



Our Shared Purpose
Provide highly engaging, relevant
and personalized learning for all
members of the community.

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Dates to Know:

2/14 Early Dismissal
2/15-19 No School
2/19 Dr. Collins' First Day
3/14 Early Dismissal
4/12 Early Dismissal
4/15-19 Spring Break

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[Twitter @JobsAtRPS!](https://twitter.com/JobsAtRPS!)

District News & Features

- [Meet Our New Special Education Leaders](#)
- [Kindergarten Registration Info](#)

A Day in the District

Barlow Mountain Elementary School

First-graders were singing, sharing, and full of school spirit at January's Bobcat Highlights Meeting. [Read more.](#)





Branchville Elementary School

New Year's Resolutions

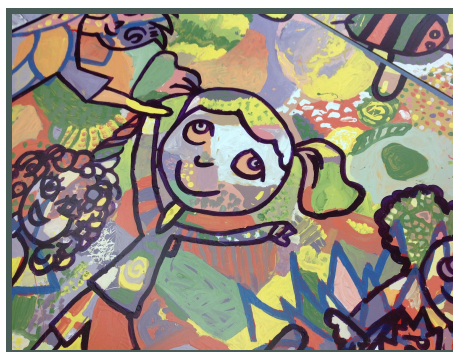
To celebrate the new year, the entire school came together to hear from both second and fifth-graders about how they worked together in buddy classes to discuss their goals for 2019. These students modeled how they discussed their resolutions and invited other grades' buddy classes to do the same throughout the month of January. The picture to the left shows fifth-grader Kieran C. presenting to his fellow Branchville Elementary School students.



East Ridge Middle School

Closest Geography Bee On Record

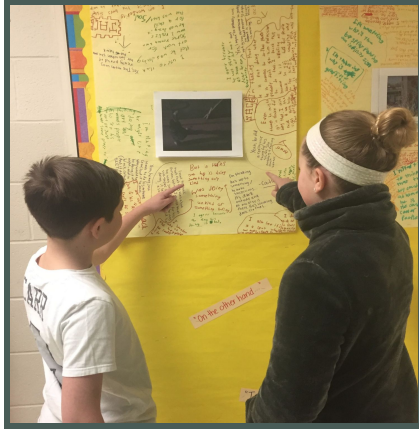
On January 18, an enthusiastic student body cheered on the talented competitors in the closest GeoBee in school history. Just in time for dismissal, seventh-grader Nick D., shown left with Principal Patricia Ranieri, took top honors in a thrilling match that demonstrated school-wide sportsmanship, impressive geography knowledge, and kindness. [Read more.](#)



Farmingville Elementary School

All School Mural

Every student who arrived back at school on January 2 immediately began working on a school-wide, collaborative mural. The mural shows what life at Farmingville means to each child. The finished pieces now hang on either side of the stage. Each time a student enters the FES cafeteria for lunch or an event, they see their work and the work of their friends on display. [View a Slide Show.](#)



Ridgebury Elementary School

Celebrates Process!

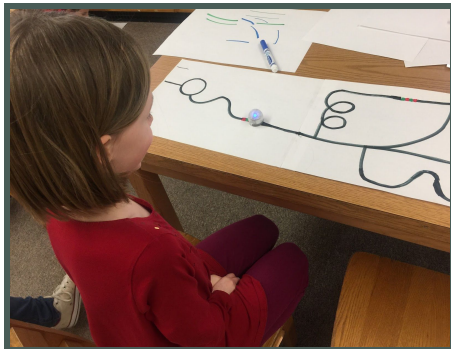
Ridgebury Elementary School has been dedicated to developing a growth mindset for years. To us, cultivating this mindset means celebrating not only the final product but the process involved in creating it. Now, our bulletin boards reflect that commitment by displaying students' thought processes. By hanging rough drafts, revisions, and reflections to the side of the final story, we show how much we value the hard work and growth that took place over time. [Enter to see more examples!](#)



Ridgefield High School

Names Day at RHS!

The Names Day program, run in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), facilitates a safe space for 10th-grade students to talk openly about differences. Students discuss their role in helping create and maintain an inclusive environment at Ridgefield High School. The day consisted of an assembly program, breakout sessions, and a closing assembly. [Read more.](#)



Scotland Elementary School

Robots, Coding, and Innovation

Three master coders from the Happy Code Club led our students in coding during Library Media classes in mid-January. This engaging program, co-sponsored by the PTA, introduces SCRATCH, a simple coding language, which is an age-appropriate stepping stone to more sophisticated computer languages. [Read more.](#)



Scotts Ridge Middle School

A Published Author and Philanthropist Amongst Us!

Aakarsh P., a sixth-grade student at Scotts Ridge Middle School, is now a published author. All the proceeds from his new book, *Playing with Puppies*, will go to Looking Glass Animal Rescue. Aakarsh has a long-standing passion for Looking Glass's mission, and this book is just one way he has served this charitable organization. We are proud of Aakarsh and all of the hard work he has put into making our community better!



Veterans Park Elementary School

Fifth Graders Dissect Owl Pellets in Integrated Studies

Fifth-grade students have been studying the biotic and abiotic—living and nonliving factors that contribute to a thriving ecosystem. As part of a guided exploration, students were asked, "What relationship does the owl have to its ecosystem?"

[Read more.](#)



Virtual Art Gallery



[Enter our Art Gallery for more!](#)

Teacher Spotlight



Get to Know Regina Zafrin

Barlow Mountain Elementary School
Teacher of the Year

What do you love about your students?

What I love about my students is that whatever you give them, they give back, plus more. I'm excited because one of my former BMES students who has dyslexia is coming back to be a senior intern this spring. She wants to be a special education teacher. She's an amazing girl.

What do you love about your school?

I love the collaboration with the teachers, who care very much about all the students.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been a teacher for 18 years—16 years at BMES.

Why did you become a teacher?

I started as a substitute when I was a stay-at-home mom and then became a para. I wanted to become more involved, so I went back to school when my girls were teenagers. I went into special education because one of my daughters had trouble reading. I knew that some people needed to be taught reading, while it comes naturally to others.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I have six grandchildren—one of my granddaughters was born two weeks ago. I love spending time with them, reading and doing crafts. They like to pretend to wrap presents, cut, and glue.

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Book: Miss Rumphius



Calendar Highlights



Key District-Wide Dates [Full District Calendar](#); [Board of Education Meeting Calendar](#)

<p>BOE Budget Season!</p> <p>Feb 9* BOE Public Hearing @ SRMS</p> <p>Feb 11* BOE Meeting</p> <p>Feb 12 Project Resilience Parent Workshop</p> <p>Feb 14 Early Dismissal (Full Day for Teachers)</p>	<p>Mar 11* BOE Meeting</p> <p>Mar 25* BOE Meeting (tentative) BOF Public Hearing</p>	<p>May 13 BOE Meeting</p> <p>May 18 RHS Junior Prom</p> <p>May 27 No School (Memorial Day)</p> <p>May 28 BOE Meeting</p> <p>May 31 RHS Senior Prom</p>
<p>Feb 15-19 February Recess</p> <p>Feb 19 Superintendent Dr. Collins' First Day</p> <p>No School (Professional Development)</p> <p>Feb 25* BOE Meeting</p>	<p>Apr 8* BOE Meeting</p> <p>Apr 12 Early Dismissal</p> <p>Apr 15-19 Spring Break</p> <p>Apr 22 BOE Meeting</p>	<p>Jun 10 BOE Meeting</p> <p>Jun 17 Last Day of School (tentative)</p> <p>Jun 21 RHS Graduation</p> <p>Jun 24 BOE Meeting</p>

*Please check [Board of Education Meeting Calendar](#) for snow dates, times, and cancellations.

Parent Workshop - February 12

Project Resilience continues its ongoing series of parent workshops this month with [Mind. Food. Hope. Body: A Frank Discussion of Body Image, Eating Disorders, and Healthy Diet.](#)

Tuesday, Feb 12 @ 7:00 p.m., Ridgefield Library: Register at ridgefieldlibrary.org



News Flash

Ridgefield Public School Job Opportunities on Twitter



Ridgefield Public Schools (RPS) is always looking for highly qualified, dedicated, and enthusiastic people to join our team. Check out the [personnel page on our website](#) for more information and current [employment opportunities](#).

Follow our [job-posting Twitter account @JobsAtRPS](#) to learn about new opportunities.

You may keep up with **news from the Ridgefield Public Schools** via our [news page](#) on the district site or via social media. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) or [Instagram](#).

[Contact us](#) if you have any questions or feedback.

