



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | April 1, 2021

## Happy First Year Anniversary, Susie!

Superintendent Dr. Susie Da Silva took the helm of the Ridgefield Public Schools a year ago today. What a year it's been! The effort to re-open schools in the fall and keep schools open while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 spread and providing families with remote options has taken leadership and cooperation at every level. At each step, RPS has prioritized students' education and looks forward to full re-opening on April 19.

Much has been done beyond responding to COVID-19 to prepare the District for the next five years. RPS hired two new principals last spring—Dr. Jacob Greenwood at Ridgefield High School and Rebecca Laus at Barlow Mountain Elementary. An extensive search for the Farmingville Elementary principal is underway. New leadership in the Technology Department is completing an inventory of devices and offering a thoughtful projection of District needs as well as the assessing proper role of technology in our students' lives when we resume post-pandemic. With the hiring of Assistant Superintendent Cory Gillette and Elementary Director Linda Johnson, the District is poised to enhance the elementary curriculum as well as the curriculum at every level to best align with 21st Century Skills. The future of RPS is bright!



## The Butterfly Effect at ERMS

East Ridge Middle School's Librarian Tanya Anderson inspired the whole school to go "All In" on the beautiful Butterfly Project. Anderson made the butterflies with the school's GlowForge. Then, the ERMS community brought the wood butterflies to life by adding their own color and creativity. David Bergeron, who works for RPS's facilities department, framed the collaborative project.



## Calendar

**April 2**

No School/Good Friday

**April 12-16**

No School/Spring Break

**April 26**

Early Dismissal/Asynch PM  
[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

**April 5 and 26**

BOE Meetings

[Live Stream and Archive](#)

**April 24**

Annual Town Meeting  
BOE and Town Budget

**May 11**

Town Budget Referendum

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## FCIAC Champs...Again!



Ridgefield High School proved itself to be a CT basketball juggernaut last week with both the boys and girls teams winning FCIAC championships. It was the fourth FCIAC championship for the boys in the past five years and the girls' second. The girls' victory was particularly sweet as they were behind 17 to 30 against Trumbull at half-time. Missing one of their lead players, the team dug deep to bring home the win. Cali S. was the game MVP for the girls. Junior Matt K. was the tournament MVP for the boys.

## FCIAC Individual Honors

Congratulations to Ridgefield High School Seniors Katie F. (Basketball) and William S. (Hockey) for being [FCIAC Exemplary Scholar-Athletes](#) for Winter 2021. The following RHS athletes received FCIAC recognition: Boys Basketball: Amos G., Matthew K., and Dylan V. Girls Basketball: Katie F., Cali S., Kelly C., Siovhan M., and Kaya W. Boys Hockey: William S., Matthew S., and Eric P. Girls Hockey: Kate Z. and Ali C. Boys Swimming: Connor H., Jack C., Gavin E., Kai O., Matthew W., Matthew J., Luke M., and Max W. The RHS Girls Basketball Coach Rob Coloney is Coach of the Year.



## RHS Music Matters

RHS Orchestra Director Michael McNamara recently shared a couple of great stories from the RHS Music Department. First, RHS sophomore Matthew Uy (photo right) wrote this [Ridgefield Press article](#) about an RHS music mentoring program that has taken off during the pandemic. Second, Mr. Mac shared this [Music in Our Schools concert](#) by the RHS Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble conducted by George Beratis.



## ERMS Virtual Reality

Last week, RPS Technology Teacher Kim Moran worked with East Ridge Middle School sixth graders in Jennifer Roth's science classes. Students used the Merge Cubes and Virtual Reality goggles to take a 3D journey to the core of the earth, explore the different layers, interact with the plates that make up the earth's crust, and watch an Ash-Cinder volcano erupt.



## Invention Convention Podcast

In this week's [Tiger Talk podcast](#), Dr. Wes DeSantis talks to a Branchville Elementary Invention Convention team to learn more about this program.

Keep up with Ridgefield Public Schools News on our website [news page](#) and [calendar](#). We would love to hear from you, [contact us](#) with questions and feedback.

