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Important Dates

- Fri, Feb 10:** Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Sat, Feb 11:** Ramsey Musical, *Annie Jr.*, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Tue, Feb 14:** African-American Parent Involvement Day at Ramsey, 8 - 9 am
- 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

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

Annie Jr.

Set in 1933, the story of Annie is based on the depression-era comic strip Little Orphan Annie. Annie is an optimistic young girl who must live in a miserable orphanage run by the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Her seemingly hopeless situation changes dramatically when she is selected to spend a short time at the residence of the wealthy industrialist, Oliver Warbucks. Quickly, she charms the hearts of the household staff. Warbucks decides to help Annie find her long lost parents by offering a reward to anyone who can prove their identity. However, Miss Hannigan, her evil brother, Rooster, and a female accomplice, have plans of their own.



There are 70 Ramsey students in the cast, 20 in the Tech Crew, 15 in the Costume Crew and 12 in the Pit Orchestra. All the students have been learning their roles in the show in Community Education classes before and after school and they are excited to show you what they have learned.

Public performances of Annie will be this Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11, at 7:00pm. Tickets will be \$5 and available at the door. Ramsey staff and children under 5 admitted free! No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Please come and help us celebrate all the hard work of our students and staff!

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!

Congratulations to Ramsey's Math Team!



Ramsey's math team took second place out of ten teams in the City of Lakes Minneapolis Chapter MathCounts Competition, and is advancing to STATE! Please congratulate 8th graders Ben K. and Paco N., 7th grader Daniel S., and 6th grader Nate K.

Also, please further congratulate Daniel S. for winning fourth place in the Individual Round! In addition to the team event, he will be competing as an individual at the state competition.

Want to see our mathletes in action? Come see the fun live on Saturday, March 11 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth.

Rename Ramsey Update

The final five name options are being discussed by the student body this week. Students will have a chance to vote for their favorites at an assembly later this week. The greater RMS community can provide feedback at our event on February 28 ([more information about the event can be found here](#)).

To learn more about each of the final five name ideas for our Middle School, check out our website: RenameRMS.weebly.com.

George and the Dragon will be hosting a benefit brunch on Sunday, February 26, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm to raise funds for the name change. Ramsey students will be working as servers and 100% of your patronage will go directly to the Rename Ramsey fund. The event will be reservations-only, so book early. Please contact Fred or Stacy at 612-208-1047 for details and to make reservations. If you're unable to stay for brunch, or can't get a reservation, you're always welcome to drop by and participate by donating to this great cause!



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.

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!

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!

Spirit Wear

Remember Rhinos, Spirit Wear supports your school. Every dollar spent on your purchase of Spirit Wear goes back to students in a variety of ways.

Spirit Wear can be bought at all evening performances. We are also providing opportunities for you, our students and staff, to buy Spirit Wear on the second Friday of the month during student lunch in the cafeteria.



African-American Family Involvement Celebrations

From Principal Erin Rathke:

I want to personally welcome our African American families to school, on **Tuesday, February 14 at 8:00 am**. Our desire at Ramsey is to celebrate the diversity of our building by providing opportunities for our families to be involved. At 8:00 am we will meet by the Auditorium for a brief gathering with the principal and other parents, before greeting students at the door with music. At 8:30 there will be an opportunity to have breakfast, coffee and conversations with the principal. Please let us know you are coming by [signing up here](#).

Minneapolis Public Schools is also hosting a district-wide family event in recognition of African-American Family Involvement Day.

When: **Monday, February 13, 6-8 pm**

Where: Roller Garden, 5622 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park

This is a free event open to all MPS families.

Winter Conferences are Next 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!

Feed the Teachers

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

No Community Education After School Classes Thursday, February 16

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

Upcoming Events at Ramsey Greeter Mornings

Join Ramsey Morning Greeters to welcome the students to school from 8:00 to 8:30 am on Tuesdays and Fridays. Note these upcoming events:

Friday, February 10

Ramsey students & alumnae (current Washburn students Charlie G., Sophie B. and Gracie J.) will be playing live music!

Tuesday, February 14

Leslie Mallery & Kate Niemisto will be playing with Ramsey students on piano (any interested students can play). This will be followed by Ramsey's African American Parent Involvement Celebration; [RSVP here](#).

Tuesday, February 28

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.

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.](#)

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.

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.](#)

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

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!



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.

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