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| Upcoming Events | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2/13 | BOE Meeting |
| 2/20- 2/25 | Mid-Winter Recess |
| 3/15 | Dr. Maurice Elias "Race to Somewhere" |
| 3/16 | Ridge Factor |
| | |
| | |

The Season of Testing

It is that time of year when the high school begins to plan for the many upcoming assessments of our students. Mid-terms began...

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From the PTO Co-Presidents

Topics this month: spring PTO activities and thanks to all our volunteers. [\[click - more on p. 2\]](#)

Alumni Memorial Scholarship Deadline Nears

Reminder: Monday, March 5 is the deadline for the Ridge Alumni Memorial \$6,000 scholarship. Unlike traditional grants that reward GPA and test scores... [\[click - more on p. 7\]](#)

The Ridge Factor!

The Class of 2013 Proudly Presents THE RIDGE FACTOR! We welcome talents from all grade levels to audition and perform for a grand prize! [\[click - more on p. 4\]](#)

Make the Dream a Reality with New Art Panels

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PTO INFORMATION

2011-12 Ridge PTO Executive Board

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Co-Presidents</i> | Sarah Bonnefoi sarahbonnefoi@yahoo.com Tracey Tuthill gooserocks@optonline.net |
| <i>1st Vice President-Volunteers</i> | Sharon Power sharonpower@optonline.net |
| <i>2nd Vice President-Programs</i> | Kathy Whitman kcwhit4@verizon.net |
| <i>3rd Vice President-Newsletter</i> | Sue Frost sue_frost@mac.com |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Aninda Katragadda aninda.katragadda@gmail.com |
| <i>Recording Secretary</i> | Candice Hull hullscr@verizon.net |
| <i>Communications Officers</i> | Kris Leopold pkekml@gmail.com Amy Venetianer amyv8@optonline.net |

The Ridge PTO Monthly

Editor: Sue Frost

Submissions for the March 2 Friday Folder issue are due Feb. 14 to ridgepto@yahoo.com. Questions and inquiries can be sent to that email address.

From the Co-Presidents, from p. 1

Spring 2012

Exams are over, once again. This time of the academic year is always stressful and we hope that your student(s) survived in fine fettle.

There is much to look forward to for this second half of the year. Proms, the musical, forensics tournaments, sports. The first of these events, is a new one called...

The Ridge Factor

This year the Junior class voted to have an all-school talent show in place of the fashion show as its fundraising event. Auditions were held last week and the show is sure to have great entertainment value. Showtime: March 16th, Ridge PAC, 7pm. See you there!

PTO volunteers – can't do this without you

Now that we're well into the school year, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our hard-working volunteers. The events thus far have been successful and many of you are working hard on the upcoming ones. Thank you all for your tireless efforts.

Finally, we wish you a safe and relaxing mid-winter break this month.

Warm regards,

Sarah and Tracey

Unique Opportunity to Get Involved at RHS

The Ridge High School PTO Board has a number of openings for the 2012-2014 term. PTO board membership is one of the few opportunities available at the high school for parents who want to be involved and have a voice. All PTO board members are invited to attend monthly PAC meetings with Principal Frank Howlett. PAC meetings are a great opportunity to participate in an open forum with Principal Howlett in which he addresses current issues and parent concerns.

The following positions are open for the next 2-year term:

President (currently held by two people)

- Oversees all activities of the board

1st Vice President

- Coordinates parent volunteers and oversees appointment of class parents

Treasurer

- Responsible for all accounting for the board including annual budget, annual report, and monthly financial statements

Communications Officer (currently held by two people)

- Maintains and updates the PTO website, edits and publishes weekly one-page publication "PTO Highlights"

Please send all inquiries to Kathy Whitman (2nd VP Programs) at kcwhit4@verizon.net no later than April 17, 2012.

Guidance Department News

Upperclassmen Registration for 2012-13

- Students and parents can now access and review the Program of Studies on the Ridge High School Guidance Department Web site (Click the "Grades 10-12 Academic Planning/Scheduling" tab).
- Students in each grade level will meet with counselors on Wednesday, February 1st to review the important Program of Studies changes and specific information pertaining to their grade.
- In consultation with their parents, students should complete the Course Selection Sheet and pencil in course requests and alternatives for electives for the 2012-2013 school year. Students should bring completed Course Selection Sheets to their student/counselor scheduling appointment.
- Students should check the bulletin board outside the cafeteria for their scheduled appointment time with their counselor (they will receive a pass the day before the appointment).
 - ◆ Current 11th graders will be scheduled during the week of February 6th.
 - ◆ Current 10th graders will be scheduled during the week of February 27th.
 - ◆ Current 9th graders will be scheduled during the week of March 20th.
- Course requests and alternative electives will become visible in HAC during March.
- Students have until APRIL 5th to change course requests. **AFTER THIS DATE, THERE WILL BE NO COURSE CHANGES ALLOWED FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR. PERMISSION TO CHANGE ELECTIVE COURSES WILL ONLY BE GRANTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.** Level changes will continue to be made as described in the Program of Studies.

For AP Students

- The online system for AP registration will be available January 30th through March 4th. No late registrations can be accepted. Registration information and directions were mailed home in January, but can also be found on the Guidance Department Web site (click the "Advanced Placement" tab).

-Submitted by Jillian Shadis

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Ridge Recognition

Accomplishments

The following students were named to the **Central Jersey Region Band**: sophomore **Kevin Liu** – clarinet; freshman **Oliver Tang** – clarinet; and freshman **Alison Shim** – mallets.

Congratulations to 9th grade violinist **Yunhee Kang** who performed with the **2012 Central New Jersey Region II Orchestra** on January 8. What a tremendous honor!

Sophomore **Jeffrey Cai**, earned a perfect score on the 3rd **New Jersey Math League** exam.

English teacher, **Janine Quimby**, earned her Master's in English from TCNJ on December 23, 2011. She also had a paper accepted at SUNY's Graduate Conference and will be presenting it on February 25th; the conference is called "Instrument, Image, Ekphrasis: Intersecting Genres of Knowledge."

Junior **Ezra Keough** has created a web site www.tacklejuvenileidiabetes.com. What a wonderful inspiration to other students with Juvenile Diabetes, or to anyone dealing with a medical condition!

The **New Jersey Science League** is a competitive science organization operating within the state of New Jersey. Science League consists of a series of four local competitions which allow students to demonstrate their ability in science. Test scores are then sent to the New Jersey Science League where they are ranked statewide. The January competition took place on January 12, 2012 at Ridge High School. Chemistry I took first place honors and was represented by **Jeffrey Cai, Ian Peczak, Karn Dalal, Jeffrey Zhao, Cathy Chen, and Andy Zhang**. **Jeffrey Cai** and **Ian Peczak** earned perfect scores in this division. Physics I took first place honors and was represented by **Preeti Gondi, David Mazumder, Adit Namdev, and Aneesh Vaidya**. Preeti and David tied for top score. Physics C also took first place honors and was represented by **Colin Baker, Alex Liao, Eric Wei, and Howard Wei**. Colin earned the top score in this division. Biology I took second place honors and was represented by **Renee Hastings, Eliza Engelman, Jeremy Mazumder, and Oliver Tang**. Renee was the top score in this division.

Engagements

Chris Miranda made **Rachel Falis**, dance teacher, a very happy girl on Christmas morning when he proposed marriage to her! A 2013 wedding is planned.

Babies

Connie Illian, English teacher, added two more grandsons to her clan!! Tyler Raul Espinoza Illian, born November 30 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, weighing 6 lb., 15 oz. and measuring 19" long, followed by Elijah James Strong, born December 18 in St. Louis, MO, weighing 6 lb., 13 oz. and measuring 19.75" long. They are both adorable!

- submitted by Mary Ellen Peters

CLUB NEWS

December Varsity Athlete of the Month

Check Out The Booster Club Display In The Lobby!

Swimming Girls - **Brianna Thompson (10)** - Brianna is a standout sophomore for the Varsity Swim Team and is quickly emerging as our most versatile and accomplished swimmer. She has won 5 individual races and is looking to qualify for Meet of Champions in the 100 Free and 100 Back. She will be leading our team at Conference Championships in January.

Swimming Boys - **Terrill Jones (11)** - Over the last three years Terrill has become one of our most solid and consistent swimmers. In the past month, he has dropped time in the 100 Fly and 500 Free and helped lead our team to victory against New Providence. Terrill is an incredibly hard worker and it has really helped the team in December.

Ice Hockey - **Chris Mastroianni (12)** - Chris's goal in sudden death overtime gave Ridge a 2 -1 victory over Bridgewater Raritan and a trip to the Bridgewater Sports Arena Christmas Tournament final. This gives Chris 2 goals and 8 assists in 10 games so far this season.

Girls Basketball - **Vicky Beneventine (12)**- Vicky has been Ridge's leading scorer in most games and has been leading the team on and off the court. She scored 15 points in Ridge's last game against Immaculata.

Boys Basketball - **Dillon Mahon (12)** - Dillon Mahon was the MVP of the Len Sepanak Holiday Tournament hosted by Ridge High School. The team defeated Roselle Catholic, the number 8th ranked team in the state, the highest ranked team ever defeated by a Ridge Boys Basketball Team. Dillon also had 16 points in the final, hitting 5 three pointers. He is one of Ridge's Senior Captains and a two-year starter on the boy's basketball team. He is a great leader who is cool, calm, and collected. He is Ridge's coach on the court.

Girls Winter Track - **Kelly Van Baalen (9)** - Off to a great start in her first season of track, Kelly helped the Varsity Team to a first place finish in the Somerset County 4x400. Her versatility has aided the Varsity Team in events from the 400 to the Mile.

Boys Winter Track - **Brad Lyons (12)** - Brad is off to a great start in his senior year winning the 800 Meter Run at the county meet. He also has run the top split on our 4x400 Relay.

Girls Fencing - **Sara Jones (12)** - Team Captain. Sara is a great athlete with a passion for fencing. She is a hard worker, positive role model and motivation for the team. She cares about team unity and helps other athletes who are not as experienced.

Boys Fencing - **Bobak Shadpoor (10)** - Bobak did great at our first two meets and has shown good efforts during practices in December.

Wrestling - **Kolton Nelder (10)** - Kolton finished third at last month's 15 team Nottingham Holiday Tournament.

-Submitted by Angel Hand

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, March 15
7pm at the RHS PAC

A follow up to the fall viewing of the movie
"Race to Nowhere"

Dr. Maurice J. Elias

Rutgers Professor of Psychology, licensed
psychologist and author will discuss:

**From Race to Nowhere to Race to Somewhere:
Preparing our Children for Life, College and
Career Success**

Sponsored by all
Bernards Township PTOs

The Class of 2013 Proudly Presents THE RIDGE FACTOR!

We welcome talents from all grade levels to audition and perform for a grand prize! All talents are welcome and encouraged to audition!

All auditions will take place by appointment, January 31st from 1-6pm in Room 624.

The Ridge Factor Talent Show will take place on March 16th, 2012, from 7-9pm in the Ridge Performing Arts Center.

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER and sign-up today by submitting a completed registration form (available on the Ridge Factor Facebook page, or outside the main gym)!

SCHOOL NEWS

Make the Dream a Reality with New Art Display Panels, from p. 1

For many years, the Art Department at Ridge High School has exhibited student artwork on homosote panels which have become quite dilapidated. Over the past few years, volunteers have covered the panels with paper. Last year, the surfaces were repainted but, with the hinges tearing, the panels are now worn out. The Art Department needs to replace these panels with portable, light-weight units. These new panels would greatly enhance the exhibit experience by visitors and assist Ridge's aspiring art students in a professional presentation of their work.

To have these panels in time for the 2012 Art Show, we are asking families with children enrolled in an art class at Ridge, families of recent art major graduates, families interested in the future of the program and alumni of the Art Department to consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Bernards Township Education Foundation (BTEF) to support the purchase of new panels.

An appeal letter and a pledge form went out in the District Friday Folder on December 9th and in the Ridge Friday Folder on December 23rd. To date, 25 donors have contributed over \$1600 toward the goal of \$18,500.

Eighty percent of all Ridge High School students participate in the Art Program. Art Students have received over \$500,000 in college scholarships. In partnership with the Art Department, hundreds of professional portfolios have been prepared for college applications. If every family and alumni pledged a modest amount, we will meet our goal.

Please help to make this dream a reality by doing either of the following:

- To mail in a check go to the Pledge Form from Board of Education website at http://www1.bernardsboe.com/BernardsBOE/CMFiles/Docs/Newsletter_Docs/FridayFolder-VOL-4/Dec_9_2011/Dist-PAAB_Pledge_Drive_Form.pdf
- To pay via credit/debit card with PayPal go to <http://www.btef.org/BTEF/Donations.aspx>.

For more information about the BTEF and its programs, please email Jack Stillwaggon, Executive Director for the BTEF (jstillwaggon1@verizon.net) or visit the website at www.btef.org.

- Submitted by Jack Stillwaggon, Executive Director for the BTEF

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National History Day Winners Announced, from p. 1

The students in Honors American History are participating in National History Day this year for the first time. The students prepared projects either individually or in a group, and in one of several format options. The research topics this year focused on the theme "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History." Every year, National History Day selects a theme for the competition that will focus the students' research as well as push past the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding (www.nhd.org).

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, all student projects were on display in the Ridge Media Center and at 8:00pm the Ridge High School winners were announced. These projects will now move on to the New Jersey Central Regional competition. Winners from that level will move on to compete in the New Jersey state competition and the winners from the state competition will move on to the National competition. Ms. Wolf and Ms. Seiffert would like to commend all of their students for their hard work and incredibly creative projects! The entire Social Studies Department congratulates the following winners:

| PROJECT TITLE | WINNER |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Individual Exhibits</i> | |
| The Harlem Renaissance | Kailyn Cavaluzzo |
| <i>Group Exhibits</i> | |
| The Space Race | Alexa Thomas, Erica Geary, Hannah Lefler, Cara LaVecchia |
| <i>Papers</i> | |
| The Mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line | Julia Nelson |
| <i>Performance</i> | |
| Woman's Suffrage | Gabby Schnell |
| <i>Individual Web Sites</i> | |
| Elizabeth Blackwell | Helena Xie |
| <i>Group Websites</i> | |
| Japanese Internment | Kevin Liu, Michelle Zhao, Julie Chen, Ritesh Akkisetty, Darius Hunt |
| <i>Individual Documentary</i> | |
| With the Blow of a Horn | Abigail Kreick |
| <i>Group Documentary</i> | |
| In Fast Food We Trust | Tiffany Chen, Sabina Razak, Emily Woo, Kevin Yang |

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National History Day Winners Announced, from p. 5

Each of the projects below will also be moving on to the next round of competition.

PROJECT TITLE

WINNER

Group Exhibits

The Jury Has Spoken:
The Second Red Scare

Sharmila Tamby and
Raeann Titus

Papers

The Little Rock Nine:
Heroes of the Civil Rights
Movement

Caitlin Taylor

The Influence of Title IX
on America

Amy Tong

Group Websites

Facebook: The Information
Sharing System

Alec Pan and Robert Ju

9/11: The Day That Changed
America Forever

Alex Thompson and
Mike Radice

The Reform of Same-Sex Marriage

Kaitlin Ardoff and Hanna
Saadegh-Vaziri

The Good Neighbor Policy

Karn Dalal, Alin Haruray,
Ian Peczak, Bobak
Shadpoor, Deeptanshu
Singhvi

The Black Panthers

Jack Becker and Ankit
Wadhwo

Yes We Can

Oksana Ryjouk and
Sam Cordasco

Group Documentary

Social Media: Evolution or
Revolution

Jack Wilson, Alexa
Hughes, Alex Ursino,
Mike Dunsheath,
Connor Steiglitz

- Submitted by Mary Ellen Peters

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BOE Update: "Keep Up the Hard Work... Except Over Recess....."

Mr. Sean Siet provided two presentations at the Jan. 9 meeting. The first presentation provided a review of the various college level test results and trends in college admissions. The great news is that Ridge students are maintaining results that keep Ridge a top NJ-ranked school. For all of the students who were waiting to hear from Early Action colleges, deferrals are trending up due to a 20% increase in applications.

The second presentation provided results of the Homework Survey. The survey had 1931 parent, 236 staff and 2756 student participants. Some of the issues raised were: more lead time for projects; group project grading issues; and the level of homework at honors/AP levels. Mr. Siet reported that action is being taken! The district is developing a homework policy, staff will be trained, curriculum will be revised during the 2012 summer, and a better method of coordinating tests is being determined. I believe we all enjoyed learning of the new action that "no homework will take place over recess periods."

More detailed reports of these presentations can be found on the Board of Education website.

-Submitted by Tim Ingling

Habitat for Humanity

Half of the school year has gone by, and the Habitat for Humanity club has continued to show why it is one of the most popular clubs at Ridge High School. In the first half of the year, the club has run and participated in multiple fundraisers, including the 5K run and a kids' station at the Bridgewater mall. The most recent fundraiser was the "Buy a Brick" event, where students bought "bricks" (index cards) and put their names on the cards, which were eventually placed under a "house" on the wall of the school atrium. They were then allowed to spin a wheel that could have won them multiple prizes, including raffle tickets for three grand prizes. The \$30 mall gift card went to Andrew Barrasso and Adriana Rudina, the \$50 iTunes gift card went to Grace Pelka, and Colleen Risavy won the iPod touch. Apart from fundraisers, many members of the club have participated in 2 very cold but successful build days in the Bridgewater area.

-Submitted by Alex Wilke

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The Season of Testing, from p. 1

State testing for Juniors March 6th, 7th, and 8th

It is that time of year when the high school begins to plan for the many upcoming assessments of our students. Mid-term examinations began on January 25th for all students, followed by the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) for all juniors. If your child is a junior you will be receiving an informational guide and student preparation booklet for the HSPA through Language Arts classes. In anticipation of the HSPA, I would like to highlight a few important aspects of the test to help you prepare your son or daughter.

It is important that all juniors are in attendance for the HSPA. The testing dates are March 6th, 7th, and 8th. Per New Jersey State law, all students must pass the HSPA in order to graduate from high school. If your son or daughter is not in attendance for testing as a junior, they will have to test senior year. Failure to take the test may result in scheduling changes for senior year in order to help prepare students for the test that they missed.

The HSPA assesses the knowledge and skills that students have gained pertaining to the Core Content Standards set by the Department of Education of New Jersey. Specifically, The HSPA measures proficiency in Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy.

On March 6th, students will take the Mathematics component of the test. This assessment contains two types of questions. Most of the mathematics questions are multiple-choice. Other questions are open-ended and are scored by trained raters from the state.

The mathematics section tests student's knowledge of the following skills:

- Number and Numerical Operation
- Geometry and Measurement
- Patterns and Algebra
- Data Analysis, Probability, Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics.

On March 7th and 8th, students will be taking the Language Arts Literacy section of the HSPA. Most of the test questions will be multiple-choice; however, some questions will require students to provide written responses.

In order to help your child prepare for the HSPA, I recommend that you review the test preparation booklet with your son or daughter. Additionally, students always perform best when they are well rested and well fed. On the nights of the HSPA encourage your child to get a good sleep. Also, be certain that your son or daughter arrives to school having eaten a good breakfast, as the testing lasts the entire morning.

Again, your son or daughter will be bringing home information regarding the test from their Language Arts classes that should clarify any lingering concerns that you may have. If you would like additional information regarding the HSPA you can visit the New Jersey Department of Education web site at: www.state.nj.us/education or call me at Ridge High School. I can be reached at extension 102 or through e-mail at tthorp@bernardsboe.com.

- Submitted by Thomas Thorp Assistant Principal

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Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship, from p. 1

Deadline Approaching for \$6,000 Scholarship

Reminder: Monday, March 5 is the deadline for the Ridge Alumni Memorial \$6,000 scholarship. Unlike traditional grants that reward GPA and test scores, the Ridge Alumni Memorial Scholarship (Ridge AMS) is awarded to a graduating RHS senior who has demonstrated character, determination, and non-traditional achievements. While grants may go to college-bound students, they can also help high caliber applicants pursue the arts, technical careers, or non-academic paths after graduation.

Funded by donations and administered in partnership with the Bernards Township Education Foundation, contributors can post messages of remembrance on the Ridge AMS "Virtual Memorial" at <http://sites.google.com/site/ridgeams2>

Ridge seniors interested in the \$6,000 scholarship for 2012 can learn more at the website (or Google "Ridge AMS"), or from RHS guidance counselors. The Ridge AMS Board of Trustees will select the recipient.

Organizers donate all expenses associated with Ridge AMS, including legal counsel, website development, and administration. One-hundred percent of contributions go to scholarships. Ridge AMS is administered in partnership with the Bernards Township Education Foundation, a not-for-profit organization focused on program development and process management for public education, community outreach, and leadership formation.

- Submitted by Jane Cullin

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