



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | March 25, 2022

The Kids Are Alright: Scotts Ridge and Rogers Park Pilot Book Talk Program

Last Friday, Scotts Ridge Middle School welcomed students and staff from Rogers Park Middle School in Danbury for a powerful program that the State of Connecticut would like to expand to schools across the state. Throughout this year, these students have met virtually after school to discuss *Harbor Me*, a novel



by Jacqueline Woodson, which is about a group of students who meet once a week to talk. Just as the characters in the book develop bonds over time, so did SRMS and RPMS students get close, quickly connecting over movies, music, pizza, cookies, and conversations about the book. They trusted each other to reveal vulnerabilities in themselves and poignant observations about themes from the novel. School staff, including librarians, counselors, teachers, and Principals Tim Salem and Kristy Zaleta (photo near right), cited the powerful effect of diverse students finding so many similarities. For more photos and other information about this collaboration, please read this [full press release](#).



Calendar

March 28**

Board of Finance
Public Hearing; VPES 7:30 p.m.

April 8**

Full Day of School for Students

May 10

Town Budget Referendum

March 29, April 4 and 25

BOE Meetings

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

April 11-14

No School/Spring Recess

June 24

Tentative Last Day of School

****NOTE CHANGE****

[RPS Calendar](#)

Team Ridgefield Race for Cure



Team Ridgefield competed in the Race to End Duchenne at the NYC Half Marathon last weekend, earning almost \$5,000. Barlow Mountain Elementary teachers Lisa Whelan and Suzanne Meyer joined BMES parents Sarah and Chris James to run for two BMES students, Conner Curran and Teddy White who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In addition, Sarah James's cousin Andrew lost his battle with Duchenne in 2007. People who want to learn more about the race, Conner and Teddy, their community, and how to support Team Ridgefield's Dystrophy fundraiser, can find further information [here](#).

Transportation Communication

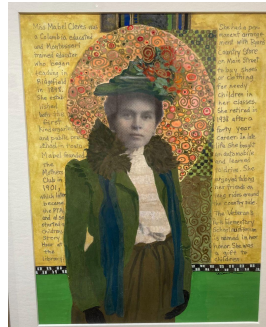
Transportation Coordinator Billy Gramajo, who started at RPS earlier this month, shared the pre-construction [minutes](#) from the new Pump Station, Force Main, and WWTF Decommissioning Project, which could affect bus routes. There is a public hearing on April 5 at 7 p.m. about the project.

ERMS Is No Place for Hate



Ridgefield High School students visited East Ridge Middle as No Place for Hate (NPFH) ambassadors in a powerful anti-bias program. The NPFH is an [Anti-Defamation League](#) initiative that focuses on building and maintaining a positive school climate through promoting allyship in response to bias. Students in each grade examined the roles they can play in the treatment and acceptance of others. ERMS Principal Jennifer Phostole, who spearheaded NPFH while at RHS, described the day as “amazing!”

Women's History Lives at VPES



Among the many compelling artworks at the [Ridgefield Guild of Artists'](#) collaborative exhibition with the [Ridgefield Historical Society](#) is a collage (photo left) about Ridgefield educator, Mabel Cleeves. According to the work by local artist Leslie Carone, Miss Mabel Cleeves “Founded the Mothers Club in 1901, which later became the PTA...she [bought] shoes or clothing for needy...and retired after a forty year career...The Veterans Park Elementary School auditorium is named in her honor.”

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.

