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## Important Dates

**Wed, Nov 2:** **DATE CHANGE:** Washburn Winter Sport Registration Night, 6 - 8 pm, Washburn Main Gym

**Thu, Nov 3 - Fri, Nov 4:** NO SCHOOL

**Tue, Nov 8:** Election Day

**Thu, Nov 10:** [STEAM Night](#)

**Tue, Nov 15:** PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm, [Gigi's Cafe](#)

**Wed, Nov 17:** [Give to the Max day](#)

**Wed, Nov 23 - Fri, Nov 25:** NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break

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

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## Don't Forget to Vote on 11/8

The election is right around the corner. Don't forget to make your voice count on 11/8, if you haven't done so already.

Make sure you know the facts about the upcoming referendum. If passed, funding would help Minneapolis Public Schools manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students. Property taxes are not projected to increase if the referendum renewal passes.

Please [review this fact sheet](#), and visit [Minneapolis Public School's site](#) for more information.

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## Students and Civic Engagement

The Social Studies teachers at Ramsey are excited to involve you in the election process this year. We are encouraging your student to ask a lot of questions and involve you in their learning during this important political season. We place high value on your students having multiple perspectives on the issues and would like you to be a part of this learning experience. This election offers an excellent opportunity to remember our Mission Statement, providing an environment that “empowers each learner to explore possibilities, act with integrity, and create positive change within one's community and the world.”

There are many issues that are being raised during this election, and each person has different priorities that are important to them. Some of important issues include health care, taxes, immigration, safety of US/terrorism, the economy and jobs, future Supreme Court nominees, the national debt and entitlement programs, and many more. This has been a very volatile election, with candidates calling into question the competency, integrity and honesty of his/her challengers. An interesting website that has been developed to help people see which candidate best represents his/her interests is:

<http://www.isidewith.com/>

We understand that a person's vote is private matter, yet we also encourage you to talk with your student about the responsibilities of being an informed and an engaged member of our community. Some questions that you might consider talking about with your child are:

- What are the issues that are most important to you?
- How do you stay informed?
- What types of sources do you look at (newspapers, websites, youtube)?
- What sources do you find most accurate or trust the most? Why?
- How do you make decisions knowing there is much bias in the media?

Thanks for the many ways you support your student's education! And thanks for sharing your child with us at Ramsey! Please do not hesitate to send us comments, ideas, questions that can help develop civically-engaged learners. – Ramsey Social Studies Teachers

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## Winter Sports Registration Night - TONIGHT (Date Changed)

If your 7th and 8th graders are considering participating in winter sports at Washburn, this event is for you!

**When:** Wednesday, November 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

**Where:** Washburn Main Gym (enter Door 5)

**What to expect:**

- Meet coaches
- Get info on practices, tryouts and schedules
- Complete paperwork
- Pay fees

This event is drop-in style – come when it works for you!

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## Give to the Max

Too busy on November 17? Schedule your Give to the Max donation today! Please help us support the creation of STEM Makerspace at Ramsey. Every donation helps! All donations scheduled in the days leading up to November 17 will enter Ramsey into a drawing for a \$10,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket.

Donate here: [RamseyPTA#GTMD16](#)

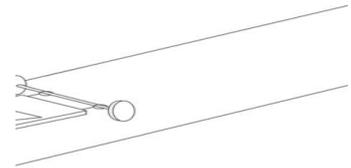


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## STEAM Night for Sixth Grade Families

The inaugural STEAM night for 6th grade families will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Activities will be held in the Ramsey cafeteria. Each family will be engineering their own mousetrap car and testing it for speed and distance.



- Please [reserve your spot](#) to make sure we have enough supplies.
- This event is free and sponsored by University of Minnesota STEM Department.
- Donations are welcome and will be used for our Makerspace Room.
- Each family that competes will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad mini.

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## Ramsey Mountain Bikers

Congratulations to Ramsey Rhino mountain bikers, who just finished their Minnesota High School Cycling League season this weekend with the big state championship at Mt. Kato in Mankato!

Ramsey Rhino mountain bikers include:

### 7th Graders

Nico A., Tiago B.-Z., John D., Eli G.-B., Luke G., Alex H., Robinson I., Owen K., Sam S., Winona W., and Evan Z.

### 8th Graders

Ellis D., Sudie H., Themis M., Will M., and Neal W.

Riders rode for Washburn, Southwest or South High School (both in the middle school and high school divisions). Younger riders rode one lap, while older riders rode two laps. Each lap included over 500 feet of climbing up the face of the Mt. Kato ski slopes, followed by very technical single track complete with drops, muddy corners, rocks, roots and bridges.

The mountain bike season starts each July and runs through October. Details can be found at: <http://www.minnesotamt.org/>. New riders (beginners and experienced) are always welcome.

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## Multicultural Night and Open House

For all prospective and current Ramsey families, please join the broader Ramsey community in a celebration of our diverse families and our future Rhinos on Wednesday, December 7! The event will be from 6 to 8 pm, starting in the Ramsey lunchroom where we will enjoy some multicultural food, followed by a Principal welcome and school tours for prospective students and families. Please come and mingle with current and prospective Ramsey Rhinos! Since this is a potluck, we are asking all families to bring a family favorite dish that represents your culture. We look forward to seeing you there!

In order to make this event a success, we're looking for help with setup, hosting, and cleanup. If you're willing to lend a hand, [click here to sign up!](#)

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## Power of Me

Mad Hatter Wellness is offering a program called "The Power of Me" for girls in grades 4-8. The program is a series of workshops and retreats all about empowering and encouraging girls to find their inner spirit and build their self-esteem. Workshop topics include: body image, bullying, peer pressure, cyber safety, friendship and healthy relationships, puberty, self-defense, and more. We are offering monthly workshops in both Saint Paul & Minneapolis this school year. [Visit their website](#) for more information.

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## Curriculum News and Notes

### 6th Grade

#### EL Literacy:

In EL Literacy, students just finished writing a persuasive paragraph convincing their reader who to vote for in the upcoming election. Students did research and used their findings as evidence in their paragraphs. Next, we will be working on summarizing and finding the main idea of nonfiction texts. The text we will read is about the history of hamburgers and tacos.

#### EL Elective:

In EL Elective, students just finished preparing for and participating in an academic debate about who they think should be the next president. This week, students will be taking a pretest to measure their literacy skills. I will be using this information to help plan for the rest of the year. After the pretest, we will start reading an informational text about video games and social media use. Then, students will be conducting research about how technology use affects teens.

#### Minnesota Studies:

These past weeks we have investigated traditional Dakota and Anishinaabe lifestyles. In November we continue our investigation by analyzing the relationships developed between these two groups of people, as well as the relationships with Europeans as they move into what is today known as Minnesota. We will also analyze the treaties signed in the mid 1800s that eventually led to European American settlement and then statehood. Alexander Ramsey, our school's namesake, plays important, albeit ethically questionable, roles during this time period.

### 7th Grade

#### AVID:

Students are just wrapping up learning about colleges and universities. Students have chosen a school to research and write to, and are in the final stages of completing their letters. Students are asking for

more information from their schools, and also politely asking for some “college swag” to help keep them motivated with their education!

For more information on AVID at Ramsey Middle School, [click here!](#)

## **8th Grade**

### **Global Studies:**

Over the past 10 weeks we have examined the effects of globalization on our culture and economy. Students have grappled with hot topics regarding free trade, working conditions, and the role that corporations have in society. Students are formulating their opinion to share in a debate. Students will also incorporate their learnings on indigenous cultures and their ability to stay true to their culture in this age of globalization.

### **AVID:**

Students are just wrapping up learning about colleges and universities. Students have chosen a school to research and write to, and are in the final stages of completing their letters. Students are asking for more information from their schools, and also politely asking for some “college swag” to help keep them motivated with their education!

Eighth grade AVID classes will be visiting Saint Mary’s University in Winona on November 10! On the visit, Ramsey students will tour campus with current university students who are the first in their family to attend college! Our students will also be able to ask questions to a panel of students and professors, participate in activities in the athletics center, and of course experience eating in the cafeteria!

For more information on AVID at Ramsey Middle School, [click here!](#)

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## **Do You Have News to Share?**

Send all stories, ideas, and comments to the *Around the Horn* editors at [RamseyMSCommunications@gmail.com](mailto:RamseyMSCommunications@gmail.com).

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

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<a href="#">SCHOOL CLOSING INFO</a>
<a href="#">SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO</a>
<a href="#">MPS LUNCH MENUS</a>