

Snapshot of Science Grants

Since our science focus began in the 2009-10 school year, Ramsey staff has written and received science-related grants totaling **\$82,020.49**. Below is a quick overview of some of the grants the past few years.

Science Supply Restock: (\$500 awarded from the CdA Kiwanis) Money granted to restock 1st-5th grade hands-on lab kits.

Picture Perfect Science: (\$3,088 awarded from the EXCEL Foundation) Science activity instructional manuals and picture books for all teachers to use with their homeroom classes.

Water Monitoring Kits: (\$530 awarded from the City of CdA) Official water monitoring kits for 5th graders to test water quality in Lake CdA.

STC—Compare and Measure Lab Kits: (\$2,500 awarded from Kootenai Electric) Hands-on lab kits for 1st graders to learn about non-standard and standard units of measurement.

Smartsopes: (\$2,131 awarded from the EXCEL program) Six digital wireless microscopes for Ramsey that can pair with up to three mobile devices (Android or iOS) for an on-the-spot lab in the field.

STC—Sound Lab Kits: (\$3,834 awarded from the Idaho Community Foundation) Hands-on lab kits for 3rd graders to learn the physics concepts related to sound.

GPS Devices: (\$1,000 awarded from Idaho National Laboratory) GPS receivers for 4th graders working in teams to find and study various locations.

STC-K Kits: (\$2,226 awarded from CdA Rotary) Hands-on lab kits for kindergarteners to explore plants, animals, weather, forces, and motion.



First graders study "Soils" as part of their hands-on lab kits and Mini-Science Day.

Ramsey's Science Fairs

In January, grades K-5 homeroom teachers introduce a classroom Science Fair project to their classes. All students participate in a whole class or group project learning the scientific process for completing a Science Fair project. Projects are on display in the science lab.

In February and March, students in grades K-5 opt to participate in a home-based Science Fair project. An awards ceremony and open house for parents at the March parent-teacher conferences concludes the event.



2nd graders as paleontologists dig for "Dino Bones" in the Ramsey Garden.



With their "Chemical Tests" lab kits, 4th graders problem solve in teams.



Ramsey Magnet School of Science

1351 W. Kathleen Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
208-765-2010
208-769-0747 (fax)

<http://www.cdaschools.org/Ramsey>



Our Vision

Mission: Our mission is to meet each child's needs by providing a unique educational experience, inspiring critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

Vision: We will work collaboratively with parents and the community to:

- Provide a safe, nurturing culture to support all students.
- Foster independent thinkers who develop a curiosity about the world around them and a passion for lifelong learning.
- Guide students' learning using an inquiry-based approach to teaching science where concepts and ideas are integrated across the curriculum.
- Incorporate high-level questioning and investigation to engage and empower our learners.

Big School ~ Bigger Heart!



Coeur d'Alene School District #271

What's happening with SCIENCE at Ramsey . . .

Teaching Science and Technology to Children: Hands-on Lab Kits

KEY: ES = earth science; LS = life science; PS = physical science

- **Kindergarten:** Plants and Animals (LS); Weather (ES); Forces and Motion (PS)
- **1st grade:** Solids and Liquids (PS); The Life Cycle of Butterflies (LS); Plant Growth & Development (LS)
- **2nd grade:** Weather (ES); Organisms (LS); Dinosaurs (LS)
- **3rd grade:** Changes (PS); Animal Studies (LS); Soils (LS); Sounds (LS)
- **4th grade:** GEMS - Space (ES); Chemical Tests (PS); Motion & Design (PS)
- **5th grade:** Rocks & Minerals (ES); Microworlds (LS); Land & Water (ES)

America's youth are losing their competitive edge in the worldwide STEM pipeline (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Ramsey committed to helping students prepare to be globally competitive in all academic areas by becoming a "Magnet School" for science.

Our quest began in April 2009, when Ramsey students participated in their first all-school science day. This was an engaging adventure for students and teachers. All students spent the entire day rotating through a variety of science stations and expressed interest in continuing to pursue similar experiences. In the words of one first grade student, "Science Day was the best day of my life!"

Throughout the year, the staff and parents at Ramsey want to foster students' love of topics about which they are naturally curious—exploration, nature, space, anatomy, physics, plants, animals, rocks and minerals, etc.



Extra-Curricular Science Activities

- **Club Think!** is a science club offered to all 3rd-5th grade students. From October through December, meetings are held before and after school. Units of study include LEGO robotics, bridge building, electrical circuits, and much more!
- **First LEGO League** provides selected 4th/5th graders an opportunity to work together and compete in four areas: a live presentation, teamwork challenge, robot missions, and robot design. They meet September through December.
- **Jr. Science Café** affords 3rd-5th graders the opportunity to connect with local scientists. During this luncheon event, scientists present a selected topic. Students ask questions and make connections between their science learning and future careers.
- **Science exploratory** is enjoyed by all students in grades K-5 at some point throughout the year. In addition to their regular classroom science experiences, students participate in a variety of hands-on science activities during their exploratory time.
- **D.A.S.H. classes** are offered by Ramsey's PTO for five weeks. These enrichment classes cover a variety of topics with a science focus on dinosaurs, chemistry, electricity, robotics, animal studies, rockets, and electronics.
- A variety of **Extreme Science classes** are offered through Radical Rick in the fall for 1st-3rd graders, so they don't miss out on fun!
- An engaging **science-related assembly** takes place each semester.

Additional 2015-16 Science-Related Experiences

- School-wide scientist and science words of the month
- Seattle's Pacific Science Center's Space Odyssey program (planetarium, workshops, exhibit, assemblies) via their Science on Wheels program
- Guest presenters such as local herpetologists, veterinarians, foresters, and Idaho Fish and Game Department
- Virtual, science-related, interactive field trips through the Idaho Educational Network
- A school-wide "Science Day" with rotating science lessons for all students—ALL day
- Mini-science days partnering with Lake City High School students as teachers/mentors
- University of Idaho partnership featuring on-site science and math practicum experience for future teachers
- Science-related field trips such as Mobius Science Center, Eagle Cruise, Cat Tales, Rock Farm, etc.

"The significant problems we face in life cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." ~ Albert Einstein

1st graders release their butterflies at the conclusion of their "Life Cycle of Butterflies".

