



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | December 10, 2021

Teaching Another Language; Coding at RPS

Equipped with iPads, a small ball-shaped Sphero robot, and enthusiasm, East Ridge sixth graders recently started an Hour of Code in the Library Learning Commons as part of Computer Science Education Week. ERMS Librarian Tanya Anderson will teach each science class how to use an iPad to program Spheros to go



through a maze with prizes for the fastest time. “Remember,” says Anderson, “when it’s a good code, the ball will perform the same every time.” While some students worked in groups of two or three, another student worked alone to code her ball to go up her maze’s incline. The ball wouldn’t cooperate and kept rolling back. The student tried adding a pause, increasing the speed, decreasing the speed in a show of patience and persistence with the final result of her ball making it up the hill—every time! Veterans Park Elementary librarian Liza Bullard also uses Spheros as well as other innovative and engaging coding programs. Recently, VPES students programmed a Dreidel Bot as a stand-in for the traditional Hanukkah toy. Another day, they programmed a robot named Dash to sing Yankee Doodle. At Ridgebury Elementary, students coded Wiggle-Bots (motorized scribbling and coloring robots) designed and built by small groups of kids. RES Librarian Holli Levy reports students come to understand how design processes can evolve through experimentation and tinkering. At Ridgefield High School, the Computer Science, Engineering, and Robotics class offerings expand with a wide variety of semester and year-long courses, including Advanced Placement Computer Science, Project Lead the Way, as well as clubs.



Calendar

December 13

BOE Meeting

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

December 15

RHS Winter Concert

[More Info below and here](#)

December 16

RPS Curriculum Workshop

“Instructional Technology:
Parent Survival Guide”

[Parent Curriculum Website](#)

[RPS Calendar](#)

December 22

Early Dismissal

Winter Break

Dec. 23-Jan. 3

No School

Winter Break

East Ridge Food Drive



For over a decade, East Ridge Middle School seventh graders have collected food to donate to local and national charities. This year, the ERMS drive benefits Meals on Wheels. Students chose Meals on Wheels because it will cost the program over \$280,000 to deliver food to families in our area. While collecting, students learn the importance of coming together as a community and the value of helping those in need. For more information on the RPS Food Drive, please click [here](#).

BMES Student Inspires



When fifth-grader Connor Kelly heard that his fellow Barlow Mountain Elementary student council members wanted to do something “big,” he suggested that BMES consider supporting United for the Troops, a nonprofit his grandparents started in 2007. Read the inspiring story of Connor’s passion and the BMES community’s embrace of United for the Troops [here](#).

Winter Concert at RHS



RHS’s annual Winter Concert will return to the Anne S. Richardson Auditorium on December 15 at 7 p.m.! The Concert Orchestra, Choir, and Band, as well as the selective Symphonic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble are all set to perform music from The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky, Exultate by Hazo, and many crowd favorites. Free and open to the public.

RES Writing “Gifts”



Ridgebury Elementary fourth graders take a few moments to jot individual compliments and tips to Karen Van Vliet’s first-grade writers to help them write longer and stronger books!

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.

