



# RPS NEWS

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | November 1, 2019 | Issue No. 5

## RPS Welcomes Authors; Celebrates Literacy



Ridgefield welcomed Maria Russo, co-author of *How to Raise a Reader*, for the district's first Community Author Event. RPS K-12 Humanities Supervisor Dr. Alison Villanueva reports that the event was lively and well-attended. Dr. Russo tackled the modern family's struggle to encourage reading in a world where so much is competing for a child's attention.



The photo on the right shows author Suzy Kline with Farmingville Elementary Principal Susan Gately and students during a recent author visit. Ms. Kline is the author of the *Horrible Harry* book series as well as the *Herbie Jones* books. She shared her own writing experiences and strategies for working through writer's block, giving students examples of how they can use "seeds for stories in our everyday life" to write their own stories.



Scotland Elementary first graders shared their work during a writing celebration (photo on left). The photo on the right shows Branchville Elementary third-graders actively listening to their classmate's narrative writing. More about BES's writing program on page 2.



## Calendar

**November 5**  
No School for Students  
Professional Development Day

**November 11**  
No School  
Veterans Day

[View Full RPS Calendar](#)

**November 12**  
BOE Meeting\*

**November 13**  
Project Resilience Talk  
[View Flyer](#)

**November 25**  
BOE Meeting\*

**November 27**  
Early Dismissal

**November 28-29**  
No School  
Thanksgiving

\*Board Conference Room  
Town Annex 7:00 pm

## RHS Shows Tiger Pride Students Give Back

During spirit week at Ridgefield High School, students in all grades showed their stripes, stars, class colors, and spirit, donning different themed costumes each day. Seniors won the annual Spirit Cup by accumulating the most points over the course of the week.



Students collected food for the Ridgefield Food Bank and sneakers for Soles4Souls. On Friday night, much of the town watched the RHS football team crush Wilton, 21 to 0. Saturday's annual homecoming dance was carnival themed.



Student leaders, pep band, cheer and dance teams all contributed to a great week.

Go Tigers!

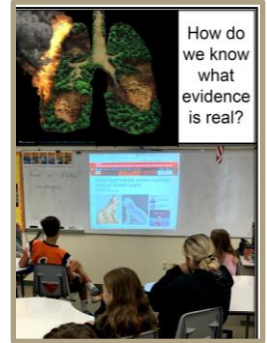
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## RPS News Is ADA Compliant

The attentive reader might notice that this issue of *RPS News* looks slightly different than past issues. The explanation of the difference is that we made changes to make the document easier to read on an assistive device. RPS Communications has been working towards the goal of ADA Compliance since last year. We are working to have district documents accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Critical Thinking at SRMS

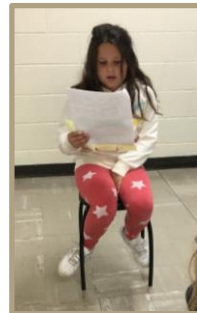
As Scotts Ridge Middle School seventh-graders began to study ecosystems and the phenomenon of the Amazon Rainforest fires, they learned to utilize media literacy skills to critique "real vs. fake" scenarios online and in social media. Evaluating the credibility of information is a valuable skill that can be used across all subject areas.



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## BES Writes and Shares!

Alison Carmody, who is the Branchville Literacy Specialist and RPS's Lead Literacy Coach, reports that BES third graders shared their stories in small groups. While students read, classmates listened attentively and then provided the writer with feedback in the form of a compliment. According to Carmody "BES teachers provided instruction and tools around the compliments so that students could make them specific, meaningful, and constructive."



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## RPS Salutes Merit Scholars

The Board of Education, RHS Principal Stacey Gross, and Interim Superintendent JeanAnn Paddyfote celebrated the twelve RHS National Merit Semifinalists at a recent Board meeting. [Video of BOE recognition of Merit Semifinalists.](#)

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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.

