

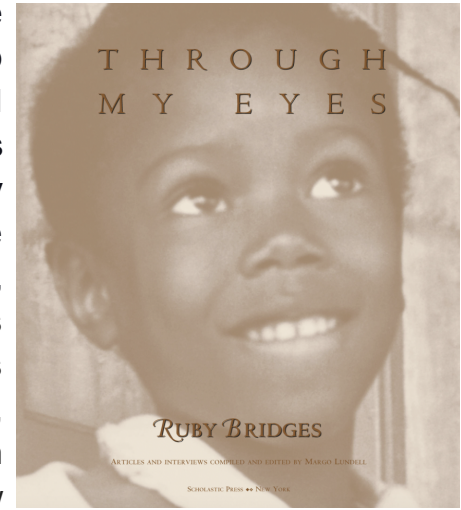


# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | February 11, 2022

## Join the Conversation with Civil Rights Icon Ruby Bridges

One of the ways that Ridgefield Elementary Schools are honoring Black History Month is by learning about Ruby Bridges, an activist who was the first student to desegregate a Louisiana school in 1960. Students will participate in a virtual field trip with Bridges this week. Thanks to the efforts of parent Kristy Jefferson all RPS families can tune into a conversation with Ms. Bridges, which is being screened at Grace Farms this Saturday. This community conversation started when an eight-year-old New Canaan resident wrote Bridges after experiencing a racially-motivated incident at Mead Park, which troubled him. Jefferson says, "It is easy to think these events happened long ago and far away, especially when so many of the images we see are in black and white. But Ruby Bridges is not an old woman, and New Canaan is not far away. Our students have so much to learn from this story, not just about opening our minds and our hearts, but how important it is to stick up for what is right." Register for the free conversation [here](#).



## RPS Races to End Duchenne

Barlow Mountain Elementary teachers Suzanne Meyer and Lisa Whelan and parent, Sarah James, will represent Team Ridgefield in the Race to End Duchenne at the United Airlines NYC Half Marathon on March 20. The team is racing for two BMES students, Conner Curran and Teddy White (photo right), who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In addition, James's cousin Andrew lost his battle with Duchenne in 2007. People who want to learn more about Conner and Teddy, their community, and how to support Team Ridgefield's Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser, can find further information [here](#).



## Calendar

**February 14\***

BOE Meeting/Budget Vote  
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**February 17**

Early Dismissal Students  
Professional Development

**February 18-25**

No School February Break

**February 28**

BOE Meeting  
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**June 23\***

Tentative Last Day of School

\*Please check [Website](#) for weather-related changes and other Town Budget Meetings

[RPS Calendar](#)

**Happy Valentines Day! Elementary Art Gallery on Page 2**

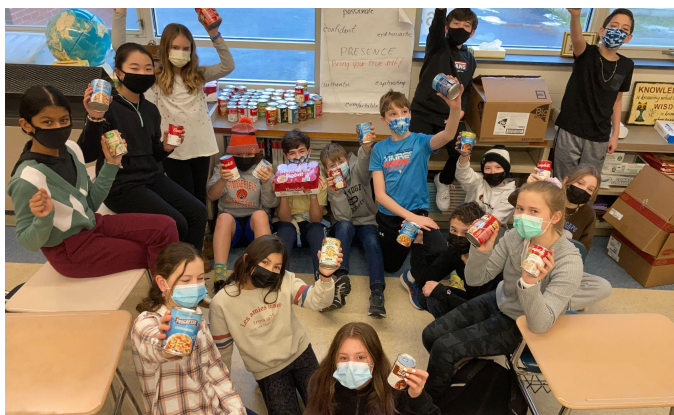
## Poetry Speaks at RHS



Congratulations to Ridgefield High School junior, Audrey Huff (photo left), for winning the annual RHS [Poetry Out Loud](#) recitation contest. She competed against 60 other students and earned a spot in the State Competition. Heather Wallace is the RHS runner-up. Watch Audrey

perform the poem, “No, I wasn’t meant to love and be loved” [here](#) and Heather perform Carl Sandburg’s poem, *I Am the People, the Mob* [here](#).

## ERMS Does “Souper” Bowl



East Ridge families and staff must have realized how good a hot bowl of soup would taste on these cold winter days. They collected over 600 cans of soup during their “Souper Bowl” can drive for local families in need. RPS families can donate directly to Ruby’s Small Pantries at the following Ridgefield [locations](#).

## Will You Look at This?



RPS Art Teacher Rachael Penney shared some of her Farmingville and Ridgebury students’ wonderful creations this week. Inspired by the work of Yayoi Kusama, Brooklyn artists Kudu-Lah, and others, students painted, printed, collaged, and weaved. See a gallery of their work, including the monster who stole the cookie by fifth-grader Chrisina P., [here](#).

## RHS in the Community



Ridgefield High School Principal Dr. Jake Greenwood and student leaders Molly L. and Ansh S. recently visited the Ridgefield Rotary Club to share how RHS “roared back from the pandemic.” Rotary member Bill Wyman writes, “thank you for

sharing how you and your team created such a successful year. You have to be proud of Molly and Ansh as they are outstanding individuals.”

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.

