



# RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | April 8, 2022

## Performing Arts Shine at RPS, Building Confidence and Spreading Joy

To paraphrase Hamlet, “the plays *are* the thing.” In the last few weeks, RPS performing arts has put on outstanding productions that engaged hundreds of students on stage and behind the scenes and delighted audiences.

The Ridgefield High School production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* drew some unsuspecting audience members to match spelling skills in this fun, ensemble production, which featured a live orchestra and showcased students’ comic timing and abundant talent. Scotts Ridge Middle teachers and *Legally Blonde* directors Jennifer Bray and Merryl Polak



describe the value of student participation in theater and some of the technological challenges they faced in a recent edition of the [Ridgefield Tiger Talk podcast](#). They remind us that these musicals provide a rare, shared experience across all three grades resulting in life-long lessons and friendships.

East Ridge’s production of *Frozen* brought down the house while raising funds for [Fragile X](#). ERMS teacher Jaime O’Karma, who directed the play with Jared Bardugone, said, “the students truly did an incredible job making the show come to life.” In addition to the actors, students participate at every stage:); a quick glimpse at the program for [Spelling Bee](#), [Legally Blonde](#), or [Frozen](#) shows student contribution with lights, costumes, stage management, design, and publicity. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

## Calendar

**April 8**  
Full Day of School for Students

**April 11-14**  
No School/Spring Recess

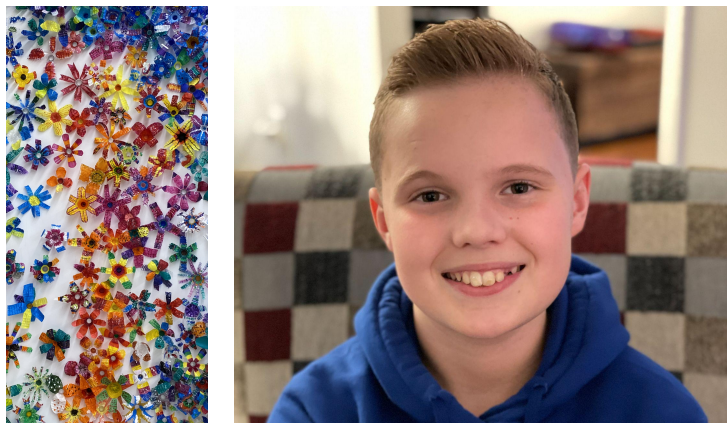
**April 25**  
BOE Meeting  
In Person and Streaming  
90 East Ridge Road  
[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

**May 10**  
Town Budget Referendum

**June 24**  
Tentative Last Day of School



## SES Wants Water for Everyone



The Scotland Elementary fifth grade is on a mission. They launched a series of initiatives to raise \$15,000 to build a well in South Sudan, Africa. Please read student Bradan Janso's impressive account of their "Water for Everyone" project [here](#). Bradan (photo above) describes the students' literary inspiration and the fundraisers they have pursued to achieve their ambitious goal. The photo top left shows the art made at a recent "Bottles to Beauty" night. Stay tuned for more information on how the community can "walk" for water.

## The VPES Variety Show Returns



The Veterans Park Elementary Variety Show went on this year with lots of laughs, songs, skits, and talent to burn. The staff crushed their mash-up dance number and extended a special thank you to the VPES PTA for all their efforts to put on this night of performance and fun.

## Margolus Is Principal of the Year

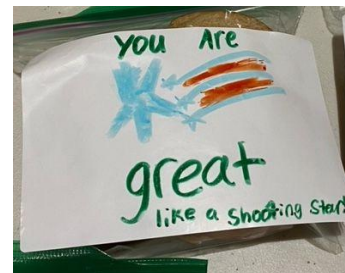


Branchville Elementary Principal Keith Margolus won the 2022 Connecticut PTA "Dawn Hochsprung" Outstanding Elementary School Principal award. BES PTA Co-President Angela Rice writes, "this is such an honor for Mr. Margolus, and for all of RPS." Margolus will be celebrated in person on May 4. Congratulations!

## FES Kids Care



The Farmingville Elementary Kids Care Club recently made 40 sandwiches for the [Dorothy Day House](#) in Danbury. The students included inspirational messages and cheerful drawings with the sandwiches.





## RHS Mock Trial Cleans Up



Led by senior co-captain Katherine Ward, Ridgefield's Mock Trial Team came in second out of 45 teams at the State Championship competition. Freshman Julia Knispel was named top witness in the state, and the entire team was honored by CT Chief Justice Richard Robinson at an awards ceremony. To hear more about the RHS Mock Trial Team, please listen to team co-captain Hersha Chauhan at this March 14 Board of Education Meeting [here](#) (34-minute mark).

## Model UN Virtual Triumph



Ridgefield High School's Model UN Team competed virtually last weekend at the 23rd annual Washington Area Model United Nations Conference hosted by George Washington University.

Students worked alongside participants from around the world to try to reach resolutions relating to both current and historical issues. While Model UN doesn't select winners, two students (Victor Uceda-Sosa and David Zaslavsky) earned recognition for outstanding contributions to their respective committees.

## Business Looks Bright



The Ridgefield High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Team attended the virtual Awards Ceremony for the State Competition. Out of the 37 RHS students who competed, 28 students qualified to compete at Nationals in Chicago. To get to this next step, they needed to place in the top four in the State. RHS had five first-place State Championship teams. Go Tigers!

## FCIAC Scholar Athletes



Congratulations to RHS seniors Alex Blaha and Siovhan Moroney named FCIAC Exemplary Scholar-Athletes for Winter 2021-22. Alex is co-captain of the RHS wrestling team. Siovhan has been a three-sport athlete (volleyball, basketball, lacrosse) for all four years at RHS and is co-captain of the volleyball and basketball teams. Both are high honor roll students and active volunteers in the community. Please read more about these impressive student-athletes [here](#).

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.

