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Important Dates

- Thu, Feb 16:** Parent-Teacher Conferences (by appointment only), 4:30 - 8 pm
No After School Classes
- Fri, Feb 17:** NO SCHOOL; Parent-Teacher Drop-In Conferences, 8 am - 12 noon
- Mon, Feb 20:** NO SCHOOL; Presidents' Day Holiday
- Tue, Feb 21:** Media and Technology Parent Education Presentation, 6:30 - 8 pm
- Thu, Feb 23:** Arabic Night, 5 pm, Ramsey Cafeteria
- Thu, Feb 23:** Spotlight Musical, *Into the Woods*, begins at Washburn
- Tue, Feb 28:** Somali Tea at Morning Greeters, 8 - 8:30 am
- Tue, Feb 28:** Rename Ramsey Community Voices Event, 6 pm
- Tue, Mar 7:** Site Council Meeting, 5 - 6:30 pm, Ramsey Media Center

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

iPad Program Update

Dear Ramsey Community,

I want to communicate our needs for making adjustments to our 1:1 technology program at Ramsey. I am working closely with our Technology Council, District IT Department and our staff on the best most sustainable model for Ramsey and our students. Technology is one of the founding cornerstones of Ramsey. We 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. We are not losing the 1:1 model at Ramsey, however we are moving to a 1:1 cart model. Students will have access to iPads on a daily basis at school.

Students will hand in their Ipads at semester for reimaging and clean up. Our goal is to work towards a sustainable technology plan. We have begun to [survey 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.

Reasons for moving to an iPad cart model semester 2 of 2017:

- We are currently down over 90 iPads because of shattered screens for various reasons. The anticipated return time on these is over 2 months (the cost to repair these would be \$4500-\$15,000 total - depending on the model of iPad).
- We only have 8 extra loaner iPads for teachers to give to students during class to supplement with; which is not enough to provide one for every student in class needing to use an iPad while they are being fixed.

- The stock of most iPad covers/cases we are currently using are not sufficiently protecting the iPads and are not in good condition. Replacement cases would cost approximately \$50 each. We would need about 500 cases to replace the older cases and cases no longer in working condition. Total cost could be \$25,000.
- The older iPads (iPad 2s - most are original iPads to Ramsey from 2012) are slowly becoming not compatible with our current software and apps. For example: students are usually not able to view videos (even through MyMPS), often unable to view and post class assignments on MyMPS, etc. if they are using an iPad 2. There are about 300 iPads that would need to be upgraded to stay current with the software. New iPads are approximately \$400 each (\$120,000). Approximately 300-400 of our 850 iPads would need to be upgraded at least every 2 years to stay current with the software.
- A reliable stock of iPads are needed in order to take the MCA and other tests. Currently, the older iPads are crashing/causing problems while testing because they are old/out of date and not compatible with new and current software.

Changes that teachers will make to accommodate the new iPad cart set-up:

- Teachers will take into consideration that not all students may have access to technology at home and will provide appropriate alternatives as needed (i.e. paper copies) if tech based work is assigned.
- Homework/classwork needing to be done on the iPad outside of the classroom when a student does not have access can work with the teacher to set up time to use an iPad in their classroom over the lunch period, before/after school.
- Teachers will modify lesson plans for apps/lessons that cannot save material on individual student iPads, allow time during each class to save content to google drive and allow time during class to retrieve and return iPads to cart.

Changes students will need to make:

- Students will need to save work to their google drive account during classes when needed (connected to their school e-mail address). Their google drive account can be accessed from any device at home or school.

Sincerely,

Erin Rathke, Principal

erin.rathke@mpls.k12.mn.us

Winter Conferences are This Week

Winter Conferences are Friday, February 17 from 8 am to noon. Thursday, February 16 conferences are reserved and scheduled in advance by the teams. This is NOT a drop-in day; teams are determining students/families they feel have the highest need (behavior and academic concerns) and will meet with those families at that time. If you are not scheduled Thursday evening, please either arrange an alternate time with your child's teachers, or come to the Friday drop-ins!

Friday, February 17, all families are invited to our drop-in conferences from 8 am to 12 noon. Drop-in means that you do not need to schedule in advance: you come by anytime between 8 and noon to meet with your child's teachers. If you are not available for Friday drop-ins, contact your child's teachers and they will arrange a time to meet with you!

For Friday, grade-level teams will be organized together, with electives in the media center. This is where they will be located:

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)

Thank you for your flexibility and will look forward to meeting with you!

Rename Ramsey Update

Our February 28 **Community Voices: “What should be the name of our school?”** event is fast approaching. Our list of possible new names for Ramsey Middle School has been reduced to five finalists, which will be discussed that evening. For more information, see the [event invitation](#).

The five finalists are (in no particular order):

Dorothy Vaughan Middle School

Justice Alan Page Middle School

Bde Ota Middle School

Prince Rogers Nelson Middle School

Martha Ripley Middle School

Visit the Rename Ramsey web site for more [information about each finalist name](#).

To indicate your preferences around our new name ideas, please [take this survey](#).

Minneapolis Public Schools Name Change Policy states that we must have the funding for new signage to pursue a name change. Visit the Rename Ramsey web site to [donate to our campaign](#) to help fund new signage and a new logo.

KARE-11 News did a story on our rename campaign. If you missed it, you can [see the news story here](#).

Finally, George and the Dragon Restaurant is hosting a delicious brunch fundraiser for our Rename Ramsey Campaign on Sunday February 26 from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Please call the restaurant at 612-208-1047 and talk to Fred or Stacy to make a reservation. Seats are filling fast!



Thank you for your interest in this campaign!

Walking and Biking to School

Minneapolis Public Schools needs your input: What ideas do you have to make it safe, fun, and easy for students to walk and bike? Please take [this short survey](#) on what the city, the schools, and the community can do to improve walking and biking for our students.

Rhino Report

The latest edition of the [Rhino Report](#) is here!

In This Issue:

- Recognition for Math Team and Future City
 - Letters to Ms. Rathke RE: school lunches
 - Student thoughts on Intersession
 - Rhino Pride fundraising
 - Editorial on Trump's border wall
 - Conference info
 - School safety info
 - More!
-

Dress Code

Principal Rathke has been discussing the dress code with students, staff, and other interested parties. If you'd like to give feedback on the current student dress code, please take the [dress code survey](#).

Student Safety

Student safety is a priority at Ramsey. It is vital that we set an appropriate entrance and exit plan for our students, to be followed by all Ramsey families. At the start and end of the school day, there is to be **no student drop-off or pick-up in the 50th street parking lot (door 1)**. Door 1 is for staff and visitors only. The only times a student should use door 1 are:

- if student arrives late (after 8:30). Late students should enter through door 1, go to the main office, sign in, get a pass, and go to class.
- if a student is leaving or returning in the middle of the day (e.g. for an appointment).
- if a student is leaving after school hours (e.g. being picked up after after-school classes).

Students being dropped off at the start of the school day, or picked up at the end of the school day, should use door 7, on 49th Street. Students should not be dropped off or picked up on Nicollet Avenue; this is bus only.

Students arriving and departing by bus should use door 2, the school's main entrance.

Bikers and walkers may enter and exit through either door 7 (49th Street) or door 2 (Nicollet Avenue).

If you are visiting Ramsey during the school day, you may park in the 50th Street lot, buzz in through door 1, go to the office, sign in, and get visitor's badge.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe at Ramsey!

Calling All Overdue Books!

Currently, 343 Ramsey students have overdue books. Notices have been emailed to students, but students can also look online at any time to see what books they have out. To check on overdue books:

- Go to [Ramsey's Destiny site](#).
- Log in using the student's school credentials (e.g. John Smith, class of 2021, has a user name of jsmi2101).
- Once logged in, click on My Info near the top of the page. This will show all books currently checked out, overdue materials, and fines associated with the student.

Please help your students locate and return overdue materials to the Ramsey Media Center.

MPS to Hold Community Meetings for Immigrant and Refugee Families

MPS is committed to being a safe haven for everyone. We know that recent current events have raised questions for some immigrant and refugee families. We want to lend support wherever possible. Together with our community partners, we're hosting two upcoming meetings to answer questions and connect families with resources both in our schools and in the community. Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at South High School from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, and Saturday, March 4 at Davis Service Center, 2 - 4:30 pm.

[Flyer: English Language](#) [Spanish Language](#) [Somali Language](#)

Upcoming MCA Testing Dates

MCA testing will take place from March to May, as follows:

March 13-17: 7th grade reading
March 20-24: 8th grade reading
March 27-30: 6th grade reading
April 17-21: 7th grade math
April 24-28: 8th grade math
May 1-5: 6th grade math
May 9-10: 8th grade science

EVENTS

Somali Tea at Morning Greeters

Enjoy a hot cup of Shaah, traditional Somali tea (it is absolutely delicious!) with Ramsey's own Safia Qanyare.

Greeter sign up [is here](#).

Live Music sign up [is here](#).

All are welcome to welcome all.

PTA Hosts Two Can't-Miss Parent-Education Opportunities

Join us on **Tuesday, February 21**, 6:30-8 pm, for **Media and Technology: How To Help Our Kids Navigate the Tech-Saturated World They're Growing Up In**

This presentation by MPS parent educator Christy Kujawa will help parents sort through everyday challenges, like finding a balance between screen time and other activities, setting limits, knowing what apps their kids are using, and how parents can be involved in their child's journey through technology in a respectful way.

Christy Kujawa has a master's degree in Family and Parent Education from the University of Minnesota and founded Nurture With Neuroscience, which conducts workshops for parents on early-childhood brain development.

Please indicate your interest so we can be sure to have enough seats available. [Sign up for Media & Technology here.](#)

Join us on **Tuesday, March 21**, 6:30-8 pm for **It's That Easy: Talking to Our Kids About Healthy Relationships and Sexuality**

This presentation by Linda Madson and other educators from the Annex Teen Clinic will help parents reflect on healthy emotional, social, and physical development in adolescence. We will think about our personal values around relationships and sexuality, and create a statement/conversation starter that reflects each caregiver's hopes for their children as healthy young people and adults.

Linda Madson is a sexuality educator at the Annex Teen Clinic in Robbinsdale, and is also a Ramsey and Washburn parent. It's That Easy is a Better Together Hennepin program.

Please indicate your interest so we can be sure to have enough seats available. [Sign up for It's That Easy here.](#)

Arabic Night مرحبا

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.](#)

"Into the Woods" at Washburn

Washburn's Spotlight Musical "Into the Woods" opens Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 pm. Opening night is "pay what you can night" or join us for the fundraising event "Pasta Dinner & Show" where \$15 gets you a delicious pasta dinner and a ticket to the show (only \$5 for students!). For all other nights the prices are as follows:

General Admission: \$5 Students / \$10 Adults

Adults Reserved Seats: \$10 Students/\$15 Adults

Showtimes:

2/23-2/25 at 7:30 pm

2/26 at 2:00 pm

3/2-3/4 at 7:30 pm

3/5 at 2:00 pm

You can [purchase tickets online here](#); tickets are also available at the door.

Third Annual Ramsey-Washburn Battle of the Bands!

Calling all bands...The 3rd Annual Ramsey-Washburn Battle of the Bands is coming soon: Sunday, April 23, from 3 to 6 pm, at The Junction. For families new to Ramsey, this event features Ramsey and Washburn student and staff bands, facing off for bragging rights (and an amazing traveling guitar trophy beautified by our own Ms. Cedarleaf-Dahl). [Bands can sign up here](#). This is a first come, first booked, sign-up process. **Please make sure to review the guidelines and enter all needed information.** May the best band win!



ACCOLADES

Students of the Month

Ramsey staff nominated the following students as Students of the Month for February, exemplifying our Cooperation Assertion Responsibility Empathy and Self-Control (CARES) attributes:

6th Grade

For Assertion: Brynn O

For Empathy: Eva B

For Responsibility: Bryan A M & Daniel T

7th Grade

For Compassion: Merri O

For Excellence: Alejandro V B, Shirley O, & Eli G B

8th Grade

For Assertion: Isabella B

For Empathy: Corinne S

For Responsibility: Lucy B & Abdille D

Congratulations to our students of the month!

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Help Feed the Teachers

Help feed our hardworking and devoted teachers on Thursday, February 16, when they put in a long day for conferences. We still could need a few people to contribute, especially with deli meat! Items can be dropped off at Ramsey Wednesday (2/15) or Thursday (2/16). [Sign up here](#) to help feed our teachers!

Art Room Needs

The Art room needs magazines for this semester's Surrealism collage unit. Please drop them off in the office marked "Art Room". Sports, National Geographic, or teen magazines especially wanted!

We are also looking for small objects—do-dads, hardware, beads, woods scraps, old CDs and any other random small junk for our Assemblage Unit next fall. Time to clean out your junk drawer and tool box!

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.

AFTER SCHOOL

No Community Education After School Classes Thursday, February 16

There will be no after school classes on Thursday, February 16 due to conferences.

Register for After School Classes at Conferences

There will be an after school sign-up table outside Room 106 during conferences on the evening of Thursday, February 16 and the morning of Friday, February 17. Please stop by to check out all the learning and enrichment opportunities offered after school at Ramsey!

Heart & Sole/Girls on the Run Spring Season

Calling all Ramsey girls: Ramsey will be starting a new Heart and Sole season in March and we want you to RUN with us!



Contact Ms. Butler, Ms. Lescenski, Ms. Britta, or Ms. Janicek to join. Applications need to be turned in by March 3. We start running on March 28!

Winter Birding Club

Winter is the perfect time to dig deeper into the world of birds—no previous birding experience needed! Each week we'll meet 2 bird species, and do various activities related to birds and conservation: build feeders, head-to-head ID contests, creating new bird species and more. Offered in partnership with Active Solutions and taught by Minnesota Raptor Center naturalists. The club provides all supplies.

Class meets 4 Thursdays, February 23 through March 16, from 3:45 to 5:45 pm. Cost is \$69. Register and explore other after school class options at <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>. Contact Ramsey Community Education at 612-668-3450 for more information.

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Box Tops

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.

Ramsey Rendezvous 2017

Selected Ramsey Rendezvous tickets for 2017 parties will be available online soon. What's a Ramsey Rendezvous, you ask? You may already know them as Great Gatherings, Adventures, or FUNdraisers from your elementary school. But for those uninitiated, Ramsey Rendezvous are social gatherings that Ramsey parents host in their homes and elsewhere. All proceeds help support and enhance Ramsey activities. Events range in price and activities in order to appeal to varied interests. Have a great party idea and willing to host or co-host? Please contact Beth Gyllstrom at ramseyfundraising@gmail.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
ATTENDANCE LINE	(612) 668-4030
TRANSPORTATION	(612) 668-2300

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO
SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO
MPS LUNCH MENUS