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Important Dates

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

Wed, Mar 29: Plant Sale Order Forms Due

Fri, Mar 31: NO SCHOOL

Apr 3 - Apr 7: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

Mon, Apr 10: H2O for Life Begins

Tue, Apr 11: Site Council Meeting, 5 pm, Ramsey Media Center

Apr 17 - Apr 21: 7th Grade Math MCA Tests

Tue, Apr 18: PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm

Fri, Apr 21: Twins Game, 7:10 pm

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ramsey Plant Sale

It is time for our Annual Plant Sale! This is a fundraiser for the PTA that we hold each spring. This year, our plants come from Gertens again. These plants have proven to be beautiful and hearty!

[Plant sale order forms can be found here](#). Feel free to share them with friends and family members. Forms and payment are due in the office by **Wednesday, March 29**. Please print and fill out the forms, and make sure that you include your name and a contact number. A very limited number of catalogs with all of the plants in them are available in the office. An [electronic version of the catalog](#) is also available.



Order pickup is on **Monday, May 15 from 12-6 pm**. There are **NO REFUNDS** for plants that are not picked up.

It has been brought to our attention in years past that people would like to buy Native Grasses as part of this sale. Please know that it is too early in the season for the grasses to be available.

In addition, we have been asked about the use of neonicotinoids. Here is the statement from Gertens in regards to that: "Gertens is very aware of issues and questions concerning the use of neonicotinoids and other insecticides. Gertens refrains from using neonics on any bedding plants grown in six count packs, veggies, and culinary herbs. Also the seed sources from which our plants come from are neonic free. We do selectively apply neonicotinoids to some larger planters, hanging baskets and 4 ¾" potted annuals. This selection process is based upon certain plants having particular vulnerability to specific pests and/or terminal plant diseases spread by those pests. If necessary, we try to apply early in the

plant growth cycle which reduces total amount of product used and environmental impact later once the plants are moved outdoors. Also there is a chance that some starter plugs that we purchase from propagators could have been treated with neonics."

Please help us make this year our most successful year ever!

Sincerely,

[Paula Huber-Williams](#) and [Melissa Waskiewicz](#)

Plant Sale Committee Chairs

Rename Ramsey Update

Ramsey's student-led renaming campaign continues to progress and gain support. On March 7, the Ramsey site council voted 10-1 in favor of removing the name Alexander Ramsey from our Middle School. Site council members ranked in order of preference the following candidates: #1 Justice Alan Page, #2 Dr. Martha Ripley, #3 Bde Ota. Justice Alan Page Middle School was the preferred name. He received 9 out of 10 first choice votes.

We will be sending all three candidates to the Superintendent for approval and School Board. If the office approves more than one, Ramsey Middle School would like to make the final selection. The RMS Site Council members would like to acknowledge the dedication and fidelity our students put into this process, the courageous work of our teacher leaders, the outpouring of community support, and the opportunity provided to the school by our new Principal, Erin Rathke.

We received some emails and feedback against this campaign and have reached out to those families for continued discussion. Building community and making our school a better place for all families has been and always will be our objective.

For more information on the Rename Campaign, [read this article on the Ramsey website](#), or see the [Rename Ramsey website](#).

Don't miss our rename Ramsey fundraiser at prAna!

Thursday, March 16

5 - 8 pm

3926 W. 50th Street (near 50th and France)

Customers will get 15% off, plus prAna will donate 15% back to the Rename Ramsey Campaign!

Wine! | Appetizers! | Yoga! | Yoga Instructor for the Kids!



Sixth Grade Reading MCAs

Sixth grade reading MCAs are coming up March 27-30. Students in 6th grade have worked to make growth goals based on their performance on the MCAs last year. If you have a student in 6th grade, please ask them about this goal and what their plan is for meeting this goal.

Seventh Grade Parent Survey

Do you have a 7th grader? We want to hear from you! Any parent of a 7th grader is invited to [take this survey](#) to provide feedback.

Updated Ramsey Visitor Policy

Ramsey has a new visitor policy in place during school hours, 8:30 am to 3:45 pm:

1. Buzz in at door 1
 - a. Secretary states: "Welcome to Ramsey, how can I help you?"
 - b. Identify yourself and state your purpose over the speaker.
 - c. Proceed to the main office
2. Report to the main office
 - a. Sign in on the pink sheet.
 - b. Turn in your license/ID or keys and pick up a neon visitor's badge to wear in a visible location on your shirt (all visitors without a badge will be asked to report back to the main office). If you do not have an ID or keys, your party must meet you in the main office and escort you to your location (you must still wear a visitor's badge)

Check-Out Procedures

1. Return to main office and sign out
2. Remove and return visitor's badge
3. Collect keys or ID

Alumni/Previous Students:

1. You must have an appointment prior to arrival
2. Your appointment must be after school hours
3. The teacher you are meeting with must meet you in the main office.

Yearbook Photos Needed!

We're looking for great pictures of Ramsey students to be included in this year's yearbook. Did you get a good picture of your student and their friends during spirit week? Do you have action shots from your child's basketball season? Do you have photos from your student's History Day project? We may not use all photos, but we'd love to have lots of pictures to work with!

Please email photos to ramseyscommunications@gmail.com, and include a description of the event and names of people in the photo. To be included in this year's yearbook, all photos must be submitted by **Friday, March 24**. Thank you!

Yearbook order forms will be available in late March/early April. Stay tuned for more information.

Is Your Student Not Feeling Well?

If your student is feeling ill and needing to go home, please have them go to the health office for an assessment first. If dismissal is warranted, the health office will contact parents to arrange for pick up. Students should not be texting for parent pick up from their cell phones.

EVENTS

Ramsey Rocker Rendezvous March 25

Dance and mingle with fellow Ramsey parents for an evening of food, drinks, and music. Special guests, "Staff Infection" (the Ramsey staff band), will preview their performance for the Battle of the

Bands. Wear your favorite rock concert T, or dress like your favorite rock star, and help the Ramsey Arts Council raise funds for new risers for the Ramsey Auditorium. [Click here for tickets.](#)

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.](#)

Who's Ready for Baseball?

Join the Ramsey, Burroughs, Lyndale, and Green Central school communities in cheering on the Minnesota Twins vs. the Detroit Tigers on **April 21 at 7:10 pm**. Your entire family is invited to join us for fun and baseball at a discounted price. A great opportunity to meet new families and new friends outside of the classroom. Seats are limited, buy yours now! **Ticket sales close on Wednesday, March 29.**



Two options to purchase tickets:

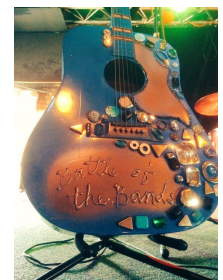
- [Buy seats online](#) with credit card. Online purchases include an extra \$1.54 fee to cover credit card processing costs (total cost \$11.54).
- Buy seats with a check made out to Ramsey Middle School PTA. Tickets are \$10 each. Mail your check to Ramsey PTA, 1 W. 49th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

Contact Angie North at ramseytreasurer@gmail.com with questions. We look forward to seeing you at the game!

Does Your Band Have What it Takes?

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).



There's still room for a couple of bands from Ramsey, so if you're considering signing up, the time is now! [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!

Sixth Grade Math Competition May 6

Save the Date for the MPS 6th Grade Math Competition! After competing in a preliminary competition at school, four teams of Ramsey students will participate in the District Math Competition at North High School on May 6, 2017. Teams will check in at 8:30 am. Awards are presented at 2:00 pm.

Event organizers are in need of many volunteers. If you'd like to help, or would like more information, [visit the district website](#).

ACCOLADES

Students of the Month

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

6th Grade

For Assertion: Julie L

For Empathy: Gus K

For Responsibility: Irshad M & Luis R G

7th Grade

For Assertion: Ashley A & Zamzam M

For Responsibility: Zach M & Evan Z

8th Grade

For Empathy: Paige Y

For Compassion: Fiona M

For Responsibility: Joe R & Asher T

Congratulations to our students of the month!

Girls Basketball Team Wins Tournament

Ramsey's girls basketball team recently wrapped up an incredible season! After finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record, they participated in the inaugural Lower Level Basketball Tournament at Washburn on February 25, where they won all four games, beating Barton in an overtime thriller.

Congratulations to Ashley A, Isabella B, Jakayla D, Annika F, Chloe G G, Abigail H, Nevaeh H, Taylor J, Nyagach K, and Amal S.

Ramsey's boys basketball team also ended their season on February 25. They worked hard all season and finished strong at the boys tournament! Congratulations to Austin C, Owen C, Nicholas C, James F, Luca G, Jacob G, Martell H, Donald H, Taylor J, Jack J, Truman K, Connor K, Ryan M, Max M, and Gabriel U.

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.

AAA Batteries Needed

The Math department at Ramsey is requesting donations of triple-A (AAA) batteries for use in graphing calculators. These calculators are shared and used across all math classrooms at Ramsey and tend to run out of batteries at this point in the school year.



Please send in packs of new AAA batteries with your students to drop off in Room 323 (Ms. Novak's classroom) or Room 322 (Ms. Krasean's classroom/Math Center), from March 1 through March 31.

It's one very practical and easy way to help keep Ramsey students charged up about math. Literally.

AFTER SCHOOL

Middle School Track

Any Ramsey students interested in competing in Track are welcome to join the Ramsey track team. Ramsey will compete in 3 middle school meets hosted by the high school teams.

The Ramsey track team is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Any 7th and 8th graders who are on the high school track team cannot do middle school track meets.

Track will start on Monday, March 20, at 4:30 pm.

Meets:

April 21 at North High School

May 1 at Roosevelt High School

May 12 at Washburn High School

Contact [Akua Kennedy](#) for more information.

Ramsey Ultimate Spring League—Free Clinics for Girls!

Girls Ultimate Movement (GUM) is offering a second free clinic to provide girls interested in playing ultimate a chance to learn and play, and ask whatever questions they may have. This is a great way to be introduced to the sport!

Clinic #2:

When: Sunday, March 19, 1 - 4 pm

Where: Robbinsdale Middle School: 3730 Toledo Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55422

Who: Girls 5th-8th grade

Please go to minnesotaultimate.org to register so they have an idea of how many to expect for the clinics, or to sign up for middle school league.

Contact Barry at barrymarkus@hotmail.com with any questions.

PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Morning Greeters—Now Fridays Only!

The Morning Greeter & Musician program will now be Fridays only—the most celebratory day of the week.

Come at 8 am, meet other parents, hear from the Principal, welcome the students and be done by 8:30. Sometimes we even have coffee.

Hope to see you all there!

[Be a morning greeter.](#)

[Play live music.](#)

PERFORMING ARTS

“Sweet Charity” at Southwest

Southwest's Spotlight Musical, "Sweet Charity," opens Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 pm. Follow the misadventures of Charity Hope Valentine and her associates at the Fandango Ballroom as she sings, dances, laughs and cries her way through comical situations in the hope of finding true love.



Showtimes:

March 16-18, 7 pm; March 19, 2 pm

March 23-25, 7 pm; March 26, 2 pm

March 16, Name Your Price at the door

March 17, Alumni Night (Special Alumni discount \$5 off adult or senior ticket, at the door or online! Online code: SWALUM. Please stop by the Alumni table in the lobby for a button and name tag. Alumni will be recognized before the start of the show)

Visit the [Southwest Theatre website](#) for tickets and 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.

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| MAIN OFFICE | (612) 668-4040 |
| ATTENDANCE LINE | (612) 668-4030 |
| TRANSPORTATION | (612) 668-2300 |

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| SCHOOL CLOSING INFO |
| SCHOOL MESSENGER INFO |
| MPS LUNCH MENUS |