



# RPS NEWS

Ridgefield, CT | October 4, 2019 | Issue No. 2

## Farmingville Launches K-1 RISE Program



This fall, FES welcomed Ridgefield Intensive Special Education (RISE) students into its kindergarten and Grade 1 classes. On a recent morning, these inclusive classrooms enjoyed an active greeting as seen top left, discussed the calendar as shown lower left, and worked in small groups (photo right).

The RISE program had originally been at Barlow Mountain and then moved to Scotland and Ridgebury where it continues today. At a recent BOE meeting, Ridgebury Principal Jamie Palladino talked about the contribution RISE makes in creating a “building of empathy” as students and staff “learn that diversity comes in many forms.”



**"DIVERSITY COMES IN MANY FORMS..."**  
Jamie Palladino



One of the reasons RPS started this Farmingville (FES) RISE cohort was so that the students zoned for East Ridge Middle School could have continuity with friendships and classmates when they start middle school.

Last spring, RISE Special Education Teacher Anna Harken, administrators, and staff worked with parents to make sure the new students would feel comfortable and included, resulting in what FES Principal Susan Gately describes as a “seamless” transition. Harken says all FES students learn CLUE: Children Learning to Understand

Everyone, which teaches empathy for others and self-awareness.

## Calendar

Visit [ridgefield.org/Calendar](http://ridgefield.org/Calendar) for full calendar.

**Oct 7**  
Project Resilience Workshop  
[View the flyer](#)

**Oct 9**  
No School  
Yom Kippur

**Oct 10**  
Early Dismissal  
Professional Day for Staff

**Oct 14**  
No School  
Columbus Day

**Oct 15**  
BOE Meeting\*

**Oct 16**  
Community Author Event  
“How to Raise a Reader”  
ERMS Auditorium 6:30 pm  
[View the flyer](#)

**Oct 28**  
BOE Meeting\*

\*Board Conference Room  
Town Annex 7:00 p

## Memory Project Thank You



Last year, Barlow Mountain and Veterans Park students and staff participated in The Memory Project by drawing portraits of children in war-torn Afghanistan to show empathy and kindness. VP Art Teacher Alison Anderson shared the moving [thank you video](#) sent by the children. [Gallery of BMES and VP portraits.](#)

## Giving Back



*RHS senior Ajay N. with the weather station he built for Scotland Elementary School as his Eagle Scout project. Ajay hopes SES students will share his passion for the weather.*

## Middle Schools Tour Amazon



ERMS and SRMS Grade 7 students traveled to the burning Amazon rainforest without ever leaving Ridgefield. Donning Virtual Reality (VR) goggles, students saw the effects of fire on the ecosystem--a global educational experience with a small carbon footprint. [Read Technology Integration Specialist Kim Moran's account.](#)

## RHS Hosts Social Media Assembly for Grade 9

Much has been made of the dangers of social media, but a recent RHS speaker talked about the positive use of social media as well as the pitfalls. Tom Pincince, who is an experienced



public speaker and advisor for Division I athletic departments, addressed the RHS ninth-grade. Pincince discussed issues surrounding privacy and provided valuable insights regarding social media in today's world. The speaker challenged students to think about what they can do as active, global citizens, to maintain positive behaviors and cultivate an identity on social media that is reflective of an educated, sensitive person. This program aligns directly with the RHS Mission Statement and Core Values to help build empathy, citizenship, and mindfulness, within the freshman class.

## Parent Workshop Schedule

RPS is committed to the social and emotional wellness of our students and community. One of the many ways that we work to promote well being is partnering with Project Resilience to offer a series of parent workshops, *Parenting the #Selfie Generation*. The first workshop is on Oct. 7. [View workshop schedule and registration info.](#)



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.

