



RPS News

Ridgefield Public Schools Newsletter | Ridgefield, CT | December 18, 2020

Spirit, Snow, and Song



Happy Winter Spirit week, Ridgefield families! Ugly sweaters, Dress to Impress, and Hat Day were just some of the merry-making in schools this week. Scotland Elementary students and staff dressed in white (photo top right) to summon the snow. Whether SES impacted the weather or not, the first blizzard of 2020 came with Superintendent Da Silva declaring Thursday a snow day on Wednesday afternoon to give families time to stock up on hot chocolate and popcorn, sleep late, and plan snow activities.



With everyone nestled, Wednesday night was the perfect occasion to tune into [Ridgefield High School's pre-recorded winter concert](#). RHS Principal Dr. Greenwood introduced the evening by reminding listeners that RPS has one of three high school symphonic orchestras (a full strings orchestra with wind instruments) in the State of Connecticut. The music performances that followed were sublime but what also makes the video special is Music Teacher Michael McNamara's (photo below) striking observations of Beethoven.

This year marks Beethoven's 250th birthday but his tenacity and triumph can be a lesson of hope



during Covid, remarks Mr. Mac. Just as Beethoven was becoming well-known, the composer became deaf and fell into despair. "However, the lesson for us all to learn from this great man," says Mr. Mac. "What is most powerful is the triumph." That which gives the human spirit hope was that Beethoven

would emerge victorious and never give up. Mr. Mac praises the dedication of the RHS musicians and looks forward to the spring concert planned for Ballard Park. Thank you to [Ridgefield Music Parents](#) for your support of RPS music programs and this concert!

Calendar

December 21-23

Remote Learning Days

December 23

Early Dismissal

[Full RPS Calendar](#)

December 24-January 1

Winter Recess

January 4

Classes Resume

[Asynchronous Days](#)

January 29

February 26

March 15

April 26

May 24

Cupcakes on Page 2!

Cupcake, Anyone?



Please enjoy this calorie-free [cupcake gallery](#) from Branchville and Veterans Park Elementary first graders. Jennifer Zeyers's students worked with collage techniques and learned about the artist, Wayne Thiebaud.

Parachute Is Alive and Well

In this [Tiger Talk podcast](#), three elementary PE teachers talk to Dr. Wes DeSantis about the skills students learn in PE classes, current class activities, and DeSantis' memories of his favorite PE unit, the parachute.



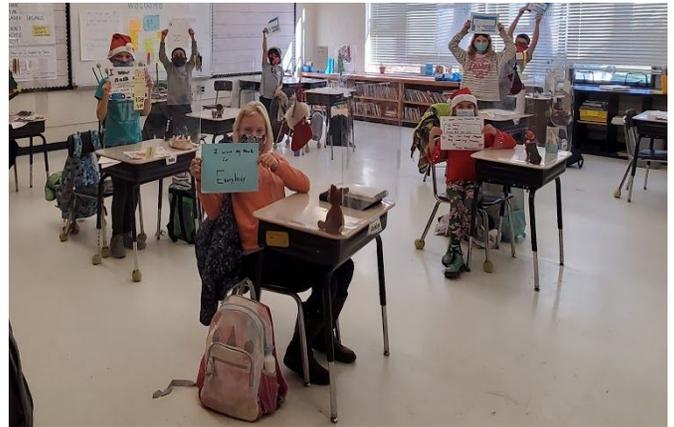
Covid Testing Site

Ridgefield Public School staff are able to get a COVID test from the temporary site at the Yanity Gym, which was set up by the town of Ridgefield. Contact Nurse [Aaron Crook](#).

Jobs at RPS

Ridgefield Public Schools is hiring. Please visit [the RPS website](#) to find district openings.

Why We Wear Masks



Farmingville Elementary's third, fourth, and fifth-graders have been learning about the science behind wearing a mask to protect everyone in their community. Using scientific data and state-of-the-art imaging in super slow motion, school psychologist David Lucian, introduced lessons to help students see how Covid-19 could be spread through microscopic droplets when humans talk, breathe, or cough. By peering into the invisible world of airflow, students see first hand how masks can mitigate disease spread. The lesson concluded with a handout: "I WEAR MY MASK FOR..." The handout asks students to reflect on who in their lives they wish to protect.

District-wide PTA Activities

At the recent Board of Education meeting, PTA Council representative Kim Carone presented the wide variety of ways that the PTAs have spread school spirit, served our community, and celebrated staff. Read her report [here](#). Thank you PTAs for your creativity, generosity, and spirit!

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.

