

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 1, Issue 8
May 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

As I write this column, I am looking out of my window from my house in River Falls, and all I see is snow, even though it is the beginning of May. It makes it incredibly hard to believe that the school year is almost over. What an amazing year it has been at Ramsey. We still have a solid month of learning to go with many fun events. At the same time, our preparations for next year have already begun. I am pleased to announce some of our new staff for next year: Sara Vanderwerf comes from her current role as the district's math lead to teach math at Ramsey. Science teacher Tracey Schultz and English/language arts teacher Alison Constant, both from Field school, are joining our team. Additionally, Manuel (Paul) Pena, currently at Broadway school, will be a special education resource teacher. Paul also has a license in science, and he will be teaching some science/STEM electives. Sarah Loch, from Washburn, will be our physical education and health teacher. Finally, Rhonda Rademacher is taking on the role of our new autism teacher. More information on these great teachers will be available online in the coming months.

I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such amazing staff. And the community support for our school continues to impress me. We have learned many things this year, and we are excited to continue to implement strategies that put students first. This will be the last newsletter of the school year, but I am always available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to [e-mail me](#) anytime.

Turn in Field Trip Permissions ASAP

On Tuesday, May 14, Minnesota Studies students will take a field trip to the Minnesota History Center. Please remember to turn in permission slips as soon as possible. The cost of the trip is \$15. No child will be excluded due to inability to pay.

Contact Information

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

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Fri, May 10

7 pm
Twins Game

Tue, May 14

Field Trip to
Minnesota History Center

Sat, May 18

9 am - 1 pm
Spring Clean-Up

Tue, May 21 -

Fri, May 24
Scholastic Half-Price
Book Fair

Tue, May 21

9 am
Coffee & Discussion
with Principal Marietta;
6 pm
PTA Meeting and
Officer Elections

Tue, May 21

On the field trip, students will have a chance to experience hands-on, interactive, story-driven exhibits. These exhibits allow students to travel through Minnesota's prairies, forests, and cities and actively explore immigration, transportation, diverse cultures, family life, and Minnesota industries like fur trade, mining, and agriculture. In addition, students can explore topics such as the U.S.-Dakota War, Minnesotans in the Civil War, lives of the "Greatest Generation," and more.

7 pm
Spring Concert

Tue, June 4
Field Day and Lock-In

Join Us for the Ramsey Spring Clean-Up

Did you hear that Ramsey won a \$5,000 grant from the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program to improve the landscaping and start a garden? Grab your garden tools, and join us on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Ramsey grounds clean up. We will be preparing the Welcome Garden for new landscaping plants and working on the new vegetable garden. This is a great opportunity to work with staff and other families while making our campus a beautiful part of the community. Please [e-mail Amy Melcher](#) with any questions.

Truck or Trailer Needed

Paul Sommers, our social studies teacher, needs help picking up ten garden-in-a-box kits donated by the Horticultural Society in Roseville. Each kit contains a 3 ft. X 4 ft. box, soil, vegetables, and herbs. Pick up is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you can help, please [e-mail Mr. Sommers.](#)

Spring Concert on May 21

The concert, featuring Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Jazz Band, Beginning Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, and Choir, will take place at Ramsey on Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. We will also feature a sampler of the evening concert in a school assembly at 2:45 p.m. on the same day of the evening concert.

We are also excited to feature guest musicians-in-residence, [Malamanya](#), a local band that performs Latin American and Caribbean music.

*Please note the date is **NOT** Thursday, May 23.*

Update from the PTA

We will gather in the Media Center at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21 for our last meeting of the school year, and we will wrap up prior to the Spring Concert. Our topic will be "Meeting the Needs of Advanced Learners." Melanie Crawford, director of the MPS Office of Talent Development and Advanced Learner Education, will be joining us as we discuss ways that Ramsey can challenge all learners.

We will also be electing new officers. The Ramsey PTA is looking to fill the Secretary and Vice President (usually a 2-year commitment, advancing to President the second year) positions for the 2013-14 school year. If you are interested or have any questions about the officer positions, please [e-mail Bridget McGinnis](#).

If you can't attend the evening PTA meeting, please join us for coffee and discussion with Principal Marietta at 9 a.m. on May 21 in the Media Center.

Stock Up for Summer Reading

The Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair will run from May 21 through May 24. Students will have the opportunity to shop during ELA class time, and the book fair is open to families during the following hours:

Tuesday, May 21 9-10 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22 9 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 9 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4 p.m.

Friday, May 24 9-10 a.m. and 3:30-4 p.m.

Last Day of School: Field Day and Lock-in!

Teachers and staff will be hosting an overnight lock-in for Ramsey 6th graders on the last day of school! On June 4, students are invited to attend our first-ever school play at 3:45 p.m., followed by a trip to Kingfield park to play games. We will have a BBQ, a dance, a game of Capture the Flag on the Washburn football field, and a movie. Lights out at 11 p.m.

Girls in the upper gym; boys in the lower gym. Details and permission slips will be given through Advisory. Parents, please [sign up here](#) to help!

Successful Field Trip to Leonardo's Basement

Students walked to Leonardo's Basement with their science classes during the week of April 28 to learn

about kinetic energy and scale factor. Kids worked with two different themes during the 2.5 hours they were there. Students had opportunities to build and interpret their ideas and build upon their math and science knowledge.

Support Ramsey at Kowalski's

Ramsey Middle School now has a receipt box at Kowalski's on Lyndale. Through its Groceries for Good Causes program, the store will donate money each quarter to organizations based on how many receipts are in the boxes. Please remember to put your receipts in the Ramsey box when you shop at Kowalski's this spring and summer, and tell family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for your support of Ramsey Middle School!

School Improvement Plan Online

Our School Improvement Plan is now [posted on our school website](#) in three different languages. We encourage all families to review our goals and strategies.

Last Newsletter of the Year

This is our last newsletter for the 2012-13 year. If you have any suggestions for next year's newsletters, please [send an e-mail to the editor](#). If you know of any incoming Ramsey families who would like to opt-in to the mailing list, please direct them to do so on the [Ramsey website](#).



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