

## **Keep Bandit Our Mascot**

by Julia Foye

The debate is on! Rochester Memorial School is trying to decide if we should keep the RMS mascot or say goodbye to Bandit the raccoon! For over 30 years, Bandit has been with us and he might have to leave. My opinion is that we should save the raccoon and not let him go! Bandit is proud to be at RMS and if we could talk to him he would not want to leave either. There are many reasons why I think we should keep the mascot the same. One reason is because Rochester is known for woods and another is because Bandit has been a tradition for many years. The final reason is that it would be very unreasonable to have to take down all of the posters, signs and make a new logo for the school.

To start off, Rochester is filled with trees and forests so it would not make any sense if Bandit has to leave because he represents the area so well. When you drive in Rochester, everywhere you look there are forests! You can't take one blink without seeing a tree! These little fellas could be climbing trees or just roaming around in the woods. Why would our school not love raccoons and their connection to nature? Raccoons love being in this area and it is a good spot for them, so Bandit should stay right here at RMS!!!

Another reason why Bandit should stay at RMS is because he has been here for a long time, and it would be so sad if we had to lose him. Bandit has been our school mascot for over 30 years and he has been a part of our community for a very long time. Parents and children have memories of Bandit, and if they found out that he was not the mascot anymore it would be just horrible! They might feel like their school isn't the same place that they remember anymore. Bandit has been here for too long, and it would just not feel right to let him go!

If you want to change the raccoon well, slow down, because we have raccoons on every shirt, poster, sign, water bottle, sticker, and he is on our school website! It would cost too much money to change all of those things! We need all the money we can to buy supplies like glue sticks, pencils, pens, rulers and sticky notes! If we change the mascot we will also need someone to design a new logo for our agendas and update our website. That would be hard work and expensive! All of this year's agendas already have raccoons on them, it would be too much trouble to have to buy new ones. No one will be able to have the cute little raccoon stickers anymore! The raccoon has made a mark in this school and we are all grateful that he is here at RMS!

Bandit has been a part of our school community for ages and I feel strongly about saving the raccoon! He just fits into our little town filled with trees and forests. Many people would be so disappointed if Bandit was replaced because he is such a tradition and has been around for so many years! Also our school just doesn't have enough money to replace all of the items that Bandit's face is on. For all these reasons, I just can't imagine a better mascot, so let's just keep Bandit!!!

## **The Rochester Raccoons**

By Delaney Shaw

For years the Rochester Memorial School's mascot has been the raccoon. So why change it? We should keep this animal because it has been a part of our school's history for a long time.

First, the raccoon is a nocturnal animal, which means they normally wait for the cover of the dark night to come out of the dark shadows to do his fetching. This represents that he is understanding of the nature of disguise, dexterity, seeking guidance and confidence, questioning without fear, balancing curiosity, shape shifting and finally secrecy. Since the raccoon has so many traits it makes a very well rounded spirit animal and mascot for our C.A.R.E school. The raccoon sure does resemble a lot.

Next, the raccoon is good at many different qualities. First, they are a great friend. They will travel in small groups of 1 or 2 families searching for fruits, vegetables, and small animals. This represents that the raccoon is good at both making friends and living peacefully. A raccoon is also an excellent swimmer, though they prefer being up a tree – which is where they are often found. Up there they are aware of everything around them and see danger a long way off. If you think about it, a raccoon is a lot like a bandit! The raccoon has many traits that fit our school.

Finally, we should have the raccoon as our school mascot because they can remember things well. In fact, they remember things so well that scientists had to study their acts to try to know them better. Raccoons are known for their intelligence, with studies showing that they are able to remember the solution to tasks for up to three years. This shows that raccoons, like the students in our school, are very intelligent.

As you can see the raccoon is a great mascot for our school. So next time you think about changing our mascot think about it long and hard and make sure that you are making the right decision. Let's stay as the Rochester Memorial School Raccoons forever!!

## **Rochester Time to Change**

By Griffin Lawrence

Awoo, a wolf strides confidently into the moonlight. Next to him sits his pack. This is the perfect image of strength, loyalty, caring and friendship. They are kings of the forest. These are a few of the many reasons why I believe a wolf should be the mascot for Rochester Memorial.

### **The Rochester Memorial Wolves**

Many people think that wolves are vicious hunting predators, but they are really not those scary creatures that "attack" humans out of raw satisfaction. In fact, there has never been a verified account of a healthy wolf attacking a human in North America.

The core attributes of a wolf pack symbolize this school. They care for each other just like we do at RMS. They eliminate their prey with precision and unity, the way RMS helps their students eliminate bad grades. Wolves also have multiple skills and capabilities to thrive. This helps them as they grow from a pup to an adult, moving through the highly organized social structure. As they grow stronger, they teach the

younger wolves the necessary skills to live well in their environment. All this represents the well-rounded capabilities of our school, its students and staff.

While Bandit has served us well for 20+ years, I think it's time for a change. With all the knowledge we've gathered from past classes, we are better able to define who we are and what represents us best. I believe the wolf is that symbol which will best characterize who RMS is as a whole.

It is my hope that the facts and beliefs I have presented will influence you in choosing the wolf as our new mascot.

### **Changing the Mascot!**

Evan Smith

Dear Mr. Medeiros,

I wish to change the mascot of RMS from the RMS Raccoons to the RMS Rams. My reason for wanting to change the mascot is that we've had this mascot for a while, and I think it's time to change it. Also, in cartoons and movies raccoons have always been thieves or bad guys, and I think that could set a bad example for our kindergarteners. However, rams are seen sometimes as strong, agile and quick creatures. Rams also travel in herds with other sheep. So, you could think of yourself as the head ram, and us, the students and teachers as other sheep, and together we can form a herd, or a school. A cool fact about rams that I just found out is that rams decide on their leaders by head butting each other, sort of like how we decide on our president and vice president through speeches. Also, rams are related to some of the strongest mammals on the earth, such as bison, buffalo, goats, antelopes and cattle. This may infer that our school is strong. Rams travel in herds with other sheep, so you could think of yourself as the head ram, and us, the teachers/students, as the other sheep. But, together, we can form a united school and community, or a herd.

So, I want you to think, do you want a raccoon who could represent a thief as our mascot, or do you want a strong ram, who could represent us as a united school for a mascot?

Sincerely,  
Evan Smith