



# RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | April 8, 2020 | Issue No. 14

## Under a “New Normal,” Dr. Da Silva Takes the Reins

Dr. Susie Da Silva (photo right) became the new Ridgefield Public School superintendent on April 1. In a [letter to parents and staff](#), she recognized what an extraordinary time it was to join the community. She paid tribute to educators across our globe who stand together to transform schools to adjust to the new *normal* of distance learning. Da Silva’s message is hopeful; with energy and a shared sense of purpose, RPS students will persevere. [Watch Dr. Da Silva’s video address.](#)



## RPS Gives Thanks, Gloves, and Pizza!

Ridgebury Elementary students made signs on Thursday to thank health care workers. The photo left shows RES fourth grader Cate

Brown, proudly holding her sign.

Cate has three cousins who are doctors and nurses in New York City hospitals.

Ridgefield High School donated 60,000 pairs of PPE gloves to the RVNA (Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association) and the Ridgefield Fire Department.

Scotts Ridge Middle School Principal Tim Salem reports that his staff donated dinner to health care workers at Danbury Hospital. SRMS learned about this community effort to feed the workers on the front lines through the Danbury High School baseball team. The team set up a [Meal Train page](#), which links participating Danbury restaurants with funders. SRMS staff sent pizzas and salads and Sal’s Pizza added a tray of garlic knots.

Thanks to all the workers, teachers, and volunteers!



## Calendar

**April 8**

Early Dismissal for Students  
Professional Day for Staff

**April 13\***

BOE Meeting

**April 27\***

BOE Meeting

**April 9 & 10**

No School

**April 16**

Early Dismissal for Students  
Professional Day for Staff

\*Check website for meeting information.

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

**Stay Well, Everyone!**

## Autism Awareness Month



April is Autism Awareness Month. The grid above shows PreK staff spreading LOVE, compassion, and understanding during a recent virtual celebration of Autism Awareness.

## We Miss Our Students!

Many RPS schools made videos of teachers to remind students of how much they were missed, including [this video from Ridgefield High School](#).



## Throwback to Last Month

In early March, the Scotland Elementary Student Council, PTA, and second graders teamed up to kick off SES Two Weeks of Gratitude Campaign with a whole school, student-led assembly. [Read the story and see more photos of this kindness initiative.](#) Get inspired to practice gratitude!

## Cherries Vs. Bananas

Veterans Park Elementary PE teacher Mike Frioli has taken to Instagram to do the great March Madness vegetable/fruit showdown. Vote for your favorite @vpes\_pe

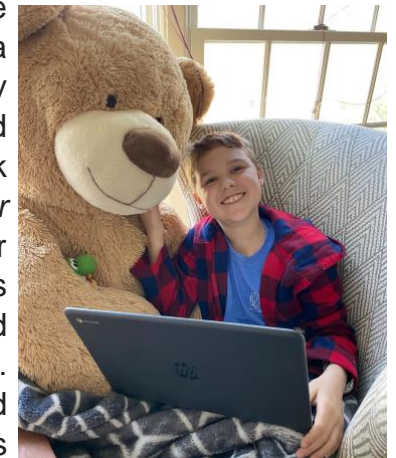
## BES Keeps Spirits Up

Wednesdays are spirit days for Branchville Elementary. In photo right, sisters Adeline and Emma show their BES love, reminding us to Choose Kind!



## FES Bear Hunt...or Rabbits

Farmingville joined the nationwide fun with a bear hunt inspired by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenberry's book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Families put their favorite stuffed animals in their windows to add fun to students' walks. FES parents submitted photos of students working with their favorite stuffed animals.



## Pajama Day... Everyday?

Ridgebury Elementary School recently celebrated Spirit Day. Kindergartener Gavin K.'s parents submitted this cute picture to RES Principal Jamie Palladino. Great smile, Gavin!



## We Want to Hear from You!

Submit photos, book recommendations, and stories to [alison@schoolwebmasters.com](mailto:alison@schoolwebmasters.com)

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.

