



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | March 12, 2021

## Students and Parents Create Anti-Racism Resources

Last June, the Ridgefield Public Schools community joined the country in speaking out against racism. We have continued to look for ways to actively fight against discrimination and engage all students and families in hope of fundamental change and a better future. To that end, we wanted to share two anti-racism resources with our families. The first is a [website](#) designed by four RHS students—Kayla J., Samantha R., Cheyla W., and Marlene E.—which was shared with all RHS social studies students. While the ostensible purpose of the site is celebrating Black History, the students went above and beyond to define “Important Terms” and offer a “Timeline of 2020” as well as pulling together engaging information about Black History. The second resource we would like to share is a [video of a panel](#) put together by the Branchville Elementary PTA, *How to Talk to Your Kids about Differences: A Focus on Institutional Racism and Implicit Bias*. [Panelists](#)—author Amy Julia Becker; Niro Feliciano, LCSW; and Melanie Pearl Ph.D.— held a facilitated conversation about common questions that might come up, and how to have healthy, compassionate conversations around these issues. Look for a follow-up district-wide panel discussion that the PTA Council will be sponsoring. RPS is grateful to the RHS students and the Branchville Elementary PTA for sharing their perspectives with the wider community.



## Kaboom!

“Spin the Wheel of Science with Doktor Kaboom and anything can happen!” so reads the flyer for the upcoming virtual science event. Co-sponsored by Ridgefield Public Schools, PTA Council, and Ridgefield Education Foundation, this elementary program will happen on the asynchronous learning day, March 15. Elementary parents will receive the link for this Ridgefield Playhouse production from their principals. Read more [here](#).



## Calendar

### March 15

Full Day Asynchronous ES\*\*  
 Early Dismissal/Asynch for MS  
 Early Dismissal/Asynch for HS  
 Professional Development  
[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

### March 15

BOF Public Hearing

### March 18

[Parent Info Session on Standardized Testing](#)

### March 22

BOE Meeting  
[Live Stream and Archive](#)

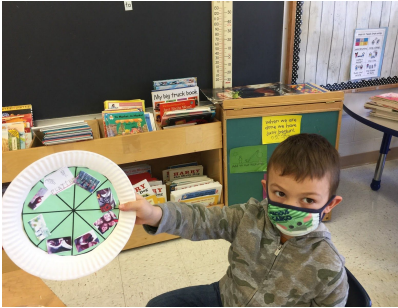
[Full RPS Calendar](#)

\*\*Change from Earlier Calendar

## Nurse Crook Reports 90% of RPS Staff Received COVID Vaccine!

## SEL Workshop at SES

Each class at Scotland Elementary this week has spent their library time working with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Consultant, Lorena Seidel M.Ed., and Scotland Librarian Melinda Violante to learn some tools to stay emotionally healthy. In these PTA-sponsored workshops, students created simple but powerful "Emotional First Aid Kits" (photo right) to help them handle challenges like stress, anxiety, and sadness.



## Dance Challenge at RES

"There may never have been a time when the social and emotional well being of our students was more important," observes Ridgebury Elementary Literacy Coach Sandy Clouse. "So, RES found a way to keep community, connectedness, and joy alive with a Dance Challenge." Students, at home and at school, choreographed their own socially distant dance routines, and then submitted their video for a school-wide vote. The talent pool was impressive, but Erica Ippoliti's 4th graders edged out a deserving win for grades 3-5 and Christopher Kane's 2nd graders snatched the coveted title for grades K-2. The photo left reveals Principal Palladino's epic dance moves.



## There Is Debate!

It's debate season at the middle schools and Ridgefield High School. The combined East Ridge and Scotts Ridge Middle School debate team competed at the Connecticut Middle School Debate League event. Facing off against 100 other teams from 20 middle schools across Connecticut and New York City, the team of Brooke C. (left) and siblings Will and Julia K. came in second. Special kudos to ERMS student Julia K. for tying for top speaker out of all 285 participants. Ridgefield High School students won 7 rounds of debate at the Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) Online Tournament. The RHS novice team of James C-D. and Jeremy H. have earned three consecutive team trophies at CDA tournaments since January, and are preparing for the State Championship. Go Tigers!



## Growing Awareness at BMES

Barlow Mountain art teacher Alison Anderson reports that every staff member and student made a handprint on a heart to add to the BMES "Growing in Awareness" tree as a part of ongoing discussions about difference and tolerance.



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.

