



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

The beautiful weather and fresh air across our schools has been eagerly awaited. Where and when appropriate, we will take advantage of every opportunity to be outdoors.

Dr. Hannaway shared a beautiful clip of a college student giving a commencement speech ([linked here](#))...I hope you take the time to view it- inspirational to say the least.

A long budget process culminated this week by passing in the Town referendum. I would like to again thank all of those that contribute to the budget process- RPS faculty and staff, parents, members of the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and of course, the voters. If you can believe it, it won't be long before we begin again.

At our Board of Education this past week, we celebrated our WCSA and CABA award winners (check out RPS News for more details!) and were also excited to share a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club in offering morning programming for elementary students who attend our late start schools.

Warmly,

Susie

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Friday BITS

RPS NEWS FOUND [here!](#)

[Ridgefield Tiger Talk](#)

This week's Tiger Talk features an amazing story about Scotland Elementary School fifth graders raising money for the "A Walk to Water" charity. Joining us is Principal Jill Katkocin, fifth grade teacher Amanda Pasquarella, and fifth grade student Hudson Renner. We discussed all the fun activities they did to raise the money; the goals of the charity building clean water wells in underserved parts of the world; how our fifth graders represented themselves in the Ridgefield community; and this Saturday's "Walk to Water" in downtown Ridgefield. [Click here to check out the site](#) and as always, thanks for listening!

RPS Kindergarten Registration

Help! If you have a friend or neighbor who is planning on joining kindergarten next year, remind them that registration is open! Families now have the opportunity to register using our brand new online system. Click [here](#) to take a look! Registration status impacts our ability to maintain and/or hire teachers.

Parks and Recreation

Ridgefield Parks and Recreation offers a variety of summer programming to children; they are also looking for summer staff. If you are interested and available, contact: campcoor@ridgefield.org.

Brand New Before-School Programming for Late-Start Elementary Schools!

At the Board of Education meeting on May 9, Director of Elementary Education, Linda Johnson, and Assistant Superintendent, Cory Gillette announced a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ridgefield to provide morning care for the three late-start elementary schools beginning in the fall. Registration for families from Veterans Park, Farmingville, and Barlow Mountain will take place before the end of the current school year. We are so excited to extend our after-school partnership to the morning!

Health and Safety

Ridgefield is currently experiencing an uptick in case rates of COVID-19. Cases are updated on the RPS COVID-19 tracker on a daily basis. You can find the tracker at this web address:

[link https://sites.google.com/ridgefieldps.net/rps-covid-19-data-2021-2022/home](https://sites.google.com/ridgefieldps.net/rps-covid-19-data-2021-2022/home)

During this period of increased cases we strongly encourage families to test. We have an ample supply of at-home rapid antigen tests in each school nurse's office. Please reach out to your school building or your school nurse to obtain a test kit. Families may also want to consider opting to have their child wear a high quality mask as an added mitigation measure.

As a reminder for families, students, and staff- **anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home from school** and contact your school nurse. When returning to school, please remember to provide either a negative COVID-19 test result or a note from your physician stating a diagnosis other than COVID-19. For home test results, please take a photo of the test with name and date taken, then send it to your school nurse.

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Quote of the Week

“Students don’t learn integrity through osmosis; it must be intentionally taught, and we have to work at it.”Michele Borba