming in May

Fill your bookshelves for summer reading! The spring Half-Price Book Fair will be held Tuesday, May 20 to Friday, May 23. Many volunteers are needed for this event. Please sign up on the [Rhinooteer Google Doc](#).

New PTA Officers Needed

We are looking to fill three positions for the 2014-2015 school year: Vice-President (2-year commitment, leading to President in the second year), Secretary (1-year commitment), and Treasurer (1-year commitment). If you are interested, please [e-mail Bridget McGinnis](#). For more information about the PTA, [visit the Ramsey website](#).

Volunteer Opportunities Ahead!

There are many chances to get involved this spring. Please [sign-up here](#) to be a Rhinooteer!

Join Us for Latino Family Involvement Day

Come to Ramsey and eat lunch with your student!

Then attend 5th and 6th period classes followed by a reception with Mr. Marietta and other teachers from 3 to 3:40 pm. We want to hear your opinions on how we can make Ramsey a better place for your child! No RSVP necessary.

iHola familias latinas de Ramsey! El 30 de abril es el día de enlace familiar para las familias latinas de Ramsey. Ven a almorzar con su niño(a) a las 12. Después, asista a dos clases con su niño(a) y a las 3, hará una acogida con el Director Marietta en donde Ud. puede compartir sus opiniones acerca de la escuela y compartir bocadillos con otras familias latinas. ¡Esperamos verles!

Ramsey Rhinos Head to State History Day

Thank you Ramsey parents for supporting us through our first-ever History Day competition! Ramsey 7th graders competed in the regional History Day competition on March 22. Honorable mention awards went to Amelia B. for her website and to Amina I. & Azhaar M. for their exhibits. State qualifiers will showcase their work at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, May 3. Good luck, historians!

State qualifiers from Ramsey:

Liz B., website
Mark P., website
Ryan O. & Ethan F., documentary
Henry K., exhibit
Sophie M., exhibit

Our Media Center Needs You!

The Ramsey Media Center needs your help and enthusiasm. The library is being well used and loved but needs help with general TLC to maintain the space for all who use it. That's where you come in!

Sean Casey, the media specialist at Ramsey, is looking for volunteers to help once in a while or on a regular basis. The time commitment is up to you, and you don't need media expertise to help out. You can sign up via the [Rhinooteer Google Doc](#). For more information, please [e-mail Ann Prentice](#).

Parent Volunteers Needed for Math Help

Ms. Krasean is looking for people to work with students who need some one-on-one attention in math. Volunteers would spend 1-2 hours each week at Ramsey helping students work on ST math. Volunteers would help students stay focused by

asking the student questions about his or her thinking and help the student stay engaged with the work. If you are interested, please [e-mail Ms. Krasean](#).

Get Ready to Run

Get the whole family geared up for this spring fitness event. The Family 5K will be held after school on Tuesday, May 20 at the Washburn track. If you are interested in volunteering, please [e-mail the PTA](#).

Achoo! Tissue Donations Needed

As we head into the spring allergy season with a very low supply of tissue boxes, we would be ever so grateful for donations! Students can bring donations to the office or to their advisory. Thank you!

Last Day of School Plans Underway

Plans are in the works for festivities on the last day of school. There will be indoor and outdoor activities all day. If you are able to volunteer to help with activities on this day, please [e-mail 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 May 2.