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Important Dates

- Mon, Jan 16:** NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tue, Jan 17:** PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Ramsey Media Center
- 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
- Fri, Feb 10:** Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Sat, Feb 11:** Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Thu, Feb 23:** Arabic Night, 5 pm, Ramsey Cafeteria

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

Students of the Month

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

6th Grade

- For Assertion: Nate K
- For Compassion: Simone P
- For Responsibility: Shamsa A
- For Self-Control: Luca O

7th Grade

For Compassion: Hodo Y

For Responsibility: Nicholas A, Elsie C Q, Alexandra E M

8th Grade

For Assertion: Isabella B, Ruth P

For Compassion: Paco N

For Responsibility: Isaiah L

Congratulations to our students of the month!

Thank You

A big thank you to Ramsey parents for their generous donations of gift cards, warm clothing, and snack foods! We were able to help many families at the end of the year.

If you're still looking to help out, the social workers would love to have gas cards and bus passes to give to families. Many families ask, but the social workers do not have any.

If you have donations for Ramsey's social workers, please drop them off with Cassie Zonnefeld, in the main office.

Early Release Days January 25 and 26

On Wednesday, January 25, and Thursday, January 26, Ramsey Middle School will be closing at 1 pm.

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. Busses will run as usual, but at 1 pm on these days.

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.

Rhino Report

The latest edition of the *Rhino Report* is here! For student perspectives on current events, school happenings, art, and more, click here: http://rms.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/vol_2_no_5.pdf.

Rename Ramsey

Ramsey's student-led renaming campaign continues to progress and gain support. This month we are asking all RMS students to submit a name idea for our school as part of a lesson in either their Social

Studies or ELA classes. We also sent nomination forms to feeder schools, partnering organizations and nearby neighborhood offices. Have an idea for a new name? Fill out a nomination form here: [New Name Nomination Form](#)

Additionally, 6th graders are surveying the community about the importance of a school name, knowledge about the life Alexander Ramsey and an interest in renaming. Currently, around 75% of 6th and 7th graders want to rename the school, 15% are undecided and 10% are against. We will have more survey data soon!

A cost spreadsheet for the renaming is here: [Rename Costs](#). If we replace the lettering on our existing signs, do a new logo and subsidized T-shirts for all students the total cost would be \$3847. If we get a new fancy electric sign out front, replace the metal lettering on the side of the building, get a new logo and a t-shirt for each student the total cost would be \$17,995. We have multiple grants and fundraisers underway to help meet these costs.

Our rough draft of timeline for the renaming is below:

January:	Students, staff, community can suggest possible naming nominations. Students in all grade levels will be researching possible names and doing a cost analysis.
Friday, January 27:	A panel of students, staff, and community members will be invited to research nominations and reduce possibilities to 4-6. Please contact Miss Elissa or Paul Sommers if you would like to participate.
Early February:	Finalists are presented to RMS student body to winnow possible selections to 3; fundraising continues.
February - Early March:	Site council hosts a community gathering to get input on rename and possibilities.
March:	Site council makes a decision about whether or not to rename, if a decision is made to rename - the documentation is sent to the superintendent by April 1.
April:	Superintendent reviews recommendation; if approved, it is sent to School Board
May:	School board discusses proposals
June:	School board makes decision

Somali Tea at Ramsey Morning Greeters

Come enjoy a hot cup of Shaah (traditional Somali Tea) and welcome the students to school on Tuesday, January 10, from 8:00 to 8:30 am. Hosted by Ramsey's very own Safia Qanyare.

Parent Greeters, sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544abaa2aaafe3-ramsey3>

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.

Shoveling Help From Students With a Cause

Over winter break, students from the Rename Ramsey Campaign started a shoveling business to raise money for a new sign. Ava B is spearheading the fundraiser. If you would like your walk or driveway shoveled, RSVP to 612-929-2217 or 612-499-3723 and a student from the campaign will help out ASAP. All funds will go toward the Rename Ramsey Campaign.

MAST Fundraiser

Who Loves Bread? Muffins? Cookies? The Great Harvest Bakery in Linden Hills??

On Sunday, January 8 from 9 am to 5 pm, The Great Harvest Bakery (4313 Upton Avenue) is turning the store over to the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team (MAST) to help raise money for their program. Skiers will be there baking and selling deliciousness. Please stop by and support our team of 100 athletes from 10 schools in Minneapolis. Skip the line and pre-order from any member of the MAST team. Salted caramel cookies, anyone?

Coming Soon

Arabic Night 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.

Beginning Band and Varsity Bands Winter Concert at Ramsey Middle School on Wednesday, January 18, 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 volunteers to chaperone student groups in the auditorium during the concert. If you're willing to help, [sign up here](#).

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 right job for you. 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.

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
ATTENDANCE LINE

(612) 668-4040
(612) 668-4030

[SCHOOL CLOSING INFO](#)
[SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO](#)

TRANSPORTATION

(612) 668-2300

[MPS LUNCH MENUS](#)