District Catches Kindness and Passes It On

Turns out kindness is contagious. Last week, RPS News showed Branchville Elementary Principal Keith Margolus shaving his head after the BES community surpassed his 100 Acts of Kindness Challenge. Mr. Margolus threw down the gauntlet to the Ridgebury Elementary Principal Jamie Palladino and the RES community. The photo on the far right shows Mr. Palladino’s before-and-after shot (he even shaved his beard!) along with RES students’ thoughtful gestures. The photo above shows Elementary Supervisor Sarah Weirsman responding to Mr. Palladino’s challenge by going pink for kindness. In three days, the Barlow Mountain and Scotland Elementary communities completed over 200 acts of kindness. Some of these kindnesses were at home--filling dishwashers, helping siblings with homework, and some were in the community--taking in neighbors’ mail, writing letters to healthcare workers, and delivering food. Keep passing kindness on!

RPS Gets Creative

At every grade level, RPS students are stretching their imaginations to create art. East Ridge Middle School Art Teacher Hilary Lewis’s seventh-grade students created still-lifes like Bridget K’s rubber ducks (near right) using mostly homemade paint. The photo far right shows kindergartener Tommy K. with his Big Sandwich. See page two of RPS News for art from every level.

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 25</th>
<th>May 26, June 8, June 22*</th>
<th>June 17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No School</td>
<td>BOE Meetings (7 pm)</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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*Check website for information
It’s Elementary, RPS
RPS elementary art teachers continue to collaborate to offer district-wide art lessons. Kindergarteners learned about James Rizzi’s happy cities and made their own. In photo top right, BES student Adeline D. holds her happy city. See the full lesson on how to make a happy city.
Farmingville Elementary first-grader Anthony T. used found objects to make the self-portrait (photo lower right). View more happy cities and elementary art.

Not Stuck in the Middle
While RPS middle schoolers might be stuck at home, they don’t seem to be stuck creatively. Visit the middle school gallery to see examples of their amazing at-home artwork, including still-life paintings by ERMS seventh graders and the beautiful graphic above by SRMS eighth-grader Charlotte B.

RHS Designers
RHS Computer Art & Design Two students created COVID-19 banners that could be used in a newspaper or magazine. Students captured the many images of the virus and the moods of society dealing with it. Christian C.’s banner Positivity During a Pandemic is to the right.
View more RHS COVID Banners

Morning Show
East Ridge Middle restarted its Morning Show this week on the ERMS YouTube Channel. Eighth-grader Marko K. (right) kicked it off with teachers Tanya Anderson and Jacob Litt.

RHS Seniors Keep Giving
RHS seniors donated the money from their canceled senior banquet to provide meals for local families in need. The photo right shows RHS senior Emma L. delivering meals, which were paid for by a recent Run-a-Thon, to Danbury Hospital healthcare workers.