RPS NEWS

ERMS Teacher Leads Walk for Fragile X Syndrome

Ridgefield Intensive Special Education teacher Nikki Hardman pulled together a team from East Ridge Middle School, Ridgebury Elementary, and Ridgefield High School to participate in a fundraising walk for Fragile X Syndrome research and to celebrate ERMS student, Jordan Sarup. The National Fragile X Foundation serves all those living with Fragile X with a focus on community, awareness, and research in the pursuit of treatments and a cure. Fragile X syndrome is the most commonly inherited intellectual and developmental disability. An estimated 1.5 million Americans have the gene premutation, and an estimated 100,000 Americans have Fragile X Syndrome.

The socially distanced walk took place on the grounds of East Ridge Middle School. Walkers included staff members: Robin Westman, Karin Petrini, Shannon Harvey, Megan Calderwood, Ginette Howard, student Jordan Sarup, his younger brother Ari who is a fifth grader at Veteran's Park Elementary, and their parents Stephanie and Rajat. KUDOS to Ms. Hardman for earning the second spot nationally, for top individual with the most donors!

Families can learn more about Fragile X Syndrome and the Sarup Family's inspiring journeys throughout the world to raise awareness at Coffee and Currency website.

SRMS Global Read Aloud

Scotts Ridge Middle School is participating in the 10th annual *Global Read Aloud*. The GRA unites students from around the world who listen to chosen stories over a 6-week period. SRMS pre-recorded readers include members of the RPS and Ridgefield community. Each week's chapters are shared via the Library Learning Commons Google Classroom during silent sustained reading time.

Calendar

October 26	**October 26-30**	**October 29**
BOE Meeting	RHS Spirit Week	Early Dismissal Students
BOE website for information	**Full RPS Calendar**	Professional Development

The Great Pumpkin and "Digging" Dirt on Page 2

SRMS GRA (Continued)

Want to listen with your family? Have your student access the [Google Classroom Code](#). Librarians are leading lunch bunch chats and making connections with other parts of the world via a variety of digital platforms.

This year's books for middle school include *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism & You* by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X Kendi, centering on the history of marginalized communities, especially Asian and African Americans.

Reading aloud together underscores the importance of reading in our lives while showing students how to come together as a community to address issues of importance.

It's the Great Pumpkin, RHS

RHS students can earn spirit points for their grade by estimating how many seeds in this great pumpkin. Students can scan the QR codes posted in the Student Center to enter to win. Spirit Week starts October 26.

Let the competition begin!

FES Grows!

The Farmingville PTA brought in Kaleidoscope Garden Design to present a workshop in the school's meticulously maintained FES garden. Workshops provided the students with hands-on activities that align with [Next Generation Science Standards](#) and were a lot of fun.

Some of the topics included; investigating a seed's lifespan, understanding the role of plants and animals in an ecosystem, and recycling in the garden. Fourth-grade students learned about food preservation and the Native American practice of planting the three sisters (corn, beans, and squash) together to promote crop growth and minimize weeds.

Students ground corn with a mortar and pestle and got their hands dirty planting crimson clover seeds as a ground cover and mulch. Avery G (photo right) said, "I'm digging in the dirt and I love it!" Students were overjoyed when their remote-learning classmate joined them for this workshop.

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