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Important Dates

Wed, Jan 18: Beginning and Varsity Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Tue, Jan 24 - Thu, Jan 26: Intersession
Wed, Jan 25: Early School Dismissal, 1 pm
Thu, Jan 26: Early School Dismissal, 1 pm
Wed, Feb 1: Teacher Treat Day
Thu, Feb 2: 7th Grade History Day Showcase, 6 - 8 pm
Fri, Feb 10: Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Sat, Feb 11: Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
Thu, Feb 16: Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appointment only), 4:30 - 8 pm
Fri, Feb 17: Parent-Teacher Drop-In Conferences, 8 am - 12 noon
Thu, Feb 23: Arabic Night, 5 pm, Ramsey Cafeteria
Tue, Feb 28: Somali Tea at Morning Greeters, 8 - 8:30 am

[See the full calendar for more info](#)

Band Concerts Tonight

Beginning Band and Varsity Bands Winter Concert at Ramsey Middle School is tonight from 7 to 8 pm. Students should report to the band room at 6:30 pm and wear their Ramsey Music T-shirt and dark pants. We look forward to seeing you then and celebrating the students' music with you all! We could use a few more volunteers to chaperone student groups in the auditorium during the concert. If you're willing to help, [sign up here](#).

A (Whole)sum Welcome at Ramsey

On Tuesday, January 24, from 8:00 to 9:00 am, during Ramsey Morning Greeters and to welcome Intersession volunteers, Whole Sum Cafe will be serving coffee and fresh juices for parent volunteer greeters and staff. As if that isn't enough, stop back at (Whole) Sum throughout the day to pick up a healthy snack—or that critical second cup of coffee—and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Ramsey PTA. Greeters [sign up here](#).

Early Release Days Next Week

On Wednesday, January 25, and Thursday, January 26, Ramsey Middle School will be closing at 1 pm. Buses will come and pick up at that time. There will be no after school activities.

These early closings are to enable essential professional development for staff to improve the work that we do with students each day, as well as time for us to work together on our programming for the future.

These changes are during Intersession week, so students will not be missing regular class, and we have created an adjusted schedule so students still have access to the variety of courses Intersession offers.

Please be aware that it is only Ramsey Middle School that has the early closing on these days. If you have students at other Minneapolis schools, they will have their regular schedules.

Please know this decision was made after long deliberation among staff, and is in the interest of what is ultimately going to provide the best services for our students.

Second Semester Schedules

Second semester starts on Tuesday, January 31. Students are able to see their second semester schedule on the student portal. If students would like to request a change in an elective class, they need to fill out a schedule change request form. Schedule change request forms are available to pick up in the main office. All request forms are **due by Thursday, January 26 - no exceptions**. A parent signature is required for all schedule change requests. If a student wishes to drop a year-long elective course, a teacher signature is also required. Students and parents will be emailed with a decision about their schedule change request. Students will not be called down to the office to get a copy of their new schedule if their request is approved.

Intersession Help Wanted

Are you looking for a FUN volunteer gig that doesn't last more than two days? Our intersession classes are just the right fit for you. January 25 and 26, 2017. Check out [signup genius](#) to find the job that best matches your skills and interests. We are looking for help in a range of different 1 hour and 45 minute

classes across 2 days. We need parents who are willing to jump in and help, and some who have specific skill sets like mural painting, sewing on machines, cooking, snowshoeing, guitar playing, knitting, chemistry, Annie Jr. set building and more.

Ramsey 1:1 Technology Program Update

From Principal Erin Rathke:

It is important for me to share with you that we are making some much-needed adjustments to our 1:1 technology program at Ramsey. I am working closely with our tech council, staff and district IT department on the best, most sustainable model for Ramsey and our students. Technology is one of the founding cornerstones of Ramsey. I want to sustain our technology for student learning. We are finding that travelling back and forth with students is causing some more frequent damage to the iPads. At semester end we are moving to a 1:1 cart model for now. Students will have access to iPads on a daily basis at school. Students will hand in their iPads at semester end for reimaging and clean-up. Our goal is to work towards a sustainable plan—we will be surveying students, staff and families, we will be taking guidance from the district IT department, we will work with Site Council and the technology council to inform and implement a more effective plan.

Parents, please help us by taking the following survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/HhQQIC8UoNFh4K0S2>

Treats for Teachers

Show our wonderful Ramsey staff how much they are appreciated by supporting "Treats for Teachers". Bring or send in a treat for the staff to enjoy on the first Wednesday of each month. Treats can be a simple bag of fruit, a veggie tray, baked goods, chips and dip or salsa, a family favorite, or anything you would like to send in! Contact Heidi Knaus with questions at haknaus@yahoo.com or sign up here for any of the Treats Days this year: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-teacher2>.

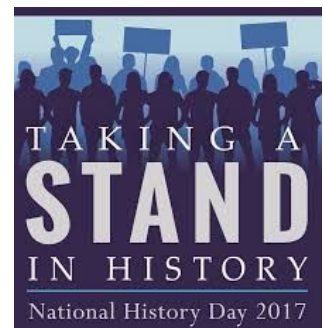
History Day is (Almost) Here!

Attention 7th Grade families! SAVE THE DATE

7th grade History Day Showcase

Thursday, February 2, 6:00-8:00 pm

7th grade students will be showcasing their 2017 History Day projects. Throughout the past 3 months students have chosen topics, conducted research, and created projects based on the theme "Taking a Stand in History." There will be more than 175 projects on display including documentaries, websites, exhibits, and performances.



Note to 7th grade families: We are asking each student to present their project during the showcase. Students will be asked to register for ONE 10 minute presentation time. For the rest of the evening, students will have the opportunity to view their classmates' projects on display.

Annie Jr.

Performances of the Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, are just around the corner! If you're willing to help corral students between the preview and evening performances on 2/10, please [sign up here](#).

Winter Conferences

Winter Conferences are Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17. Conferences on Thursday, February 16 are reserved and scheduled in advance by the teams. All families are invited to our drop-in conferences on Friday, February 17 from 8 am to noon! If you are not available for Friday drop-ins, contact your child's teachers and they will arrange a time to meet with you!

Grade-level teams will be organized together as follows:

8th Grade

Constant/Jacques/Schultz/Knee: Room 305

Koupal/Miller/Wender/Janicek: Room 304

7th Grade

Burnett/Holland/Peterson/Kroger: Room 132

Olsen/Fowler/Nutter/Novak: Room 129

6th Grade

Bauck/Halbach/Gawronski/Krasean/Lescenski: Room 115

Noriega/Sommers/Marr/Halverson: Room 114

Electives

Elective class teachers will be in the media center (2nd floor)

Arabic Night

Arabic Night will be held at Ramsey Middle School on February 23 from 5 to 7 pm. Lyndale, Ramsey and Washburn students and parents/guardians are all invited for a fun night. The event will take place in the cafeteria at Ramsey. Those attending will enjoy Mediterranean food, Arabic music and dance, and will learn about the Arabic language how to write one's name and greet others in Arabic. Come and have fun! [Click here for an event flyer.](#)

Box Tops

Hello Ramsey Families!

Help our school earn cash by clipping Box Tops from products and sending them to school! Each one is worth 10¢ and our school can use the cash for whatever it needs to help our students learn and grow. Last fall, we earned \$207 - let's top that this winter!

Turn in your Box Tops before February 27 so they can be included in our school's April check. The drop box is located on the first floor near the school office, between rooms 101 and 103.

Spirit Wear

Remember Rhinos, Spirit Wear supports your school. Every dollar spent on your purchase of Spirit Wear goes back to students in a variety of ways. Spirit Wear can be bought at all evening performances. We are also providing opportunities for you, our students and staff, to buy Spirit Wear at morning arrival during greeting time at the Nicollet Avenue entrance, and the second Friday of the month during student lunch in the cafeteria. GO RHINOS!



Somali Tea at Morning Greeters

Come enjoy a hot cup of delicious Shaah (traditional Somali Tea) and welcome the students to school on Tuesday, February 28, from 8:00 to 8:30 am. Hosted by Ramsey's very own Safia Qanyare. A treat you won't want to miss!

Fastpitch Softball

Interested in Fastpitch Softball?

Girls in 7th and 8th grades interested in playing softball this season should get engaged with the program at their high school. 7th or 8th grade girls who'd like to play softball for Washburn, please email both Coach Greg Berg (greg.berg@yahoo.com) and Stacie Vickerman (stacie@maplelanerealty.com) who handles communication for the Washburn Softball Booster Club.

For 6th grade players who would like to play competitive softball, tryouts for local community-based travel team, Club 612, has tryouts scheduled for March 12th and March 19th. For more information about Club 612, please e-mail club612fastpitch@gmail.com or check out club612.weebly.com.

Do You Have News to Share?

Send all stories, ideas, and comments to the *Around the Horn* editors at RamseyMSCommunications@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is Friday the week before publication at 5:00 pm.

MAIN OFFICE	(612) 668-4040
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SCHOOL CLOSING INFO
SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO
MPS LUNCH MENUS