



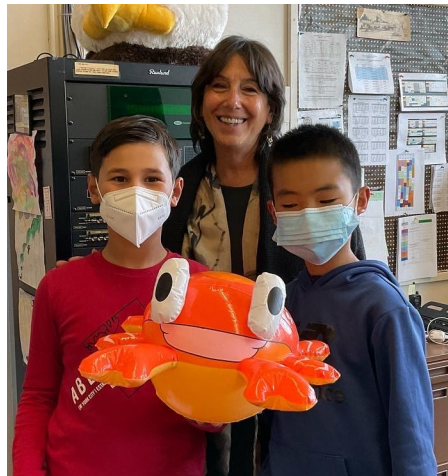
# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | April 29, 2022

## VPES Finds Compassion, Kindness, and Gratitude When It Looks for Good



Veterans Park Elementary School showed its true colors during the kick-off event for the Look for the Good Project. Led by the fifth-grade Student Council, Music Teacher Ryan Dunne, and Principal Ellen Tuckner, VPES came together to sing, celebrate, and learn about the various ways to participate in the Look for the Good Project. The PTA supplied colorful t-shirts for each student by grade and tie-dyes for the staff, which said, "You Matter". Dressed in this cheerful array, students and staff practiced gratitude, kindness, and compassion. Look for the Good continues at VPES for two weeks with students and staff contributing to a "gratitude" wall, writing kindness cards, expressing thanks at designated spots in the hallway, and more. The Project reinforces the VPES motto, "Work Hard and Be Kind."



## Calendar

**April 29-May 1**

[Battle of Ridgefield Events](#)

**May 9 and 23**

BOE Meetings

In Person and Streaming

90 East Ridge Road

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**May 2**

Annual Town Meeting

Ridgefield Playhouse, 7:30 pm

**May 5**

RHS Art Show; 7-9 pm

[RPS Calendar](#)

**May 10**

Town Budget Referendum

**May 14**

[Walk to Water Fundraiser](#)

**May 30**

No School/Memorial Day

See RPS News Page 2 for RHS Arts Spotlight



## You're Invited! RHS Art Show Evening Reception

The evening reception for the Ridgefield High School Art Show is on Thursday, May 5 from 7-9 p.m. in the Black Box Theater. The Community is invited to mingle with student artists and see creative work in sculpture, drawing, painting, graphic design, photography, and more. AP Art students will be available to talk about their senior projects. RHS students and staff will be able to view the work on May 5 and 6 from 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## Smolder, Blaze, Flicker: Magazine Showcases RHS Art and Literature



The 43rd edition of *Lodestar, A Magazine for Arts and Literature* is available in print and online [here!](#) The RHS editors (photo above with faculty advisors) named this edition, *Crucible*, defined as a “tool used to heat metals under pressure” as a metaphor for the students’ work. In the magazine’s introduction, they point out that this year’s art and writing submissions reflect a pressure, a smoldering build-up, a blaze, and then flickers of passion and hope. Dedicated to the people of Ukraine, the magazine includes art, poetry, and prose. Please take the time to read and view the illustrations. As the teens say, “it’s fire!”:)

## AP Art Demands Sustained Investigation, Thought, and Skill

An exploration of insects’ social tendencies, the optimism of a city, a consideration of the vulnerability of the homeless, a look at how cowboy imagery can reflect a bi-racial student’s struggle to fit in, the beauty industry—these are just a few of the themes AP Art students have tackled with their year-long submissions. The overwhelming majority of this year’s 15 AP Art students will not go to art school. However, their sustained investigations stretched them in ways important to their education. “I plan to study environmental science in college,” says senior Emily Brown. “But art will always be an important part of my life.” Please see a gallery of examples of AP students’ work [here](#).

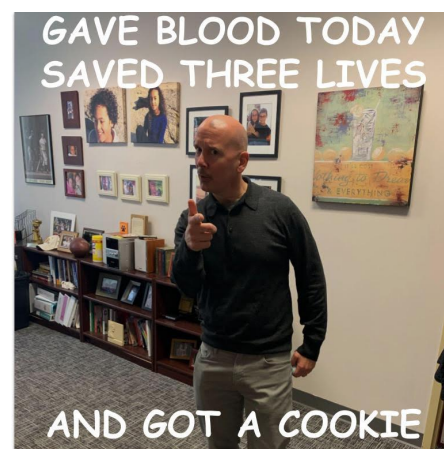


**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Last week’s issue of *RPS News* spelled sophomore Sophie Shen’s name incorrectly in a story about her poster, which won both First and Grand Prizes from the Connecticut Organization of Language Teachers. Please see the corrected version of [RPS News April 22, 2022](#), here.



## Everyone Wins During Middle School Blood Drive

The Scotts Ridge Middle School shirt might have not fit East Ridge Middle School's Principal Jenn Phostole perfectly (photo right) but she showed grace and good sportsmanship when she accepted that SRMS had donated more blood than ERMS this year. Wearing the other school's t-shirt for the day was the wager she and SRMS Principal Tim Salem agreed would be the cost of this friendly, win/win competition. Technology Integration Teacher, Kim Moran reports that both middle schools participated in a Blood Donation Challenge to help support the dire need for blood this year. "We started the challenge during February for National Heart Month," Moran writes. "A staff member or someone in their honor logged a donation on a google form and weekly leaderboard updates motivated the staff to continue to give. The fun memes built more support, and it was a close race to the end! The winning school (SRMS) was given a handcrafted trophy made within the maker space. The runner-up (ERMS) principal (Mrs. Phostole) had to wear the opposing school's spirit shirt for the day! We hope to make this an annual challenge between the two schools." Stay tuned to *RPS News* for information about Scotland Elementary's Blood Drive at the Boys and Girls Club on May 19!

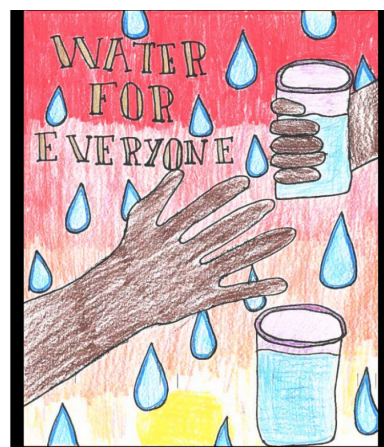


## Walk for Water with SES

Walk for Water, RPS! Scotland Elementary fifth-graders, Lina Idriss, Reilly Jackson, Olivia Poletto, and Anna Yang reported to the Board of Education this week about their passionate mission to



raise funds to build a well in Sudan, Africa. Through a series of creative fundraisers, SES raised over \$15,000 necessary to build a well, and they haven't stopped yet. They are inviting the Community to walk with them on May 14 to raise more funds to improve the lives of Sudanese women and young girls. All the information about the walk and the registration QR code can be found [here](#). Please watch their poised BOE presentation to see how kids can make a difference with teacher inspiration and family support [here](#) (9:20 min mark).



K. McCartan, SES Student Artist



## ERMS Imagines



The East Ridge Middle eighth-grade chorus collaborated on a virtual performance of John Lennon's "Imagine". They learned the piece in class, and students recorded their individual voice parts at home. Music teacher Rebecca Merrick combined all of their recordings into one beautiful soundtrack. Then, she compiled images inspired by the text, selected and created by the students and Merrick, to make this inspiring [video](#) of the John Lennon song.

## Nous Aimons Vos Histoires!



East Ridge Middle School seventh and eighth-grade French students held story time with Branchville Elementary students via Google Meet. ERMS students created digital children's books, complete with illustrations in French. BES students loved hearing the engaging, fun French stories that ERMS students had made, and the activity created excitement for learning a world language at middle school. They can't wait! They asked questions like, "Is it hard to learn a world language?" We think not!

## RHS & SRMS Science Olympiad



RHS Science Olympiad club leaders worked closely with the SRMS SciOly team this year to help students prepare for competitions and achieve team success. Science Olympiad is a competition in which students compete in teams across various fields of science—earth, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Events on competition day can range from taking tests, to designing and executing experiments, to building and testing devices of their own design. To see the SRMS and RHS state awards and RHS leaders, click [here](#).

## Garden and Grounds Clean-Up



On Sunday, Ridgefield High School Musical Director Michael McNamara met mother daughter volunteer teams from the Nutmeg National Charity League for garden and grounds clean up at RHS. Volunteers helped Mr. Mac weed and prepare the RHS vegetable garden rows. Volunteers planted herbs and flowers around the campus for Earth Day.

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.

