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Important Dates

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
Mar 13 - Mar 17: 7th Grade Reading MCA Tests
Mar 20 - Mar 24: 8th Grade Reading MCA Tests
Tue, Mar 21: "It's That Easy" Parent Education Presentation, 6:30 - 8 pm
Mar 27 - Mar 30: 6th Grade Reading MCA Tests
Fri, Mar 31: NO SCHOOL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Rename Ramsey Update

Our February 28 **Community Voices**: "What should be the name of our school?" event is almost here. 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!

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](#).

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

Arabic Night is Tomorrow! **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](#).

Ramsey Rendezvous 2017

We have a great list of Rendezvous for this year—on sale now! We have a wide array of social offerings, all of which go to support Ramsey! Some of these fill up quickly, so make sure to check out what's available and check back, as we have additional parties pending. See the [Ramsey PTA website](#) for details and ticket information for these fun upcoming events!

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.

“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!



PTA Hosts Parent-Education Opportunity

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](#).

Ramsey Parent Morning Greeters

Tuesdays & Fridays, 8 - 8:30 am

A few upcoming Greeter happenings:

- **February 24:** Live Music from Zach Spirov - We love live music in the mornings!
- **February 28:** Hot Shaah (traditional Somali tea) - Hosted by Ramsey's own Safia Qanyare
- **March 10:** Churros & Mexican Hot Chocolate - Hosted by Christy & Armando Santiago
- **March 14:** Leslie Mallery & Ramsey Students on Piano

[Be a morning greeter.](#)

[Play live music.](#)

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

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 for any of the Treats Days](#) this year.

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!

AFTER SCHOOL

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.

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!

Join the Ramsey Chess Club!

Ramsey Middle School is forming a Chess Club!

Parents and educators around the world acknowledge that chess is a powerful tool for developing higher order thinking skills, creativity, numerical and verbal aptitudes, and memory. It's also a lot of fun!

Ramsey Chess Club welcomes everyone—whether you're already playing chess at home or have never played the game. If your family is interested in participating in chess at Ramsey and would like to know more, please contact Jacquelynn Goessling at Jacquelynn@Goessling.com.

Ramsey Chess Club will compete at Check It Out Chess Tournaments sponsored by MPS. The next tournament is March 11 at Whittier International Elementary School. You can [view the event flyer](#) online.

Ramsey Chess Club is looking for coaches and mentors to work with our Chess Club students and families. If you can donate any amount of time, please contact Jacquelynn Goessling at Jacquelynn@Goessling.com.

Check out chess in the Minneapolis Public Schools at http://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/chess_2 where your child can register for free Chesskid account. Chesskid.com is a safe, fun and free online chess site with lessons, videos, daily puzzles and where they can play live chess games against other Chesskid members.

Spring Middle School Ultimate Frisbee League is Back!

This year, the Youth Ultimate Program has merged with Minnesota Youth Ultimate. This results in a few changes, the most significant being that games will be 5-on-5, with a truly coed team (3 boys and 2 girls) on the field. The aim is to grow the sport for both boys and girls.

With that in mind, we're looking for all girls who have an interest in playing a super fun, non-contact sport with lots of teamwork, running, and throwing the disc. The league hopes to hold some clinics for girls new to the sport in the next couple weeks. All the info and registration can be found on minnesotaultimate.org. Please sign up!

If you have any questions, contact Barry at barrymarkus@hotmail.com.

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.

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