



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | February 19, 2021

Black History Month at ERMS and SRMS

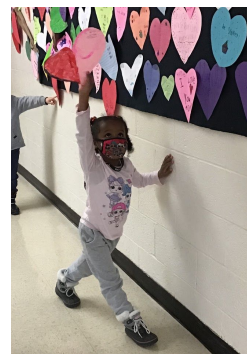
East Ridge Middle School sixth-grade social studies teacher Maureen Tyra created a Hallway of Fame in the sixth-grade corridor to commemorate inspirational African Americans (photo far right). Photos and brief biographies of well-known Black Americans such as Cicely Tyson (near right) but also lesser-known historical figures, including the jockey Willie Simms and the opera singer Marian Anderson, line the lockers. For most of the entries, students recorded short videos accessible by QR codes. Ms. Tyra is also hosting a series of weekly after-school discussions for all grade levels about Black history in the United States. The conversations are focusing on important moments in history, The Civil Rights Movement, and contributions of African Americans to all parts of our culture.



Please see page 2 of *RPS News* for a report on Black History Month at Scotts Ridge including their all-school read-aloud of the novel [What Lane?](#) by Torrey Maldonado.

Veterans Park Spreads Kindness

A tree grows at Veterans Park Elementary. The photo top right shows the bare tree installed at the end of January. Throughout February, the VPES community added heart-shaped leaves of love with messages of hope and inspiration. The project culminated on Valentine's Day. The photo bottom right shows the "Spreading Kindness" tree with branches heavy with heartfelt messages of joy and kindness. VPES principal Ellen Tuckner says this project is one way the school has kept spirits high and reinforced their motto: "Work Hard; Be Kind."



Calendar

February 22

BOE Vote on 2021-22 Budget

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

February 26

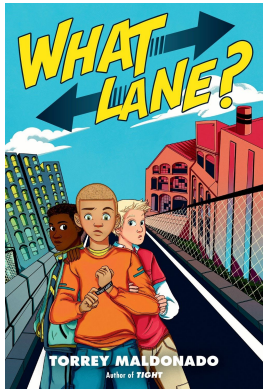
Early Dismissal/Asynchronous
Professional Development

[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

June 14

Tentative Last Day of School
[Emergency Closing Calendar](#)

Black History Month (Cont.)



Scotts Ridge Middle School Library Media Specialist Janine Johnson prepared [this brief report](#) of the wide variety of activities at SRMS around Black History Month. She leads her report with a quote from [CELEBRATING BLACK AMERICA](#): “It is our responsibility to allow all students, not just Black students, the opportunity to continuously learn about Black history more than what is allotted to Black History Month, slavery, and the civil rights movement in textbooks.” RPS vigorously agrees and aims to teach a robust multicultural curriculum all year. Ms. Johnson and SRMS Principal Tim Salem will be working with The Connecticut Association of Public Schools to offer a webinar related to Ms. Johnson's work in sharing titles with students and staff around the themes of equity and social justice.

Read Aloud!



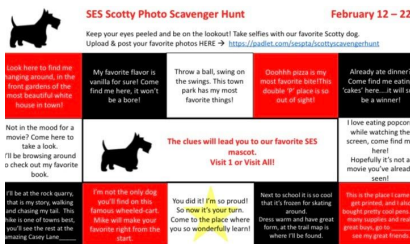
Elementary schools across the District celebrated World Read Aloud Day with teacher, student, and guest-led read alouds throughout the day. The photo above shows Ridgebury Elementary coming together both at school and at home for a virtual read aloud led by Alison Carmody, Elementary Supervisor.

RHS Letters to Writers

RHS English Teachers Kimberly Benson and Katherine Gabbay report that their freshman classes entered the state's Letters About Literature competition sponsored by UCONN and the CT Writing Project. Each student wrote to an author to explain why their book is meaningful to them. Congratulations to the 15 students in the top 10 percent who will move to the second round including Kate H. who wrote to V.C. Andrews (photo right), Charlotte B., Michael C., Elizabeth C., Lauren F., Steven H., Katherine I., Isabella K., Chloe M., Jane P., Donnelly R., Alexis S., Ava T., Madeline W., and Petru Z. The state's winners will move on to the national competition this spring.



Spot Scotty?



Scotland Elementary PTA set up a photo scavenger hunt around Ridgefield—all clues leading families to places to spot and photograph the SES Scotty mascot. Click [here](#) to see fun photos from their searches.

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.

