



AROUND THE HORN

RAMSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

JANUARY 23, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT RECAP

Thank you to everyone who came out for Ramsey Middle School's Movie Night last Thursday. It was a little difficult for some families to attend with the start of the long weekend, but those who came had fun. Ramsey raised just over \$1,000 from concessions and the drawings.

A huge thank you to Erika Remillard and Paul Sommers for collecting the donations and inspiring teachers to plan some really fun events; to Bridget McGinnis for shopping for all of the concessions; and to those parents and students who helped out with selling tickets, popcorn, and soda.

WINTER AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Ramsey Community Education Winter Session after school classes start on Monday, February 2. Registration forms for the Winter Session of after school academic and enrichment classes are now available. Click here or copy and paste the following URL address into a web browser to download a copy: <http://www.youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>, or call 612.668.3450 for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 26
Second Semester Begins

**Friday, January 30 –
Saturday, January 31**
Seussical, Jr. Performances
7:00 PM

Saturday, January 31
Start and Dismissal Time Survey Deadline

Monday, February 2
Ramsey Community Education
Winter Session After School Classes Begin

Wednesday, February 4
6th Grade Vision Screening Test

Thursday, February 5
Multicultural Night

Wednesday, February 11
6th Grade Vision Rescreening Test

Friday, February 13
No School (Parent-Teacher Conference Day)

Monday, February 16
No School (Presidents Day)

**Friday, February 20 -
Friday, March 20**
Virtual Garage Sale

Saturday, February 28
School Request Application Deadline

6TH GRADE VISION SCREENING TEST

6th grade students will take a vision screening test at school on Wednesday, February 4. While this screening is designed to identify issues with your child's vision, it is not considered a fully eye exam. Parents/guardians will be notified if a child does not pass the screening test; at that time, your child should be seen by an eye care professional to further evaluate their vision.

The Early Youth Eye Care (EYE) Community Initiative, an outreach program of the Phillips Eye Institute Foundation, provides the screening and coordinates follow-up to ensure students receive timely access to eye care. The follow-up includes providing interpreter service, transportation, and financial assistance with eye exams and glasses, as necessary. The EYE Community Initiative is designed to help remove vision issues as a barrier to learning.

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Ramsey Middle School's Multicultural Night will be Thursday, February 5, from 5:30 PM-7:00 PM. In addition to families sharing a potluck dinner with dishes from their culture, it's also a great night for incoming 6th graders to meet and get to know Ramsey families, staff, students, and the school itself! Hope to see you there!

VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE | PTA

Get a jump on your spring cleaning! This is a great time to sort through the items in your house that seem to build up over the winter. And we have the perfect way for you to clear out those unwanted items! Donate your gently used goods to a Virtual Garage Sale that will raise money for our school while helping to reuse and recycle.

The Virtual Garage Sale will take place Friday, February 20-Friday, March 20, and it's easy to participate. You don't need to put stickers on your items or worry about making change for buyers. Simply pick how many items you want to contribute, take photos of the items, and provide a brief description.

What kinds of things are we looking for? You can donate items big and small, including antiques and collectibles, appliances, arts and crafts, athletic equipment, auto parts, baby gear, boats, books, CDs and DVDs, cellphones, clothes, computers, electronics, furniture, garden items, household items, jewelry, music, photo and video accessories, tickets, tools, toys, and video games and equipment.

Start collecting your items now, and look for more information in the coming weeks about how to get them posted on the Virtual Garage Sale website.

Note: Barton, Burroughs, and Whittier are also participating in this sale; if you have kids in more than one school, you can direct funds to each!

SPIRIT WEEK | PTA

Due to scheduling conflicts, the dates for Ramsey Middle School's Spirit Week and dance may have to change. Look for email updates in the weeks ahead.

SCHOOL DAY START AND DISMISSAL TIMES | PTA

Minneapolis Public Schools is inviting families to take a survey about school start and dismissal times now through Saturday, January 31. It would be helpful to have as much input from Ramsey Middle School families as we can to help figure out how we might want to change things for coming school years. More information about these potential changes as well as a link to the survey can be found by clicking [here](#), or by copying and pasting the following URL address into a web browser:

<http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/start-times>

8TH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY | END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PLANNING | PTA

...that went by quickly.

In just about five months, Ramsey Middle School will be sending its first group of students off to high school. This has been a special group of kids who have had an amazing and unique experience for their middle school years. We think that they should have an equally amazing and unique way to celebrate their transition.

What will that look like? We're not sure, and that's where we need your help. Heidi Kurtze has agreed to be the parent coordinator and needs a group to help work with the students and staff to plan the event. You can contact her directly at heidi.kurtze@artspace.org to join up.

Note: It would be especially great if there were parents of 6th and 7th graders who would be willing to help and 'pay it forward' this year so the parents of 8th graders can celebrate with their kids!