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Important Dates

Fri, Sep 23: School Assembly: The Rhino Way

Wed, Sep 28 - Fri, Sep 30: Fall Book Sale, 11:15 am - 1:45 pm

Fri, Sep 30: 7th Grade Fort Snelling Trip

Wed, Oct 5: Walk/Bike to School Day

Fri, Oct 7: School Assembly: Anti-Bullying

Mon, Oct 10: We Scare Hunger Food Drive Begins

Thu, Oct 13: Conferences, 4:30-8 pm

Tue, Oct 18: Conferences, 4:30-8 pm

Wed, Oct 19: Conferences, 8:00 am - 12 pm

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

After-School Classes Start Oct. 3

After-school classes start Monday, October 3! From academic support to Pop 'n' Lock Dance to Dungeons & Dragons, there's something for everyone after the last bell of the school day. After-school classes will meet Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 pm to 5:45 pm and will be taught by a dedicated group of Ramsey staff and community members. After-school classes at Ramsey fall into two categories:

The Office of Extended Learning offers academic support classes that are free to qualifying students. To find out if your student qualifies, please contact Community Education Coordinator [JoEllyn Jolstad](#) or Academic Lead [Joseph Johnson](#). ALC courses are open to non-qualifying students for a small fee; however, priority is given to those who qualify for the ALC program.

Community Education courses are available to all students. Some classes have a registration fee which covers the cost of the instructor and materials. Limited scholarships are available. Please contact JoEllyn Jolstad for information about program scholarships.

To learn more and enroll, please check out the Youth Programs flyer your child will bring home from Advisory. You can also download a flyer and link to online registration on the Youth Programs website at <http://youth.mpls.k12.mn.us/ramsey>.

Transportation will be available at 5:45 pm upon request for students who live in the Ramsey busing area. Please enroll your child in classes and request a bus as soon as possible to help ensure your child receives transportation.

Questions? Please call the Washburn/Ramsey Community Education office at (612) 668-3450. We look forward to seeing your child after school!

Smudging

Ramsey's Native American student group meets weekly to learn, share, and participate in a variety of discussions and activities that revolve around Native American history, culture, and practices. One tradition that will be practiced and experienced by these students is "smudging."

Smudging is a traditional practice among Native Americans and other cultures. Cedar, sage, or sweetgrass is lit carefully and, as smoke starts to rise, the smoke is scooped with your hands and brought to your heart and over your head so what is in your heart and on your mind is communicated. A small amount of smoke is produced; it will stimulate the sense of smell, and persist for a short while afterwards.

Students of the Month

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

6th Grade

For Assertion: Jaime V & Sylvia T

For Compassion: Sabrina O

For Empathy: Auggie W

7th Grade

For Assertion: Deja F
For Compassion: Alma G C
For Responsibility: Reece P & Jesus V-R

8th Grade

For Assertion: Rebecca B
For Compassion: Damoro C
For Responsibility: Diego A & Ava B

Congratulations to our students of the month!

Art Supplies Needed

The art and art elective classes are in need of supplies, some of which you may have already at your house! Specifically, we're looking for: sports magazines (we will take other types as well); bar soap; aprons; clean, large yogurt containers; and interior latex paints in bright colors. Please bring supplies to Ms. Elissa if you can help!

New Birding Club at Ramsey

Get outside. Hang with friends. Hike around. And get to know our local birds, their habits, and sounds.

Everyone is welcome to join Bird Club—any interest level, any ability. And all binoculars and field guides are provided.

Bird Club spends a few minutes sharing stories and meeting 2 new species. Then we head out, weather permitting, and bird. **Our first session starts this week:** 4 Thursdays, Sept 22–Oct 13, after school until 5:15. (Winter and spring sessions coming too.)

Register today at <http://www.activesolutionsforkids.com>. A complete session description can be found online.

Questions? Contact Amy Simso Dean: asimsodean@gmail.com

Seeking Volunteers

Looking for a way to get involved at Ramsey? Look no further! Here are the current volunteer opportunities at Ramsey:

Single Event:

- [Book Fair](#)—help share the joy of a great book by staffing our book fair

Ongoing:

- [ESL Newcomer Class](#)—help students new to the USA work on their English skills
 - [Greeters](#)—start our students' days out on a positive note by greeting students when they arrive at Ramsey
 - [Media Center](#)—help keep the media center well-organized and running smoothly
 - [Musicians](#)—welcome students as they arrive at school with live music in the mornings
 - [Teacher Treat Day](#)—thank our devoted Ramsey staff and teachers with a monthly treat day
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Rhinos in the News

Girls Volleyball

Ramsey girls had their first volleyball match on Monday against Anthony Middle School. We won one of the three games. The girls are continuing to grow individually as well as together as a team. Our next two games are home: **tonight (9/21)** and Monday, 9/26. All games are played in the upper gym at Ramsey Middle School, and start at 4:45 pm. Come and cheer us on!

Curriculum News and Notes

6th Grade

ELA:

We just finished up going over routines and procedures for reading and writing in ELA, as well as a genre study. Last week we started our first unit: Community and Connections, where we explore the question: *How can one person impact a community?* We will continue this investigation through examining a short story by AVI titled, "What Do Fish Have To Do With Anything", a short novella by Paul Fleischman called Seedfolks, and through looking critically at our own experiences.

Minnesota Studies:

We have had a great start to the year investigating our first unit: Who is Minnesota? Time has been spent looking at our many individual stories that have brought each of us to Minnesota, as well as exploring many different cultures who work together to create the communities that make up Minnesota. We continue our unit studying the roles of public and private organizations to help create the state we call home.

8th Grade

Global Studies:

Global Studies students have been very busy learning academic language and global terms to use throughout the year. Students have taken their first assessment and are currently learning about geography and the tools that mapmakers use. Our first in-class project will be launched this week and students will be able to test their geography skills by creating a map of their personal history.

Science:

What's up with the weather? Should I plan for rain? Why is it so cold in Minnesota during the winter? To help answer these questions, and so many more, we are continuing our look at Earth's weather and the factors that contribute to it, including air pressure, temperature, humidity, and wind/ocean currents. This unit will take us into November/December, and by the end, each student will be using weather data (not just guessing) to make weather predictions, just like they do on TV!

Art

Art 6, 7, 8

Student artists are studying Surrealism in our first Drawing Unit. We started with an "Exquisite Corpse" collaborative drawing exercise and are finishing up a mixed media surreal collage. Surrealist art has a dream-like feel; taking reality but then distorting it, changing its proportions and creating scenes that only exist in our imagination. Our next unit we will be making 3D clay houses using the design cycle. The Art Room could use more sports magazines (we will take other types as well), bar soap, aprons and clean large yogurt containers if you'd like to help out!

Art Elective: Mural Arts and Identity with Ms. Elissa

Students in our new Murals class are learning about collaboration and the many aspects involved in the creation of a community mural project. We are considering which walls at Ramsey would be best for our mural this semester as well as learning about community mural stakeholders and history. Our classroom could use interior latex paints in bright colors – maybe you have some leftover down in your basement!

Announcements and Events

PTA Update

The PTA had a great first meeting last night. If you missed the meeting, [minutes can be found here](#).

The next PTA meeting will take the form of a book club. We'll be gathering on Tuesday, 10/25, at Turtle Bread (4762 Chicago Ave. S.) to discuss the book "Middle School: Improving the Way You and Your Child Experience the Middle School Years" by Michelle Icard. All Ramsey parents and guardians are welcome to join our meeting, even if you haven't read the book.

Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Ramsey Middle School will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the cafeteria from Wednesday, September 28 through Friday, September 30, from 11:15 am to 1:45 pm. Come load up on books!

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