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Important Dates

- Apr 28:** Last Day for H2O for Life
- Apr 24 - Apr 28:** 8th Grade Math MCA Tests
- May 1 - May 5:** 6th Grade Math MCA Tests
- Tue, May 2:** Site Council Meeting, 5 pm, Ramsey Media Center
- Fri, May 5:** Yearbook Orders Due
- May 9 - May 10:** 8th Grade Science MCA Tests
- Thu, May 11:** Jazz Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Tue, May 16:** PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Ramsey Media Center
- Wed, May 17:** Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8-9 am, Ramsey Media Center
- Thu, May 18:** Choir Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Tue, May 23:** Orchestra Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Wed, May 24:** Concert Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium
- Mon, May 29:** NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
- Wed, May 31:** Beginning and Varsity Band Concert, 7 pm, Ramsey Auditorium

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

13 Reasons Why

April 22, 2017

Dear families, staff and students,

In recent days I have heard a lot of discussion among students, staff and across the nation regarding the new Netflix series called "13 Reasons Why," based on a fictional novel by Jay Asher. The series is rated TV-MA (for a mature audience). It depicts a journey of a high school student who dies by suicide, leaving behind tapes in which she tells her story and the events that led up to her death. I would describe the series as graphic and real.

Click here to [read the full text of Principal Rathke's letter](#), including information on suicide awareness, and points for discussing this series in your family.

School Year 2017-18 Information Session Notes

At the parent information meeting on April 12, Principal Rathke shared a wealth of information about Ramsey's future. Highlights included:

- Changes to start and end times
- Changes to electives
- Changes to literacy

If you missed the meeting, or would like to review the information shared, you can view the [presentation slides](#), read the [presentation notes](#), and/or check out the [first quarter 2017-2018 calendar](#).

MPS Equity and Integration Conversation

For the second time this year, MPS is hosting a community conversation about equity and integration at Minneapolis Public Schools. Our equity conversation will be held in a World Cafe format from 6-8:30 pm on Tuesday, May 2, at the Davis Service Center. In order to make lasting change within our schools and develop a successful Achievement and Integration Plan, we need to hear from as many voices as possible.

It's extremely important that the diversity of our families is widely represented in this conversation. We want everyone to understand that this is a safe and welcoming venue for them to share their opinions and ideas about creating more equitable environments within our buildings.

See the flyer for more information.

[English](#)

[Soomaali](#)

[Español](#)

Still Time To Order a Yearbook

Don't miss out on the memories! Place your order before **May 5, 2017**. The yearbook costs \$7.



Two ways to order a yearbook:

1. Go to tinyurl.com/2017RMSYearbookOrder, click the Tickets button, and pay by credit or debit card. Note: online orders incur an additional processing fee of \$1.38, for a total charge of \$8.38.
2. **Print** and complete [this order form](#) and send it with cash or a check to school. If paying by check, please make the check payable to Ramsey Middle School PTA. Paper forms can be dropped off either in the Main Office, or with students' advisory teachers.

Paper forms are also available in the Main Office.

2017-2018 Ramsey Course Registration

Registration for electives will be happening soon for incoming 6th grade students, and current Ramsey 6th and 7th graders:

- May 9: **Current 6th graders** receive information about course registration for 7th grade during MN Studies. Course cards need to be turned in to MN Studies teachers by Tuesday, May 16.
- May 11: **Current 7th graders** receive information about course registration for 8th grade during US Studies. Course cards need to be turned in to US Studies teachers by Thursday, May 18.
- May 16:
 - 9:45-10:45 am: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Lyndale** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.
 - 1:30-3:00 pm: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Burroughs** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.
- May 19, 1:15-2:15 pm: Counselor visits current 5th graders at **Green** and helps them choose elective classes for 6th grade.

Incoming students from non-feeder elementary sites are currently being coordinated/decided. The school counselor will visit each site and help students register for elective classes for 6th grade. Current 5th grade teachers will help in sharing the date/time.

8th Grade Transition to High School

The student placement office mailed out final high school placement letters to all 8th graders and their families during spring break. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, please contact Student Placement at 612-668-1840 and they will be able to tell you your child's placement for next year.

Please see below for upcoming high school registration dates. These events are for students to choose their 9th grade classes and meet future teachers and staff.

Please call (612-668-4059) or [email Carolyn Cottingham](mailto:Carolyn.Cottingham@mnps.edu) for any questions about the transition to high school.

MPS High School Registration Nights:

North	Wednesday, April 26	5:00 - 6:30 pm
FAIR	Thursday, April 27	6:00 - 7:30 pm
Washburn	Thursday, April 27	4:30 - 5:15 pm 5:45 - 6:30 pm 7:00 - 7:45 pm
Southwest	Saturday, April 29	9:30 am (A - K) 10:30 am (L - Z)
South	Tuesday, May 2	6:30 - 8:00 pm
Patrick Henry	Wednesday, May 3	5:30 - 7:30 pm
Roosevelt	Thursday, May 4	6:30 - 8:00 pm
Edison	Thursday, May 11	6:00 - 7:00 pm

Rhino Report

The latest edition of the [Rhino Report](#) is here!

Media Center Announcements

Please be aware of the following dates for the Media Center as we near the end of the school year:

Monday, May 1 Paper and email overdue notices distributed
Friday, May 19 Last day for book checkout
Monday, May 22 Paper and email overdue notices distributed (2nd notice)
Wednesday, May 31 **All books due**

Attention Former and Current Burroughs Parents

The Burroughs Community School invites you to celebrate former Principal Cadotte and thank him for his many years of service and commitment to our school and community. Please join us on Friday, May

12 at 9:30 am as we rename the Burroughs auditorium in his honor. A brief program in the gym will be followed by a reception in the atrium.

EVENTS

6th Grade Math Competition

The MPS District-wide 6th Grade Math Competition will be held at North High School on Saturday, May 6. Winning teams and individuals from Ramsey's school-level competition will be participating. Good luck to all participants! See the MPS website for [more information on the district-wide competition](#).

We need at least 6 people to attend and volunteer at the district competition. You can [volunteer for a half or full day](#). The competition runs from 8 am until 2 pm.

Help Finish the Ramsey Mural

Ramsey is hosting two community painting days:

- **Wednesday, May 3**, 4-7:30 pm (bring \$5 for pizza; students will need written permission to stay after school and a ride home at 7:30)
- **Saturday, May 13**, 1-4:30 pm (bring a snack to share)

Invite your friends and family to come help paint the mural! Wear old clothes and meet us in the mural hallway.

Mark your calendars! The Mural Unveiling Event will be held on **Wednesday, May 31**, at 6 pm (before the band concert). If you're able to help with planning this event, please [contact Wendy Williams](#).

Note: An earlier version of this story gave an incorrect date for the first community painting day. The correct date is Wednesday, May 3.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Calling All Volunteers! On **Wednesday, May 17, at 8:00 am** in the Media Center, we will come together for breakfast to thank our wonderful Ramsey volunteers. The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is for the school community to honor and thank volunteers for their time, talent, and commitment. Volunteer efforts support the building of community and make possible wonderful activities and programs for our students, parents, and teachers.



Whether you baked cookies for conferences, greeted our students, or chaperoned an event, we sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers and every contribution made to Ramsey. Please stop by anytime between 8:00 and 9:00 am on May 17 to enjoy some food provided by the staff.

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Final Days of H2O for Life Fundraiser

If you've been saving those pennies for H2O for life, it's time to bring them in! Remember, pennies count as positive points for the grade that receives them; bills & silver change count as negative points. The grade level with the most points will win a prize.

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.

Math Competition Volunteers Needed

The MPS 5th-6th Grade Math Competition needs 55 volunteers, and we are required to bring at least 6 from Ramsey. Can you attend and volunteer? The competition is **Saturday, May 6**, from 8 am to 2 pm. You can [sign up for a half or full day](#). Thanks for helping support our students and our school in this district-wide competition!

Arts Council

We need a new group of parents to lead the Arts Council next school year. It is an easy and fun way to be involved! We meet only once a year to gather ideas and get organized. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to [Wendy Williams](#), who is moving on to Washburn after six years of Ramsey involvement.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Concerts

We need parent volunteers to help with our spring concerts. If your student is participating in any of these concerts, please sign up to greet or chaperone. Our great music teachers need your support to make these concerts run smoothly, and it's fun to hear our Ramsey musicians show off their accomplishments from the year!

[Jazz Band Concert](#), Thursday, May 11, 7pm

[Orchestra Concert](#), Tuesday, May 23, 7pm

[Concert Bands Concert](#), Wednesday, May 24, 7pm

[Beginning and Varsity Bands Concert](#), Wednesday, May 31, 7 pm

ACCOLADES

Students of the Month

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

6th Grade

For Compassion: Marcie S

For Responsibility: Gael J-K, Tristan K, & Ingrid S

7th Grade

For Empathy: Ben M

For Responsibility: Michelle A E, Shania F, & Hatziri L

8th Grade

For Assertion: Israa A

For Empathy: Wes N

For Responsibility: Leo F & Hodo M

Congratulations to our students of the month!

Ramsey Students Rock!

On Sunday, April 23, two Ramsey student bands (and the Ramsey staff band) participated in the 2017 Washburn vs. Ramsey Battle of the Bands. Although they didn't come home with the trophy, Ramsey's bands made an excellent showing. Congratulations to Lillian R, Julija P, Charlotte R, Ava H, Rebecca B, and Amy T.



STEP Team Steps It Up!

The STEP Team did an outstanding job on Saturday, April 22, at the Soul Stepping Scholars Stomp Down, a youth step competition for young scholars, at Patrick Henry High School. Our STEP Team was strong and proud and represented the Rhinos that way! Congratulations to the entire Ramsey STEP Team!



Risers

Wonderful news! Five sets of Wenger Risers have been delivered to Ramsey Auditorium and will be in place for the Spring Choir Concert on May 18. This is a big accomplishment that will have lasting benefits for Ramsey. Many thanks to all that supported the successful Rhino Rocker Rendezvous in March and the great Battle of the Bands Saturday. Proceeds from both events are going toward the purchase along with a very generous contribution from the Ramsey PTA. Kudos to our PTA leadership!

AFTER SCHOOL

Last Day of After School Classes

Thursday, May 4 is the last day for Community Education classes after school at Ramsey. Thank you to the many students who participated in our program. Please send your insights and ideas for next year's program to [JoEllyn Jolstad](#).

Birdwatching Club Starts May 4

Middle School Nature Nuts... BirdClub is starting up again May 4. No experience necessary and all materials are provided. All kids 6th grade & up from any school are welcome.

Get out from behind a screen... and out into nature. Together we explore the neighborhood around Ramsey looking for birds and anything else that interests us.

Kids are increasingly detached from nature. Birding reconnects kids to the great outdoors. And it's a great lifetime hobby because you can do it anywhere (Peregrine Falcons nest downtown).

Questions? Email [Amy Simso Dean](#).

[Register and learn more here](#).

Southwest High School Soccer

Are you an 8th grader, attending Southwest High School next year, and interested in playing boys soccer for Southwest High School in 2017? If so, there is a meeting for parents on Sunday, May 7 at 7 pm, at 4260 Linden Hills Blvd.

All important dates and information regarding Summer Programs, tryouts, etc. are listed on our website at: <https://southwest-soccer.com>.

Summer Theatre Camps at Ramsey

Be in the show or the tech crew for “High School Musical” at Ramsey this summer! Also back is our popular Musical Theatre Camp, held the first week of summer break. See the MPS Community Education website for [class and registration information](#).

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.

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