

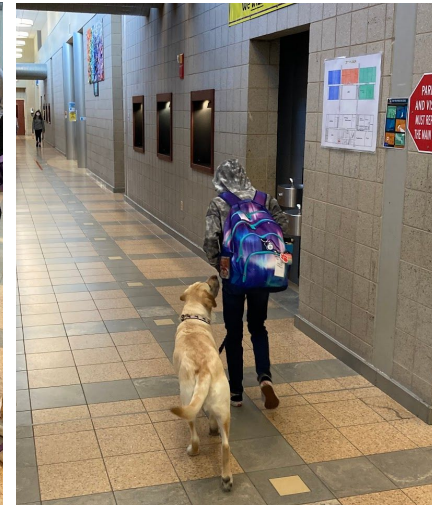


RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | October 2, 2020

The Dogs of Ridgefield Public Schools: Part 1

Do you expect to see eighth graders sliding into school on a Monday morning, excited to get into the building? You might if you are Scotts Ridge Middle School Assistant Principal Lisa Frese. Ms. Frese is the owner of Emerald (Emmy) and Emmy's daughter Quinn, two of four SRMS resident therapy dogs. She says every day students dash off the bus or out of their cars to greet her dogs as well as Grady and Onyx, who wait in the entryway leashed for staff and students to come in for pats, hugs, and smiles. The bottom right photo shows dogs dressed up for Halloween last year.



After the greeting, Emmy (top right) and Quinn (top left) separate to go off with students to the different sixth-grade teams. The dogs go to recess, Ms. Frese explains, which can provide a furry friend for the shy, more socially anxious student and a way to break the ice for all the students. The dogs visit the RISE (Ridgefield Intensive Special Education) classrooms and might be multilingual after years of attending French and Spanish classes.



Remarkably for those of us with exuberant or needy dogs, you can be in a classroom with one of these dogs and not even know that they are there. Emmy is a brood dog for [Guiding Eyes](#) (more on this organization next week) and is the mother of thirty-seven puppies. One of her puppies is Quinn, who was released by Guiding Eyes after going through extensive therapy training.

A new SRMS mother writes, "Having the therapy dogs in SRMS classrooms is such a blessing for my son!! I just love this program. It is such an awesome thing."

Calendar

October 12

No School; Columbus Day

October 13

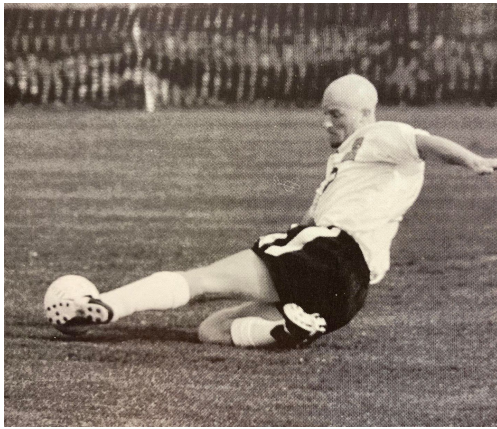
BOE Meeting

[BOE website for information](#)

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

Next Week: A Special Dog, Dogs of RPS, Part 2

AD Dane Street on Tiger Talk



This week's [Tiger Talk Podcast](#) features Ridgefield High School Athletic Director Dane Street in conversation with the avowed non-sports guy, Wes DeSantis. Mr. Street, shown in the photo above during a college soccer match, discusses the role athletics can play in developing character, RHS facilities, sports in the time of COVID, and some of the creative competition for RHS football players in light of the CIAC's decision to postpone 11 vs. 11 football. Highly recommend tuning in.

Art Inspiration

Looking for creative outlets, escape, or inspiration? Visit Farmingville and Ridgebury Elementary Art Teacher [Rachael Penney's website](#) to see her blog that includes a guided rocket ship drawing tutorial, remote learning art supply suggestions, and more.



Scotland Yard



RPS got its own Scotland Yard, which is a reimagined outdoor space at Scotland Elementary perfect for social distance learning, masks breaks, and downtime. SES parents cleaned up the area, applied 70 red Scotty paws, and named the space "Scotland Yard." It's elementary, dear RPS.

Grades K-5 Go In Person

This week Grades K-2 attended school full-time starting on September 29. Grades 3-5 will join them full-time on Monday, October 5.



Thank you for keeping children with COVID symptoms home, and your patience as we iron out the arrival and dismissal procedures!

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.

