

RPS NEWS

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Middle School Orientation Next Week

Fifth-Graders, You Are Ready!

And we are ready for you! Next week, Scotts Ridge (April 3) and East Ridge (April 4) invite fifth-graders and their parents to middle school orientation.

At the April orientations, parents and students will have an opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from current students about their experiences.

the feeder In May, each of schools-Branchville. Farmingville, and VP for ERMS: Barlow. Ridgebury, and Scotland for SRMS—visit for a tour by our student ambassadors and attend a "Question and Answer" session with their 6th-grade counselor. Behind the scenes, the counselor meets with each fifth-grade teacher, in an effort to get to know the incoming students academically, socially. and emotionally. The information they provide helps determine placement.

Finally, in late August, Middle School PTAs will co-host a 6th Grade Open House. Students will have received their teachers and schedules and can walk around to find their classrooms. They will also have an opportunity to get their locker numbers and combination. These engaging activities should help students and their families feel more at ease about

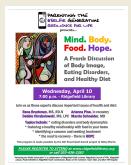




the transition. You will do great! View photo captions here.

CALENDAR

April 8** BOE Meeting April 10 Project Resilience Talk 7:00 pm at Library



April 12 PD (Teachers) Early Dismissal (Students) April 15-19 Spring Break April 22** BOE Meeting June 19 Last Day of School (Tentative)

**Please check <u>BOE</u> <u>Meeting Calendar</u> for changes.

Visit ridgefield.org/Calendar for full calendar.

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CONGRATULATIONS

ERMS Band Students Selected for Western Regional Festival— Jackson P. and Ivan G. for jazz; Chloe L., Dylan P., and Elias W. for concert band. And to their inspiring Band Teacher, Hilary Brown.

Meet East Ridge Teacher of the Year: Maureen Tyra

"I became a teacher so I could work with children. I love their energy and optimism. I truly believe if given encouragement and opportunity students can have a profound impact on our society." <u>Read more here about</u> this inspiring teacher.



First Social Emotional Team at BMES

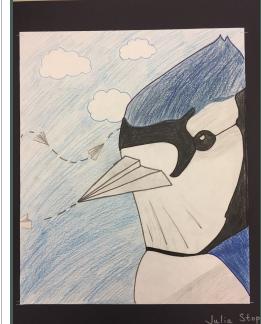
Barlow Mountain staff attended a two-day training course at Yale's Center for Emotional Intelligence. ERMS and SRMS staff has had similar training. Next year, this BMES team will work with teachers to train them in the tenets of RULER, a kindergarten through



eighth-grade emotional literacy program, which stands for Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating emotions.

Photo (Left to Right): BMES Team—Sarah Weirsman, Elementary Supervisor; Valerie Nezvesky, Kindergarten Teacher; Jennifer Hilderbrand Fifth-Grade Teacher; Kiera Russo, School Psychologist; and Rebecca Pembrook, Principal—holding the Mood Meter that is one of the anchor tools from RULER training. <u>Read more about Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.</u>

ART GALLERY



View ERMS Metamorphosis Drawings

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova For students going through transitions, ERMS Librarian Tanya Anderson recommends Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova. Awkward is a graphic novel about a girl named Penelope who has just moved to a new town and is starting middle school not knowing anyone. Her first day does not go according to her plan, and as she struggles to fit in, she does things she isn't proud of. Ms. Anderson writes that Awkward "is a wonderful coming of age story about being open and accepting of others." *****

> Read more of Ms. Anderson's Recommendations here

Keep up with Ridgefield Public Schools News on our website <u>news page</u> and <u>calendar</u>. We would love to hear from you, <u>contact us</u> with questions and feedback.

