



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | December 3, 2021

Welcome, New BOE Members; Thank You, Retiring BOE!

Three new Board of Education members—Selina Bell, Amy Casey, and Tom Colin—joined the board last month as RPS thanked departing BOE representatives Nora Gaydos, Kathleen Holz, and Margaret Stamatis. The new Board re-elected Jonathan Steckler as Chair, Rachel Ruggeri as Secretary, and elected Tina Malhotra as Vice-Chair. Both the District and Board expressed sincere gratitude to former Chair, Margaret Stamatis. “She taught me everything I know,” said Steckler, “but she didn’t teach me everything she knows.” Superintendent Susie Da Silva noted Kathleen Holz contributions to the curriculum department. Thank you to all BOE volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of RPS students.



Olympic Medalist Kieran Smith Comes Home

Kieran Smith, who won a bronze medal in the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, returned to RPS last week while on break. Smith talked to Ridgefield High School orchestra students about how he balanced athletic and academic achievement with being a principal cellist of the RHS Symphonic Orchestra. He returned to Ridgebury Elementary (photos right) for an engaging assembly with students and a photo with his former RES teacher, Elizabeth Crabbe. Watch Smith’s exciting 400m Olympic swim (with ads) [here](#).



Calendar

December 9

Early Dismissal for Students
Professional Development

December 13

BOE Meeting

[Link to Live/Recorded](#)

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

RHS Names Day



For the eighth year in a row, Ridgefield High School sophomores participated in the [Names Can Really Hurt Us](#) program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Led and organized by ADL moderators, RHS teachers, and student leaders, the “Names Day” Program aims to create a safe space for students to discuss discrimination and bias in their everyday lives and to begin the conversation on how to end those behaviors.

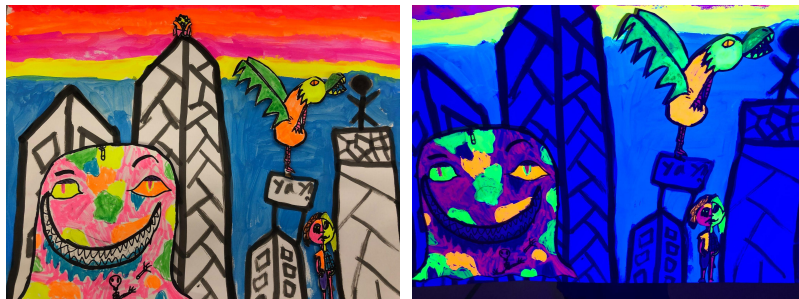
Oh Là Là! Towers at SRMS



This year as part of National French Week, Kathleen Granger's Scotts Ridge Middle School students created their own Eiffel Towers. The only directions they received were to create a three-level structure using any materials of their choosing. The SRMS

staff voted on their favorite towers. Et voilà! The photo above shows the winning tower with two of its architects.

You Could Even Say They Glow



Farmingville Elementary fourth graders worked in the dark with black lights to make these fun drawings that are vibrant in light and glow in the dark. See a gallery of black light drawings including the one above by Skylar M. as well as art from other FES artists in this [slideshow](#).

Tiger Hockey Alumni Game



Current Ridgefield High School Boys Varsity Hockey players faced off against alumni on the Friday after Thanksgiving at the annual Eric F. Hoag Alumni Hockey Game. Erik Hoag was an RHS hockey player and member of the Class of 1986 who died in a car accident in 1991. A scholarship was established in his name by the Hoag family and the Boys Hockey Booster Club in 1996. Proceeds from the Alumni game fund the scholarship, which is awarded annually by the Hoag family to a Ridgefield High School senior hockey player. Several scholarship winners laced up their skates on Friday.

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.

