



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | March 26, 2021

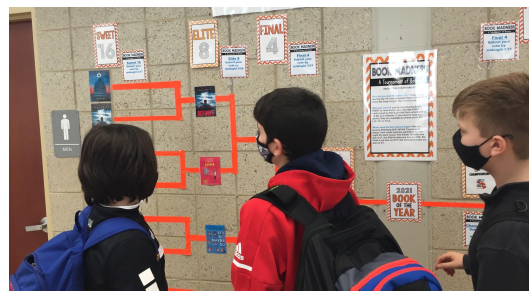
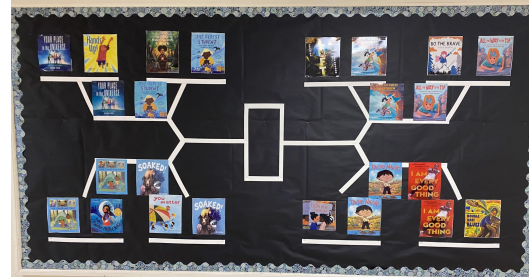
RHS Science Research Students "Crush It"

Ridgefield High School Science Research Program Director Patrick Hughes reports that his students "crushed it" at the Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair last week. Congratulations to the five students who earned medals: Claire G., Isabel V., Luke H., Sammi M., and Devansi S. A special congratulations to the team of Megan D. (photo far right) and Kelsi W. (near right) who received multiple recognitions, including being awarded 3rd place in the Physical Sciences Category for their soil science research!



March Madness Brings...April Absurdity!

Many schools across the district have been celebrating March Book Madness with match-ups between sixteen favorite books that get winnowed down each week. The photo right shows Veterans Park Elementary's bracket. (See RPS News Page 2 for a story on one of the books, *Double Bass Blues*, as well as Farmingville's Final Four recommendations). Barlow Mountain, Farmingville, and Scotland Elementary are facing the final rounds in the next few weeks. East Ridge and Scotts Ridge (photo right) Middle Schools have their own brackets. In April, the winning books from each middle school will face off in an April Absurdity challenge. Follow RPS social media (links below) for the winners.



Calendar

April 2

No School/Good Friday

April 12-16

No School/Spring Break

April 26

Early Dismissal/Asynch PM
[Other Asynchronous Days](#)

April 5 and 26

BOE Meetings

[Live Stream and Archive](#)

April 24

Annual Town Meeting
BOE and Town Budget

May 11

Town Budget Referendum

RHS Senior on NBC News



When Ridgefield High School hockey senior Michael Conciatore (right) broke his femur during the last preseason practice, he suffered a painful, season-ending loss.

However, he bounced back to become the team's announcer during the live streams of games. With limited in-person attendance because of COVID, parents, grandparents, alumni, and the RHS Tigers Hockey community could tune in to hear "Conch's" professional play-by-play. NBC local news affiliate took notice and produced [this segment](#) on his remarkable resiliency. Athletic Director Dane Street speaks to how COVID helped speed up RHS's dream to add video production and streaming to the department.

FES Reads and Recommends

During February, Farmingville Elementary students and staff held a weekly reading challenge with a top goal of reading 8,000 books by month's end. The month's grand total of books read by students and staff topped out at 10,388! During March Book Madness, organized by Literacy Coach, Jackie Doty, the FES community narrowed down the field to four picture books that they highly recommend to all students in our district: *The Couch Potato* by Jory John, *The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak, *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, and *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* by Mo Willems.

R-read-bury Elementary!

Ridgebury Elementary PTA fundraising president (and author) Lisa Figaro pulled out all the stops to engage both in-person and remote students and families during the school's first annual Read-a-Thon fundraiser.

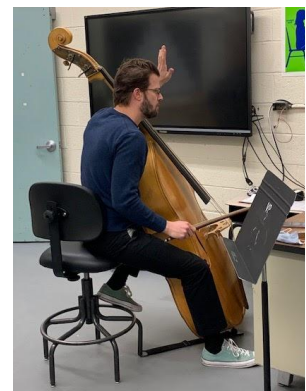
Students enjoyed a virtual author visit with actor and author John Amos (right). Mr. Amos read his heartwarming book *A World Without Color* (written with Lenny K and Ms. Figaro) to a



very engaged RES student audience. The RES PTA arranged for a day of Community Readers where a different local "celebrity" read to each grade level. Readers included CT State Representative Will Haskell, Poet Laureate Barbara Jenness, Police Chief Jeff Kreitz, First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Fire Chief Jerry Myers, and Scotts Ridge Principal Tim Salem. The PTA also teamed up with the Ridgefield Library to distribute 85 new library cards.

Veterans Park Has the Blues

The Veterans Park orchestra teacher, Nate Wood (right), gave a virtual bass performance to celebrate the unifying power of music. His playing was a gift that echoed the message from *Double Bass Blues*, one of the VPES March Book Madness book choices.



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.

