



## Differences Day at Ridgebury Elementary

In early April, Ridgebury’s third, fourth, and fifth-graders spent a day thinking about the differences around them with a goal of fostering a lifetime of empathy. This year, RES celebrated the sometimes hidden differences, particularly those which exist in many of our classrooms, including autism, attention deficit, and tic disorders, as well as communication, fine motor, and learning disabilities.



By traveling through various stations that educate them about a disability, students experienced the challenges differences may present and learned to value all members of our community. Parents and teachers led discussions about the way students felt. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be reading books that focus on difference to kindergarten, first, and second graders.



## Young BES Inventors!

Branchville hosted another great Invention Convention this year. Recognized inventors from Branchville Invention Convention going to the State Competition shown in the photo to the right, include: Hannah T., Jake L., Kylie S., Ella M., Jaden D., and Sofia C.



Special Art Feature  
“Memory Project:  
Portraits of  
Kindness”

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## CALENDAR

May 6

Annual Town Meeting

May 13\*\*

BOE Meeting

May 27

No School (Memorial Day)

May 28\*\*

BOE Meeting

June 10\*\*

BOE Meeting

June 19

Last Day of School

June 24\*\*

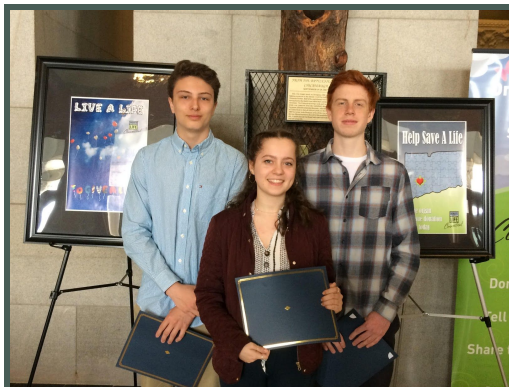
BOE Meeting

\*\*Please check [BOE Meeting Calendar](#) for changes.

Visit [ridgefield.org/Calendar](http://ridgefield.org/Calendar) for full calendar.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the three RHS students Melanie K., (Honorable Mention), Tim P., (3rd Place), and Dylan Z. (Tony Award), who participated in Donate Life Connecticut Visual Arts Contest. [View their posters and read more about the Donate Life program here.](#)



## SRMS Students Perform at Conference



Seven Scotts Ridge students participated in the All-Honors Band and Orchestra groups at the Connecticut Music Educators Association annual music conference in Hartford, CT. Congrats to Parker B., Lucas C., Noah D., Maggie F., Emma G., Kyela M, and Lena O.

## A Theatrical Spring for RHS Ninth Graders

Read 9th-Grade English Teacher Julie Henderson's report on the RHS field trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway and the Hudson River Shakespeare Company's recent production of *Julius Caesar* [here.](#)



## THE MEMORY PROJECT



Barlow Mountain fifth-grader Veda R. made this captivating portrait of a girl from Afghanistan in her art enrichment class. BMES and Veterans Park students, led by Art Teachers Alana Devito and Alison Anderson, participated in "The Memory Project," which is a nonprofit that fosters global kindness. The Memory Project believes that creating portraits of children who have faced war, poverty, neglect, and loss, makes the children feel valued and important. The portraits become a special childhood memory, a tangible sign that people care about them. The Memory Project has created more than 130,000 portraits for children in 47 countries since 2004. This is VP's second year participating. [View portraits by students and teachers here.](#) [Visit the Memory Project website.](#)

