

From the Desk of the Principal
— Frank Howlett

Resources for Parents

Too often my communication with parents is focused on problems and/or warnings of inappropriate behavior. I thought this communication could focus more on solutions, or rather, the many resources available at Ridge High School for dealing and coping with issues faced by both parents and students.

The smartest person I have ever known once gave me advice on being a school leader. He said, "Hire good people and listen to them." So, that's what I did.



Ridge Administrators

First are my four right arms – the Assistant Principals: **Mrs. Kathleen Dusebout, Mr. Scott Thompson, Dr. Gina Donlevie and Mr. Thomas Thorp.**

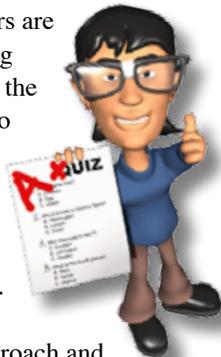
I am fortunate to have highly motivated, competent, and proactive assistants. Any one of them would make an outstanding principal. Together they possess the strengths needed to make a cohesive and effective administrative team. They are my key advisors and, believe me, are far from "Yes" people! To learn more about their responsibilities, read their biographies on [pages 2-3](#).

Solving Academic Issues

The Bernards Township Administration's philosophy is to attempt to solve a problem at the level closest to the issue. For instance, if there is an issue with a staff member, we ask that the parent or student communicate with that staff member prior to requesting administrative intervention. My experience has been that most problems can be resolved when handled in this manner. Unresolved issues can then be directed to the appropriate grade level assistant principal or content area supervisor.

Students struggling with certain academic areas can visit the tutorial center located off the cafeteria during their lunch or study hall, or seek out their teacher for additional instruction, before or after school. The staff members at RHS work beyond their contractual hours and often give up their lunch or preparatory period to assist students. This is one of the many factors that make RHS a superior high school. The tutorial center schedule can be found on [page 10](#) of this issue or on the home page of the Ridge website. Go to <http://www.bernardsboe.com/RidgeHighSchool/> and scroll to the bottom.

Academic counselors are very helpful in directing students and parents to the appropriate resources to help resolve issues. Counselors focus on working with students to enable them to become self-advocates. The counselors advise students on how to approach and communicate with both peers and adults. Self-advocacy is a skill that every student should graduate with.



Curriculum supervisors are a resource for academic issues. They have an extensive knowledge of their respective curricula and teaching methodology. They consistently work with their staff to improve instruction across the district.

Solving Nonacademic Issues

Students with nonacademic issues can seek assistance from our Student Assistant Counselors (SACs), Mr. Chad Gillikin (x616 – grades 10 & 11) and Mrs. Megan Hoffman (x145 – grades 9 & 12). Issues with peer relationships, drug use, or family concerns can be discussed with a level of confidentiality, enabling the student to feel comfortable sharing whatever he or she is facing.

For students experiencing legal issues, the School Resource Officer, Detective John Neiman, is available. Detective Neiman can offer advice concerning traffic violations, court appearances, and issues beyond the scope of the school's authority. He is very approachable and has a gift for speaking with young people. Parents may also contact Detective Neiman with information they feel may be valuable in preventing potential problems.

Contacting Staff Members

Finally, the most effective and efficient way to make contact with a staff member at RHS is through the district email. The email should include the nature of the issue, individuals involved, and any previous communications or actions taken. This provides an opportunity for the teacher or administrator to obtain pertinent information prior to responding.

It is clear that many students will experience challenges at some point in their four years of high school. I feel confident that we have the individuals and resources available at Ridge High School to assist both students and parents in finding an appropriate resolution to those challenges.

Meet the Ridge High School Assistant Principals

You've heard their names. You've seen them in the halls. But do you know what the Ridge High School Assistant Principals are busy with every day? One responsibility they have in common is "grade-level administrator" for the four grades at Ridge. Each Assistant Principal is assigned a freshman class to advise and support, and he/she stays with the class as it moves through the high school years. After his or her grade graduates, the Assistant Principal starts again with the new freshman class. But you might be surprised at the other numerous and varied responsibilities they tackle as Mr. Howlett's "right arms." In this edition of the *Ridge Bridge*, we give you the opportunity to become a little better acquainted with these key members of the Ridge administration.

Mr. Scott Thompson

Mr. Scott Thompson has been on the staff of Ridge High School since 2003. After earning his BS in Health Sciences and Health & Physical Education from West Chester University (PA), and his MA in Educational Administration from Kean University, Mr. Thompson began his career as a health and physical education teacher in Livingston, NJ. During his tenure at Livingston, Mr. Thompson coached basketball and soccer before assuming the role of Athletic Director. In 2003 Mr. Thompson became an Assistant Principal at Ridge.

Mr. Thompson is the grade-level administrator for the Class of 2018 (current freshmen) and the Facilities Manager for Ridge High School. Additionally, he is the Coordinator for Ridge High School's Voluntary Community Service Program and Co-Coordinator for the PSAT. Mr. Thompson enjoys interacting with students, parents, and fellow staff members to cultivate a positive learning environment.



Mr. Thompson leads the District Crisis Management Team for Bernards Township Schools where he is responsible for the coordination of the emergency response plans for all six schools in the District. Under his leadership and in response to issues of school safety at the local, state, and national level, the District Crisis Management Team has reformed its Crisis Management Response Plan over the past two years. Mr. Thompson serves Ridge High School in this same capacity, directing the Ridge Crisis Management Team that includes the Traumatic Loss Team, School Security Team, Medical and Special Needs Team, and Communications/Facilities Team.

The father of three sons, Mr. Thompson is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys spending time with his family.

Dr. Gina Donlevie

Dr. Gina Donlevie has worked at Ridge High School since 1998. Earning her BS in Business Education from Bloomsburg University (PA) and her MS in Management Information Systems from Kean University, Dr. Donlevie taught technology and computer applications at Ridge. During her tenure, she was also the Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and the Varsity Girls Lacrosse Assistant Coach. After graduating from the University of Phoenix in 2005 with a MA in Educational Administration, she became an Assistant Principal at Ridge High School. In 2011, she earned her Doctorate in Educational Administration from Seton Hall University, focusing her dissertation on student, faculty, and administrator attitudes and perceptions of virtual high school classes.

In her tenth year as an Assistant Principal, Dr. Donlevie works collaboratively with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure a safe learning environment. She is the grade-level administrator for the Class of 2017 (current sophomores), develops and



maintains the Master Schedule, and spearheads the Ridge Professional Development Committee.

Dr. Donlevie played a significant role in the implementation of the Professional Learning Community model for teachers, and continues to focus her efforts on technology integration as an educational, instructional, and managerial tool.

Dr. Donlevie and her husband welcomed their first child, Brett, last December and have a Rottweiler named Ziva.

Mr. Thomas Thorp

Mr. Thomas Thorp has been an Assistant Principal at Ridge High School since 2008. Prior to Ridge, Mr. Thorp was an



Assistant Principal at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains-Fanwood and a social studies teacher in Edison Township. Mr. Thorp earned his BA in history at Rutgers University and dual Master's degrees in Philosophy and Educational Leadership from Rutgers. Mr. Thorp taught United States history for 12 years and served as the social studies department supervisor. While teaching, Mr. Thorp presided over Student Government, managed peer leaders, and coached middle school football.

Currently, Mr. Thorp is the Class of 2016 (current juniors) grade-level administrator, where he enjoys forging relationships with students and families. Working with the same group of students for four years helps Mr. Thorp develop an open-door policy with students so that they feel comfortable coming to him for guidance and assistance. He works diligently to promote the idea that his office is not only a place where students receive discipline, but also a place where they can seek refuge.

Moreover, Mr. Thorp is in charge of state testing at Ridge. In this position, he is instrumental in the planning and implementation of the new PARCC testing that

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Meet the Ridge High School Assistant Principals . . . *continued from page 2*

is scheduled for the second semester. Additionally, Mr. Thorp can be found at Ridge on many Saturdays, as he also supervises the SAT tests that are given throughout the year.

Mr. Thorp supervises all clubs and activities, as well as their myriad fundraisers, while ensuring all students are afforded the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

Mr. Thorp has volunteered his time to work with the SCOP team, the group of parents and community members who help plan activities that are alcohol and drug free for seniors. This group organizes the senior tailgate, the 100-day countdown, the senior ice cream social, and, of course, the Senior Bash.

Mr. Thorp truly enjoys every day at Ridge, where the students, teachers, and parents make every day a pleasure.

Mr. Thorp resides in Hunterdon County with his wife, four (yes four!) daughters, and three black labs.

Mrs. Kathleen Dusebout

Mrs. Kathleen Dusebout joined the Ridge High School community during the summer of 2002. She earned her BA in



Teaching: English and Secondary Education, with a minor in Women's Studies from Montclair State University and her Principal's MS in Education from Monmouth University.

This past August, Mrs. Dusebout embarked on her thirteenth year as Assistant Principal at RHS. The focus of her daily interactions with students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators is to build relationships and foster an environment where students feel supported. She serves as the grade-level administrator for the Class of 2015 (current seniors) and cherishes the conversations and moments she has with her students as they verbalize their goals and aspirations.

Mrs. Dusebout leads the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) and 504 Committee, a multidisciplinary team of staff members that assists general-education students in grades nine through twelve, who experience learning, behavior, and/or health difficulties. Mrs. Dusebout, as chairperson of the I&RS team, designed a support model with a focus on collaboration to assist students in navigating through their formative years. She continues to explore ways to support students who struggle with school refusal, and has a strong commitment to maintaining communication with families when they are experiencing difficulties.

Mrs. Dusebout began her teaching career as an English language arts teacher at Howell High School and later moved on to teaching at Churchill Junior High School and East Brunswick High School. In the classroom, she brought American literature and the English 9 curriculum to life. Mrs. Dusebout advised the Poetry Club, chaperoned countless events, and judged lip-sync contests and talent shows in support of her students. Mrs. Dusebout, her husband Ken, and their children Jacob and Ava reside with their black Labrador rescue pup named Holly.



Help Homeless Teens

Small Steps Big Differences will be holding a collection drive for homeless teens. Bottled drinks, small packs of candy, travel size toiletries, and clothing such as hats, shirts, and gloves can be donated. There will be a collection box to the right of the Welcome Desk until December 3, 2014.

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THE RIDGE BRIDGE

Editors: Karen Wexler
and Gayle Shimoun

Submissions may be made via email to
ridgebridge1@yahoo.com

RIDGE PTO

A Word from Our PTO Co-Presidents

Ridge Parent Orientation

The PTO kicked off the school year with the PTO Freshman/New Parent Orientation meeting on August 26. This meeting was attended by over 150 parents and occurred the evening before the new student orientation. Principal Frank Howlett and District Supervisor of School Counseling Jillian Shadis were on hand to field Q&A from parents following the presentation. The Orientation materials were developed in response to the needs and questions of parents of freshmen and new students. This document is updated regularly and provides a great go-to resource for answers to almost any question about Ridge High School. Check out Ridge Orientation 2014 on the PTO website, www.ridgepto.com, under Resources/Handbooks.



Coping with Stress Presented by Lauren Muriello

Our second PTO meeting of the year was held in partnership with WAMS and the Municipal Alliance. On September 17, Lauren Muriello, expert on adolescent behavior, spoke to 200 parents in the PAC on helping our children navigate the stressors of high school. She did a great job giving parents insight into what our teens are experiencing and feeling, as well as providing tools to keep them on a level emotional path. The PTO website has links to several tools that Lauren shared at the meeting.

Ridge PTO Directories

Once again, Ridge has an online directory! Parents should have received emails regarding the app, providing instructions to verify information and download the app so you can see the directory on your smartphone. Questions? Please contact Sarah Bonnefoi at sarahbonnefoi@yahoo.com. Thank you to Sarah for once again creating our printed and online directories. An additional thank you to Linda Murphy and Courtney Carney for all their hard work on the membership drive this summer and fall. Thank you!

Dr. Michael Bradley Anti-Drug Presentation

On October 22, Dr. Michael Bradley was the featured speaker at our third PTO meeting of the year, which was held in partnership with WAMS and the Municipal Alliance. Dr. Bradley, author and expert on adolescent behavior, spoke to nearly 200 parents at the PAC. His insight into dealing with teens regarding drugs and alcohol, the good and bad news, and responding to potential situations that could occur were informative. Dr. Bradley provided a handout, *Ten Commandments of Anti-Drug Parenting*, which is posted on the PTO website. The recording of the presentation will be posted on the BOE website. Check the *PTO Update* for viewing availability. Take a minute to look at Dr. Bradley's resources and tools for parents at www.docmikebradley.com. Thank you to Candy Hull and Elaine Edge, the PTO VPs of Programs, for making this special event happen.

Curriculum Changes

The first curriculum letter from Dr. Brian Heineman, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, describing updates and changes to the district curriculum went out to parents in the District Friday Folder on September 19. In addition, the Curriculum Committee is working hard to develop new Curriculum Forums on special topics such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and Academic Integrity. Parents will be invited to learn more and ask questions. Stay tuned for more information on the first forum later this fall.

Ridge PTO Website

The PTO website, www.ridgepto.com, is updated regularly and is an excellent resource for parents as you keep track of dates and announcements relevant to your students. PTO Communications Officer Amy Jones has created a tab for grade-level information with information specific to each grade; Amy updates the website regularly with information and links to information provided through the Friday Folders. You might even consider making it your home page. Thank you to Amy for the frequent updates.

PARCC Testing

The PTO is working with the other PTOs in the district to determine a plan of action for parents with respect to the PARCC testing. We are considering an email campaign or a possible forum with our legislators to voice our concerns about the timing, quantity, and use of the testing. In the meantime, remember to read your Friday Folders as Superintendent Markarian and Principal Howlett disseminate additional information regarding the tests as it is provided by the State of New Jersey.

Thank You Volunteers

Lastly we would like to thank all the volunteers who work hard on the many PTO and school events.



Thanks to the efforts of our Co-VPs of Volunteers, Dorit Kransdorf and Irene McDonnell, we currently have chairs for every PTO committee, but there are still plenty of opportunities to help out during the school year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the PTO at rhsptocomm@yahoo.com.

The year is off to a great start and we are looking forward to 2015!

Amy Venetianer and Jane Kolarik
Ridge PTO Co-Presidents

Make your Holidays Sweeter!

Save Up to \$5.00
on Pre-Portioned
Cookie Dough

Buy 2 Save \$2

Buy 3 Save \$5



Dear Ridge Parents,
We're here to help make your holidays even sweeter! With 12 irresistible cookies to choose from, you won't be able to keep your cookie jar full! Now is a great time to purchase your cookie dough and with the holidays coming, don't forget about purchasing the Holiday Cookie Shapes Kit too! Everyone can join in the fun of baking and decorating these fun, holiday shaped buttery sugar cookies!

Save up to \$5.00 this month on pre-portioned cookie dough. Also, when you spend \$40, you'll receive a free 1 lb. bag of Broccoli Florets. With a \$90 online purchase, you will get both the Broccoli Florets and a 1 lb. Pork Tenderloin! Simply place your online order at marketday.com by December 11. Every purchase you make gives back to our school.

Thank you for your continued support of Ridge High School!

Welcome to the Welcome Desk

The Welcome Desk is located in the high school lobby to the right of the main entrance. The desk is staffed between 8 am and 2:10 pm by parent volunteers, and serves as a place where items can be left for students to pick up—lunches, books, clothing, and other items that students might need during the school day. Please label the item with your student's name and enter it in the log notebook on the desk. When picking up the item, your student will sign the log to acknowledge receipt.

The positions for the Welcome Desk are assigned through a lottery system; signups to volunteer begin in May when the form is included in the Friday folder. Assignments are made over the summer. If you have any questions about the Welcome Desk, please contact Joy Hultman at joyss@optonline.net or Karen Wexler at wexlerfarina@optonline.net.

Many thanks to Gayle Shimoun for designing and seeing to the production of the lovely new banner that adorns the Welcome Desk!

Michelle Buzin (l) and Jennifer Solon volunteer at the Welcome Desk.



What's for Dinner?

Market Day is a national fundraiser where select food and gift items are ordered online monthly via www.marketday.com. Orders are delivered deep-frozen to Ridge High School and are unloaded and sorted by a different club/sport team each month during the school year. A percentage from the sale, which increases with the amount sold, is then shared by the PTO and the ten participating club/sport teams. This is a very easy way to raise funds for programs by buying delicious food!

All ordering is done online at www.marketday.com, and once a person orders, emails with specials are automatically generated throughout the month, along with reminders for pickup. The next sale deadline is Thursday, December 11 at 11 pm. Pickup is on Wednesday, December 17 from 4:45-6 pm in the Ridge cafeteria.

If you have any question or would like to arrange alternate pickup, please contact Brenda Miller at themillers@optonline.net or Christine Marston at cmarston@easy-cap.com.



MARKET DAY

December Specials

- Spend \$40 and get a 1-lb bag of broccoli
- Spend \$90 and get a 1-lb pork tenderloin as well (enter code DECBONUS)

Next Order Date

December 11

Next Pickup Date

December 17

Order online at www.marketday.com

Questions?

Brenda Miller at 908-903-9355 or Christine Marston at 908-745-8001

One of Our Favorite Ridge Fundraisers: Balloons in June

In June we congratulated the Class of 2014 with festive green mylar balloons all over town. After processing nearly 600 orders by hand, on June 16 we delivered a record 4,500 balloons for an amazing town-wide celebration of our graduates!

We are working on some exciting improvements to our system this year, so keep an eye out for details to come. If you are interested in helping, please email AmyJones@optonline.net.

We would like to give a huge thank-you to our 2014 co-chairs Karen Gray, Amy Jones, and Patty McSally and all our wonderful volunteers who made Balloons in June happen!



Working hard for Balloons in June were (clockwise from top left) Laurie Bogle of the UPS store; Jackie Taylor (l) and Elaine Nelson; Nancy Cook (l) and Laurie Summers; Patty Vollmar (l) and Amy Venetianer; Bev Cwerner (l) and Amy Jones; Elaine Edge; Karen Wexler; and Balloons in June co-Chairs (l to r) Amy Jones, Patty McSally, and Karen Gray.

SCHOOL CONNECTION

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2014

21-22	Ridge Fall Play – <i>The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon</i> 7 pm, PAC
24	BOE Meeting, 7 pm, WAMS
26	12 pm Dismissal
27-28	Thanksgiving Recess School Closed

December 2014

4	Ridge Band Concert 7 pm, PAC
9	Standardized Testing Night 7 pm, PAC
11	Market Day Orders Due
11	Ridge Orchestra Concert 7 pm, PAC
15	BOE Meeting, 7 pm, WAMS
16	Ridge Choral Concert 7 pm, PAC
17	Market Day Pickup
17-18	PSAT Results Distributed
23	12 pm Dismissal
24-31	Winter Recess, School Closed

January 2015

1-2	Winter Recess, School Closed
5	School Resumes
5	BOE Meeting, 7 pm, WAMS
5	Financial Aid Night 7 pm, Bernards High School
6	Option II Athletic Forms Due
8	College Planning Night 7 pm, PAC
9	Ridge Winter Dance Showcase 7 pm, PAC
21	End of Marking Period 2
21	Market Day Orders Due
22	Marking Period 3 Begins
28	Market Day Pickup
28	Academic Planning Night 7 pm, PAC

Board of Education Highlights

The following are highlights of the recent Bernards Township Board of Education meetings. To view a video recording of each Board of Education meeting, go to http://www.bernardsboe.com/Bernards-BOE/Board_Meeting_Recordings.aspx.

September 22 Meeting

Mr. Markarian did a presentation on EVVRS (Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System), HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying), and Code of Conduct. It was reported that the climate at the high school was very good last year with the students adjusting to the cell phone policy. Additionally, staff retirees of 2014-15 were recognized: Mr. John Fry, Ridge High School and Mrs. Susan Philhower, Oak Street School. Dr. Heineman intends to publish a newsletter four times a year and stated quarterlies at Ridge have been eliminated for the 2014-15 school year with end-of-year summative assessments proposed for 9th grade social studies, 10th and 11th grade science and social studies, and 12th grade language arts and CP Calculus. PARCC testing is scheduled in language arts and mathematics for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students.

What is DynaCal?

Are you aware there is a general district activities calendar called DynaCal located on the BOE website? It lists events occurring at the elementary, middle and high schools including the date and location. Go to: www.dynacal.com/bernardsboe/default.asp

Mark Your Calendars RHS Proms

Junior Prom – April 24, 2015
Senior Prom – May 15, 2015

October 6 Meeting

Mr. Markarian stated the county prosecutor's office would like the district to make a commitment for a canine sweep at the high school during the 2014-15 school year. The public forum offered an opportunity for the public to comment on the decision to proceed with the canine sweep. No comments were made. The BOE approved the Ridge High School French students' trip to Quebec, Canada on April 10-12, 2015. Dr. Heineman and Matt Hall presented the fall testing report and shared the results of NJASK, HSPA, and end-of-year biology exam. PARCC will replace HSPA and NJASK with the exception of the science portion for 4th and 8th grades.

October 22 Meeting

The Municipal Alliance presented the Drug and Alcohol Survey results. The Student Stressor and Drug and Alcohol Survey results are available at <http://bernardsalliance.org/surveys>.

PARCC Test Calendar for Ridge High School

Performance-Based Assessment

Testing Dates	Grades Tested
March 16-18	Grades 9 & 10 English/Language Arts
March 19-20	All students in Algebra I or Alegbra
March 23-25	Grade 11 English/Language Arts or all students in Geometry
March 26-27	Make Up (no delayed opening)

End-of-Year Assessment

Testing Dates	Grades Tested
April 21	Grades 9 & 10 English/Language Arts
April 22-23	All students in Algebra I or Alegbra
April 24-27	Grade 11 English/Language Arts or all students in Geometry
April 28- May 1	Make Up (no delayed opening)

News and Notes from the Ridge Counseling Department

General Reminders

Counseling Department Website

For the most up-to-date news and information, please remember that the RHS Counseling website is constantly being updated: <http://www.bernardsboe.com/Guidance/default.aspx>.

Scholarships and Special Programs

All scholarships and special programs received by the Counseling Office are posted on Naviance. While many are geared toward juniors and seniors, there are a number that any student, grades 9 through 12, can apply for. Log in, click "Colleges," then "Scholarship List" to see the current offerings. Check back often, as we post new opportunities as soon as we receive them.

November 2014

Seniors: MP1 Grades

Marking period 1 grades are automatically sent to all colleges to which a senior applied, as the vast majority of schools request them from us. If a college contacts the student and asks him/her to have grades sent, the student should forward the email to his/her counselor.

College Visits

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to sign up for college representative visits to Ridge, which begin to taper off in late November. Dates, times, and registration for college visits are on Naviance. If your



child lost his/her Naviance username or password, please ask him/her to see one of the counseling secretaries. Please also note that parents cannot sign their children up for college visits; students must log on themselves, register, and print out the confirmation page/pass.

Option II Academics Spring Courses

The deadline to apply for approval for spring 2015 courses taken outside of Ridge is November 15. Students may apply to take a Financial Literacy/Personal Finance course or any other course not already offered at Ridge. Please see this site for the details and applications: [http://www.bernardsboe.com/\(F\(K0bBmPI7-DCrwYQgapsqoIVYB6M6O2uUg0ZC2nNQIJID4lgd5e06H55IMUnnhiHho3oiXp1j976HxDrzef3XTRDvC5Qsn0VvkzV_leYh2Z11v3QMv4ALs6eRXbWRPbA71c0\)\)/Guidance/Option_II_Academics.aspx](http://www.bernardsboe.com/(F(K0bBmPI7-DCrwYQgapsqoIVYB6M6O2uUg0ZC2nNQIJID4lgd5e06H55IMUnnhiHho3oiXp1j976HxDrzef3XTRDvC5Qsn0VvkzV_leYh2Z11v3QMv4ALs6eRXbWRPbA71c0))/Guidance/Option_II_Academics.aspx).

Navigating the College Admissions Process

Counselors will meet with juniors on November 20 to discuss not only the college admissions process, but also how to find the right school.

December 2014

The College Application Process Continues for Seniors

During the month of December, Counselors will continue to process college applications for rolling, early decision II, and regular decision deadlines. Remember to allow 10 school days for processing of transcripts... that would be a deadline of December 1 for December 15 college application deadlines or December 10 for January 1 deadlines.

Standardized Testing Night

The Princeton Review will offer a presentation on standardized testing on Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm in the Ridge PAC. This event is designed for any and all parents who need to learn more about the content, timeline, and procedures for SATs and ACTs, as well as details about the upcoming changes to the two tests.

PSAT Results

Before the Winter Recess, counselors will be visiting 10th and 11th grade classrooms to distribute PSAT Score Reports and explain how to utilize them for upcoming standardized tests. Much of the information that can be extrapolated from the PSAT scores is now online, as opposed to being printed on the Score Report itself. The counselors strongly advise students to use their online access code to log onto their personalized College Board website for more information. The website and code will be found on the PSAT Score Report.

January 2015

Financial Aid Night

Financial Aid Night is scheduled for Monday, January 5 at 7 pm in the BERNARDS High School PAC (25 Olcott Avenue, Bernardsville, NJ 07924). Dorothy Gilliard, FASNA LLC Consultant, will provide the basics of the financial aid process, including a review of the FAFSA. Thanks to the Bernards HS Counseling Department for coordinating this event!

Option II Athletics MP3 Applications

The deadline to apply for Option II for marking period 3 sports is January 6 at 11:59 pm. This includes Ridge winter and spring sports, as well as offsite activities. Remember, students must re-apply for each marking period in which they wish to participate in the Option II program. Further information and applications can be found here: [http://www.bernardsboe.com/\(F\(K0bBmPI7DCrwYQgapsqoIVYB6M6O2uUg0ZC2nNQIJID4lgd5e06H55IMUnnhiHho3oiXp1j976HxDrzef3XTRDvC5Qsn0VvkzV_leYh2Z11v3QMv4ALs6eRXbWRPbA71c0\)\)/Guidance/Option_II_Athletics.aspx](http://www.bernardsboe.com/(F(K0bBmPI7DCrwYQgapsqoIVYB6M6O2uUg0ZC2nNQIJID4lgd5e06H55IMUnnhiHho3oiXp1j976HxDrzef3XTRDvC5Qsn0VvkzV_leYh2Z11v3QMv4ALs6eRXbWRPbA71c0))/Guidance/Option_II_Athletics.aspx).

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News and Notes from the Ridge Counseling Department ...continued

Navigating the College Admissions Process...for Parents

In the “parent version” of the presentation we provide for juniors in November, counselors will discuss not only the college admissions process, but also how to help your child find the right school.

Naviance “Training” for Juniors

On January 14 and 15, counselors will meet with juniors in the computer labs to further explore Naviance as it relates to college searches.

For AP Students

In mid-January, all AP students will receive a hard copy of the *Bulletin for AP Students and Parents* during the school day. The Bulletin contains information about AP exams, their administration, and exam security policies and procedures designed to provide all students with a fair and uniform testing experience. On exam day, all exam-takers sign their answer sheets, indicating that they understand and agree to the policies and procedures in the Bulletin. Shortly after students receive this Bulletin, parents and students should be on the lookout for a letter sent home regarding registration for AP exams. The mailing will provide you with specific information and directions for registering.

For Seniors

The Counseling Department will automatically send midyear grades to any college to which you have applied. No additional requests are required, and we need no additional forms. These midyear reports go out in mid-February. All colleges require them, so there is no “opting out.”

Program of Studies Distribution

Students in each grade level will meet with counselors on January 29 to review the important Program of Studies changes and specific information pertaining to their grade for the 2015-16 school year.

Share the Gift of Reading and Support “Books for Kids”

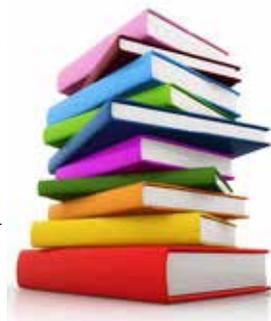
The Ridge High Media Center has kicked off its annual Books for Kids campaign sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association. Donations of new or “like new” books will be accepted in the Ridge Media Center until Friday, December 5.

Last year, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Ridge High School’s students, families and staff, we were able to collect over 2,215 books that were distributed as gifts to less fortunate children and young adults. With another holiday

season shortly upon us, we are hoping to make a significant contribution to this year’s campaign as well.

Please help instill a love of reading in children by donating books you no longer need.

Thank you for helping us brighten a child’s holidays!



New Laser Cutter Provides Creative Opportunities to Technology Classes



The Technology Education Department is currently testing the engraving, etching, and cutting capabilities of the EPILOG laser, purchased by the Ridge PTO.

This amazing machine has the ability to produce the highest-quality laser cutting and engraving of various materials

including wood, acrylic, glass, and even marble! These systems are used in both educational and professional settings and are completely safe and clean in any setting. This machine bridges the gap between the AutoCAD computer designs developed by the engineering students and the actual manufacturing of their projects.

The laser cutter can be used utilized in all the courses offered in our department: Mechanical Drawing/CAD, Machine Drawing/CAD, Industrial Drawing/CAD, Architecture, Woodworking, Technology Design Engineering Innovation, and even Robotics.

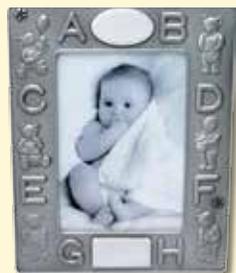
RIDGE YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE

The deadline for ordering a yearbook is **December 31, 2014**.

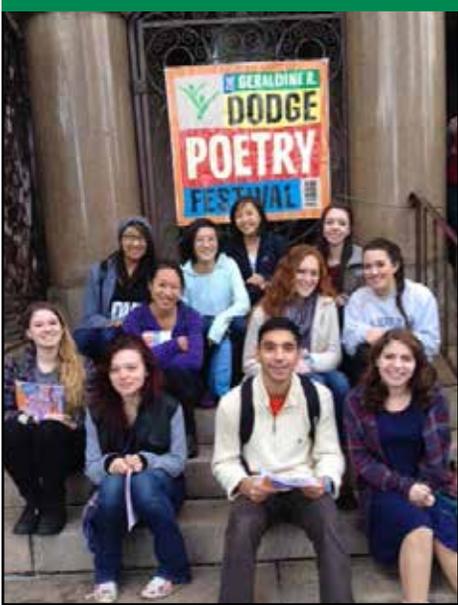
To order a yearbook, use the direct link for Ridge:

<https://shop.smart-pay.com/index.cfm?p=order-start&sid=79472&no=1&source=b>

ATTENTION SENIORS: YEARBOOK BABY PICTURE ADS DUE



Families of Ridge seniors can honor their students by placing a “baby picture ad” in the 2014-15 yearbook. The ad can be created online through www.Balfour.com or sent, with payment and the order form, to Mrs. S. Wilpieszski, Yearbook Adviser at Ridge High School. The deadline for submission of the ads is December 19, 2014. If you have questions about the ads or yearbook, please email Mrs. Wilpieszski at swilpieszski@bernardsboe.com.



Ridge Students Attend Poetry Festival

On Friday, October 24, 2014, 35 students and seven teacher chaperones from Ridge High School attended the High School Student Day of the Dodge Poetry Festival at the NJPAC in Newark, NJ. At this event, students were completely immersed in the world of poetry and attended sessions with

world-renowned poets, including two poet laureates. During each of the three sessions, students listened to poets read poetry, talk about the creative process, and respond to questions during Q & A sessions. As audience members, students recorded noteworthy anecdotes from the sessions and many visited the bookstore to purchase books of poetry from new poets they saw at the event. It was a fantastic day!



Ridge High School Teacher Tutorial Schedule 2014-15, First Semester

Center is Located in the Back of the Cafeteria (unless otherwise stated)

	Math	World Languages	Language Arts	Practical Arts	Fine Arts	Social Studies	Special Education	Science	PE/Health
Period 1 7:35-8:18	Boop RF Keeling MTF	Ballas (Sp) MTR von Doehren (Fr) MTW Wingate (Jap) T Reilly (Sp) MWR	Goff MWR	Benitz-419 MWF Piper-419 MTW		Lamberti MTW	Marcus MTW DeBisco MRF Lombardo WRF	Willis M Athanasios MTW	Blackwell MTW Marsh MTW Mooney MTW Howard MTW Devlin MTW
Period 2 8:22-9:07	Leu RF Meyer MTW	Villarino (Sp) MWR Bologna (Ital) MTW	Rosato TWR Minicozzi TWR	Calie-622 TWR Calvaruso-713 MTW	Calie-622 TWR Miranda-231 MWF Ortega-615 WRF	Dwyer TR Soto MTW	Capizzi MRF Higgins TW Suminski TWR	Florance, G MTW Mirra MWR Pernia T Tong R Wilpieszski F Brum T	
Period 3 9:11-9:53	Kilpatrick TWR Tan MF	Caldero (Sp) MWR Gebhardt (Lat) MTR	Kusenko MTW	Kohut MWF	Falb-620 MTW Hamant-622 MTW Jeffrey-620 MTW Retzko-230 MTW Richards-618 M-F Zugale-222 M-F	Napier MTR Wolf MTW	Mollica MTW Forsell TRF	Musumeci MTW Rodgers WR	
Period 4 9:57-10:39	Gilhuley TRF Griffiths MW	Calderon (Sp) MWR	Thorpe MWR		Aufiero-622 MWF Prusina-618 MTW	Maresca TWR	D'Armiento MR Winters TWF	Kaltenbach MWR Lee TWR	Tracy MTW
Period 5 10:43-11:24	Kennedy TWF Baker MRF		Quimby MT			McCarthy TWR	Mahoney M Lieberwirth TWF Higgins R	Bard MRF Gilmore MW Wilpieszski T Price W	
Period 6 11:28-12:09	Baril MT Galesi WRF	Russo (Ital) MWR	Beers MTW			Seiffert TWR	Madara MTW Hauser WRF	Smith MWR Price T Tong TF	Lime MTW Erickson MTW
Period 7 12:13-12:54	O'Connell MTR Schroeder WF		Gilmore MWR Harding MTR Presuto MWR	Fox MTW	Kern-Box Office TWR Stewart-619 MTW	Bodine MT Kober TW Rieder MTW Tamagnini MTR Raphaels TR	Lyons MWR Scaturro TRF Beyer MTW	Willis TW Stellitano WRF	
Period 8 12:58-1:39	Cahill RF Campbell MTW	Fairbanks (Lat) MTR Gozlan (Fr) MWR	Giolli MTW Greer MTW Pernice MTW		Demscak-615 MWF	Ward MW Zande MWR	Sisto MTW Mahoney RF	Pernia MR Mitchell TWF Price F	
Period 9 1:43-2:25	Brush MWR	Navarro (Sp) MWF Rabouin (Sp) MTR	Lipnick MTW		Curran-223 MTW Dotta-623 MTW	Schantz MW	Fiore MWR Hendershot TWF D'Armiento F	Wilpieszski M Florance, J MTR Centore TWF Brum WF Amendola WRF Rodgers R	

Teachers Attend the Strengthening Education Summit

Photo © Kim Kenworthy



Two Bernards Township Teachers participated in the Garden State Alliance for Strengthening Education Summit held on Saturday, September 27, at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. Kerry Linstra, Gifted & Talented Teacher at Mt. Prospect and Liberty Corner Schools, and David Yastremski, Language Arts Teacher at Ridge High School, attended the day-long event featuring speakers on improving teacher preparation and induction programs and enhancing professional learning in New Jersey public schools.

Bernards Township teachers Kerry Linstra and David Yastremski attended the Garden State Alliance for Strengthening Education Summit.

Ms. Linstra has been a Bernards Township teacher for the past 11 years and previously taught nine years before that. She is currently enrolled in the Doctoral program at Montclair State University for Teacher Education and Teacher Development. This EdD program is the first of its kind in the region, and one of only a few in the country. The program's curriculum and design is based on the most current research in teacher learning, preparation, and professional development. The program provides a unique opportunity for those who wish to become leaders or extend their current roles in the preparation and development of teachers.

Mr. Yastremski started his teaching career at Ridge High School in 1996. He currently teaches the Advanced Placement English Literature course

along with communications and forensic speaking electives. He also serves the district as an instructional coach working with teachers in their classrooms and as the director of the Ridge Forensics team. Mr. Yastremski is currently serving on the State Committee for Professional Learning with the New Jersey Department of Education along with the Professional Development advisory committee for the New Jersey Education Association. He received his National Board Certification in 2013.

The Garden State Alliance for Strengthening Education is a broad-based coalition that seeks to promote and enhance teacher quality and effectiveness through a systemic approach to strengthening professional practice. Coalition members represent statewide education groups, colleges and universities, school districts, and parent and community advocates.

Big Things are Happening in our Japanese Department!

The Kakehashi Project

Ridge High School has again been selected by The Laurasian Institution and Japanese government to host 23 high school students and two chaperones from Japan during November of 2014.

As part of the Kakehashi Project, the exchange students will participate in a homestay and school/community visit for a long weekend. They will arrive on Saturday, November 15, have free time with their host families on Sunday, November 16, visit Ridge on Monday the 17th, and depart for Boston that Tuesday, the 18th.



During their visit, the main goal is to experience a cultural exchange between the United States and Japan. On Monday, November 17, our Japanese guests will shadow their Ridge High host brothers and sisters to experience everyday life in an American public high school. Japanese exchange students who have host brothers and sisters enrolled in Japanese language courses will participate in an interactive classroom that day. After school on the 17th, our visitors will give an hour-long presentation about their hometowns and Japanese culture for the Basking Ridge community, followed by Ridge High's students of Japanese, who will present on their summer trip to Japan.

Sakura Grant

Japanese teacher Kristin Wingate applied for and received a grant for our Japanese program. Ridge High was awarded an \$599 Sakura Grant from the Japan Commerce Association of Washington D.C. for the 2014-15 academic year for Ridge High School's Japanese Program. The Japanese



Program's plans are to host a Japanese Cultural Festival at Ridge High for the entire community during the annual World Language Month celebration.

The purpose of the Sakura Grant Program is to support public, private, and charter/magnet schools that provide Japanese language and/or Japanese cultural education to students at the K-12 level in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Virginia. For more information, please visit: <http://www.jcawf.org/english/sakura-grant-program/>.

RIDGE RECOGNITION

The purpose of Ridge Recognition is to highlight the accomplishments of RHS students, faculty, and staff. If you or someone you know is deserving of praise and recognition, please send us an email at ridgebridge1@yahoo.com.

Students

The Ridge Girls Varsity Tennis Team advanced to the State Sectional Final (Group 4 North 2) for the first time in at least 10 years!



Sophomore **Kimberly Cagnassola** was a medalist at the US Figure Skating Regional Championship held in Ice House Arena, Hackensack, NJ.

Kimberly also received a US Figure Skating High Level Achievement Award.



Staff

English teacher **Brian Hartt** competed in the Jersey Shore Half Iron Man Triathlon on September 6, 2014 and came in first place in his age group!

On September 6, at an awards ceremony held at the Hackensack Campus of Fairleigh Dickenson University, sponsored by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), **Mrs. Margaret Mitchell**, an Honors Chemistry teacher at Ridge High School, was recognized as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction.

Claes Nobel, a direct descendent of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize, presented the award to Mrs. Mitchell.

The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes teachers who are exemplary in their field and are recognized for both their expertise and for encouraging students to strive for excellence.



At the October 6 Board of Education meeting, photography and media production teacher **Mr. William Ortega** received an "Educator of the Month" award from the Young Audiences Arts for Learning organization.

Spanish Teacher **Diane Reilly** was selected by the Foreign Language Educators of NJ (FLENJ) to serve as a mentor to a new World Language teacher in the state. She had to apply for this and it is an honor that she was accepted.



School Counselor **Rebecca Muraview** was elected to the Executive Board of the New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling as a Secondary School Representative. Ms. Muraview was also selected for Marist College's Advisory Board by the Dean of Admissions, and was asked recently to co-facilitate a Letter Writing Workshop for NJ School Counselors alongside Admission Officers from Duke University, Stanford University, and The University of Notre Dame.



Theater teacher **Megan Kern** took a professional development course this summer in NYC called "Broadway Teachers Workshop" with teachers from around the country and the world. The event included classes, viewing Broadway performances, and many opportunities to speak with Broadway performers and directors.

Mrs. Kern also did a film shoot this summer. She was cast for a film clip that was part of a play produced by the NY Fringe Festival this past summer titled "Cookie Ireland Has A Giraffe," written by Somerset County resident Joe DeStephano.



Weddings

Matthew Ehlbeck became a very lucky man on October 18 when he married Special Education teacher **Cassandra Lombardo**. They will be honeymooning in Big Sur, CA in December.

Births

Special Education teacher **Kara Higgins** and her husband Bryan welcomed a son, Emmett Joseph into the world on April 26, 2014. He weighed 8 lbs 7 oz and was 21" long.



English teacher **Janine Quimby** and her husband TJ announced the arrival of their son, Lucas Brando Quimby on April 30. He was 7 lbs 8 oz and 20-1/2" long.

English teacher **Lauren Sanger Baldoni** and her husband Mike welcomed Charlie Benjamin on Saturday, May 3. Charlie weighed 8 lbs 12 oz and was 21-1/2" long.

Gabriella Lee was welcomed by her dad, physics teacher **Ben Lee**; mom, Jeannine; and big brother, Carmine on July 14. Gabriella was 7 lbs 1 oz.

July 26 was a special day for two of our staff members and their families. Science teacher **Kellie Eck** and her husband, Jon, welcomed a daughter, Alaina Christine, weighing 7 lbs 2 oz. In addition, Special Education teacher **Michaela Stoudemayer** and her husband, Matthew, welcomed James Tracy on the same day. James weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and had more hair than his dad!

Community Thank You

Thanks to **Kaitlin Kordusky** at the Bernards Township Health Department and the Municipal Youth Services Commission for helping coordinate the grant writing for a new high ropes element for our Project Adventure course. We are hoping that all the planning results in a new zip line this fall. Funding is provided by Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

RIDGE CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



Enjoy an Evening of Ridge Music

Ridge Band Concert

The Ridge band program, under the direction of Daniel Zugale, will present the annual Winter Concert on Thursday, **December 4 at 7 pm** in the Ridge Performing Arts Center (PAC). The concert will feature performances by the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble performing a repertoire of classic band literature and familiar holiday favorites.

Ridge Orchestra Concert

The Winter Orchestra Concert will be held on **Thursday, December 11 at 7 pm** in the Ridge PAC. It will feature performances by the Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jennifer Curran. Come and celebrate the holiday season with us!

Ridge Choral Concert

The Winter Choral Concert, under the direction of Barbara Retzko, will be held on **Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm** in the Ridge PAC. Featured ensembles will include the Ridge Chorale, the A Cappella Choir Honors, Voices of Ridge, Ridgemen, and the Concert Choir! The concert will conclude with the annual alumni singing O Holy Night and the Grand Finale of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. An evening not to be missed!



Choral Department News

All-National High School Honors Choir Performers

Senior Lucino Chiafullo and Junior Savitha Krishnan were chosen by audition to perform with 350 of the top singers in the country in the All-National High School Honors Choir in Nashville, Tennessee.

2014 New Jersey All-State Mixed Choir

Lucino Chiafullo, Owen McKenna, and Timothy Morrow joined 325 of the top high school singers in the state in a performance at the NJEA Convention on Friday November 7 and will perform at NJPAC on Sunday, November 16.

2015 New Jersey All-State Women's Choir

Julia Fiocco, Savitha Krishnan, and Evelyn Labelle will perform with the New Jersey All-State Women's Choir at NJPAC in February.

2014 Governor's Award Nominee

Congratulations to Owen McKenna who was nominated for the Governor's Award in Vocal Music. Owen's eligibility came as a result of placing second in his section in the 2014 NJ All-State Mixed Chorus. Finalists will be announced at the NJPAC performance on the 16th of November.

Region II Chorus Auditions

Region II Chorus auditions will be held at JP Stevens HS on Saturday, December 12. Good Luck to the members of the Choral Department who are auditioning!

A Cappella Choir December Caroling

A Cappella Choir Honors prepares for the caroling season. Please join us at the following performances:

Monday, December 1 – 7:45 pm
St. James Church, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 2 – 7:30 pm
Bishop Janes Church, Sanctuary

Friday, December 5 – 4 to 6 pm
Somerville Caroling Festival
United Reformed Church
Main Street, Somerville

Sunday, December 7 – 3 pm
Vanderveer House, Bedminster

Monday, December 8 – 10:30 am
Ridge Oak Senior Center
Felmuth Hall

Monday, December 8 – 1 pm
Bernards Township Library

Friday, December 19 – 10:45 am
Visiting Nurses Association
Basking Ridge

Friday, December 19 – 3:30 pm
Verizon, Basking Ridge



A Cappella members triumph at the Hershey Park Competition in the spring of 2014.



Ridge Marching Band 2014 Performance Show “Playing with Fire”

The Ridge High School Marching Band is reaching new heights in 2014. The 88 student members and the coaching staff have worked hard all summer and assembled a dazzling performance show aptly titled “Playing with Fire.” The band’s passionate drill performance and creative music medley captivates audiences at every show.

Their exemplary show “Playing with Fire” features music and songs from the movie “Hunger Games: Catching Fire,” “Girl on Fire” by Alicia Keys, “Fire” by Jimi Hendrix, “Kingfishers Catch Fire” by John Mackey, and “Firebird Suite” by Igor Stravinsky.

With the competition season in high gear, the Ridge Marching Band has a streak of wins and awards under its belt. Ridge won first place at both the Hunterdon Central High School Marching Band Festival held on September 20 and at the Somerville High School Marching Band Competition held on October 11. Ridge also won the prestigious Cadets Award of Excellence at the NJ State Championship held on October 18.

Ridge held its own Marching Band Competition featuring 17 New Jersey high school bands performing at Ridge High School’s Lee Field in Basking Ridge on Saturday, October 25. The Band also

competed at the prestigious Yamaha Cup competition at MetLife Stadium on November 1.

The Ridge Marching Band is directed by Mr. Dan Zugale who is in his sixth year as director of Bands. Other coaching staff members include Assistant Band Director, Joe Kirk; Color Guard and Drill Designer, George Mattis; Color Guard Instructor, Kasey Zampella; Music Arranger, Dennis Argul; Percussion Captain Head, Joe Keefe; Percussion Instructors, Tom Wang and Nick Eisentein; and Music Techs, Danielle Plagge and Christopher Keri.

The 2014 Ridge Marching Band also includes 12 Student Leaders:
 Drum Majors: Patrick Clarke, Bianca Jurewicz and Joseph Criscione
 Band Manager: Renee Hastings
 Color Guard Section: Sarah Campbell and Hope Feuerbach
 Woodwind Section: Aaron Klein and Rachel Siegel
 Brass Section: Cole Hoffman and Andrew McKeon
 Percussion Section: Josh Kluger and Milli Langston

Additional information about the band can be obtained from the band’s website, www.RidgeMarchingBand.com.



NHSDA Comes to the Ridge Dance Department

Ridge High School's Dance teacher, Mrs. Miranda, started the high school's very first chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) this year. The National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) and Dance New Jersey are two dance education organizations that sponsor



NHSDA. Per NDEO, the mission of the honor society is to "recognize outstanding

artistic merit, leadership and academic achievement in students studying dance in public and private schools in K-12 education and to foster an appreciation for dance as a true art form and one worthy of recognition and prestige." (2014) Students who participate in the dance program are eligible for induction. Many students have applied for induction and some of them will have their choreography reviews, dance articles, and dance-related artwork published in future editions of NHSDA's national online newsletter, *Dance Arts Now!*. The first induction ceremony will be held at the Winter Dance Showcase 2015 on January 9 at 7 pm in the Ridge PAC. Students who are interested in NHSDA should see Mrs. Miranda or her website for further information.



Winter Coat Drive

The Clothing for a Cause Club is sponsoring a coat drive for Jersey Cares. Donations will be accepted through November 30. Time to clean out those closets and give to those less fortunate! A box is located by the Welcome Desk.

An Evening of Style & Shopping to Benefit the Ridge Dance Team



Come get styled in the latest accessories and gifts from Stella & Dot.

November 14, 2014

6 to 9 pm

Ridge Dance Studio

Raffles and a chance to win the Mystery Hostess prize. Our stylist will contribute 100% of her commission to support the Dance team.

RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL DANCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

Winter Dance Showcase 2015

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015

7PM RIDGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS \$7 AT WWW.RIDGEPAC.COM

\$8 AT DOOR



PERFORMING Arts

Fall Happenings from the Theatre Department at Ridge

The Ridge Drama Club kicked off the year with many exciting events for the students at Ridge!

Audition Workshops

During the first two weeks of school the Drama Club held two "Audition Workshops" in the Ridge PAC. The older and more experienced students were partnered with the younger students and all worked together with parts of the script "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon." The workshop leaders offered coaching in the art of auditions including stage presence, vocal technique, and character work. Over 50 students participated, and all agreed that it was a great experience for everyone and it prepared everyone who auditioned for the fall play.



From September 15-17 auditions and callbacks for the fall play "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" were held in



the Ridge PAC. Over 60 students auditioned for Mrs. Kern and the student Creative Team (AJ D'Ambrosio, Mackenzie Hayman, Tim Hultman, and Anthony Tobiasz). As it turned out all students were called back in a mass audition on stage that



ended up being very fun for all involved! One of the highlights of the callbacks was when the students were broken into various groups based on their "special skills." This included scenes performed in various foreign languages, a martial arts demonstration in slow motion, a beautiful rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and also some acrobatic demonstrations!

Back to School Night Performances

At Ridge's Back to School Nights on September 17 and October 1, several Drama Club members were directed by Drama Club President AJ D'Ambrosio to perform in the PAC lobby in between periods. They sang "Seasons of Love" and "Will I?" from Rent, "We Love You Conrad" from Bye Bye Birdie, and "Home" by Phil Phillips. This performance was a huge success. Mr. Kern, with students Tim Hultman, Mackenzie Hayman, and Anthony Tobiasz, set up a stage with lights and sound right in the lobby! The Drama Club definitely made its presence known!

Leadership Workshop

On Saturday, October 11, six student leaders from the Drama Club attended the NJ International Thespian Society Leadership



Photo above: Student leaders (l to r) Rachel Keough, Sunny Chae, Anthony Tobiasz, Zach Keenan, Rebecca Hull, and Peyton Kennedy participated in the the Thespian Society Leadership Workshop.



The Brother Grimm Spectaculathon

Performance Dates

Friday, November 21 at 7 pm
and
Saturday, November 22 at 7 pm

Location

Ridge Performing Arts Center

Tickets

\$10, Students & Seniors; \$12 Adults

Available at the Door or at

www.ridgepac.com

Workshop at Princeton University. The event allowed students and teachers to network with other Thespian troupes from around the state, and also participate in exercises revolving around leadership in the arts.

Upcoming Events

What's next for Ridge Drama Club? A comedy, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" will be presented at the Ridge PAC on November 21 and 22 at 7 pm.

The Drama Club members have the opportunity to attend the Tony Awards this spring, so they will be working on fundraising for this event.

The Theatre Department is also looking forward to Improvisation Workshops, Colleges in the Arts workshops, trips to Broadway, and Camp Broadway Workshops. Stay tuned!

Women's Leadership Summit Hopes to Inspire Future Leaders



December 14, 2014
Ridge PAC
12 noon

Pena; internationally acclaimed thoracic surgeon Dr. Margarita Camacho; Dr. Marylou Yam, the President of Notre Dame University in Maryland; and Catherine Salerno, the North America Vice President of Research and Development at Johnson & Johnson, among several other accomplished leaders. United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has also shown interest in attending.

Thanks to its entirely student-led format, the Women's Leadership Summit will provide a unique perspective on a variety of women's issues, and hopes to facilitate positive intergender relations and inspire a future generation of female leaders.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, which include Wells Fargo, Audi of Mendham, and Dolce Basking Ridge, we will provide free Starbucks coffee to all attendees.

Please don't hesitate to visit us at our "inspired and inspiring" website, www.ridgewomen.org, or email us at ridgewls@gmail.com for more information. Online registration will be available on our website until December 1 and is highly recommended for all attendees.

Ridge High School's Alliance for Young Social Entrepreneurs Club is excited to invite the community to the Women's Leadership Summit, the first entirely student-led conference in the area!

The Women's Leadership Summit will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 12 noon in the Ridge PAC and will aim to promote positive self-esteem, increased confidence, and leadership qualities among the young women in our community.

Speakers for the Summit include State Senator Linda Greenstein; Emmy Award-winning journalist Dr. Janus Adams; Grammy Award-winning violinist Adela



Ridge SHARE Chapter Participates in Charity Race

On Saturday, June 7, the nonprofit organization SHARE in Africa and its Ridge High School SHARE chapter gathered at Pleasant Valley Park for the first annual SHARE 5K Charity Race. With over 70 registered runners, 25 volunteers, \$2,200 raised, and beautiful 67-degree weather, the event was deemed a huge success.

Plans and preparations for the race began over six months before the event under the supervision of seniors Tiffany Chen and Sarah Phinney, co-president and vice president of the SHARE chapter at Ridge High School.

The event was followed by two live performances featuring Ridge High School seniors Sarah Matsuhima and Anil Salem, and photographed by SHARE volunteer, professional photographer, and 2012 Ridge High School alumnus Sean Kirby.

Proceeds from the race went towards the SHARE Scholars Fund, which provides scholarships to girls in Africa who wish to pursue educational dreams.

SHARE in Africa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that empowers thousands of African girls through education. The organization was founded by 2011 Ridge High School graduate Shannon McNamara when she was a freshman. Volunteers have built libraries and established after-school reading programs to help girls become literate, installed electricity and solar power in three schools, and spread awareness about the educational gender bias in African cultures to thousands of Americans. See sharein africa.org for more information.

2014 Ridge High School Homecoming



Above, l to r: Ridge High School Homecoming Court included Amy Zhong, Matt Bissonnette, Mackenzie Hayman, David Holmes, Bridget Morris, Neil Farley, Alana Carolan, Arin Hiller and Caitlin Delaplain.



Right: Congratulations to the Ridge High School Homecoming King and Queen, Bridget Morris and Neil Farley.

Ridge Girls Varsity Volleyball Team Wins Championship

On October 29, the Ridge girls varsity volleyball team won its second straight Somerset County Championship. The first victory was over second seed Watchung Hills in the semifinals. Then later, the Devils came back from a defeat in the first set to beat first seed Hillsborough 25-15, 25-13 in the finals. The team is currently in state playoffs and defeated Clifton in the preliminary round on November 5; the next round was away vs. Livingston on Friday, November 7.



Back row: Coach Mike Levy, Kayla Skolnik, Amanda Gertz, Victoria Muttin, Caroline Guiseffi, Lorin Dazzo, Jessica Creedon, Kayla Garner, Nicole Conca, Deepa Mukundan, Jordan Lee, Coach Joanne Milot
Front row: Rachel Creedon, Sydney Dazzo, Tori Lai, Kelsey Tam, Stephanie Occhiogrosso and Assistant Coach Amanda Lazicky

Ridge Varsity Athletes of the Month

Be sure to check out the Booster Club display in the Ridge High School lobby!



September

Cheerleading

Alana Carolan (12) consistently displays an above-and-beyond-commitment to the team, physical prowess, and competitive skills in stunting, dancing, and tumbling. Alana is a strong senior leader on the team, supplying her teammates with counts to dances and stunts. The team is lucky to have Alana's strength, resilience, and leadership skills out on the Friday night lights.

Boys Cross Country

Brad O'Keefe (11) has made significant improvement in the first month of his junior year, moving in to a varsity position. He is consistently in the top three for the Ridge team.

Girls Cross Country

Emily Hirsch (10), competing in her first season of cross country, has earned a varsity position and helped improve the overall depth of the Ridge team. Her

early-season performances have helped the girls win the sophomore race at the Magee Memorial and remain undefeated in dual meets.

Field Hockey

Jenny Diehl (12) has been our rock at the center mid position. She is an offensive playmaker and leads our defense with her strong stick and anticipation skills. She is hardworking, positive, and extremely competitive—all characteristics that make an athlete "great."

Football

Winston Zhu (12), as a two-way returning starter on the line, has been a solid performer and leader for us. In a big win over Immaculata, Winston turned in an outstanding performance.

Gymnastics

Cat Wain (12) has shown tremendous dedication and hard work over her four years on the varsity gymnastics team. As a senior captain she has been extremely dedicated to leading the gymnasts on the team. Cat is a hard worker and a very reliable person. Her enthusiasm and leadership have been an asset to our team.

Boys Soccer

Kieran Arrigan (12) has been a tireless ball winner, creator, and leader in the midfield in all six contests so far. Kieran has worked hard over the last year to

improve in all facets of his game: technical ability, tactical understanding, mental toughness, and the physical component. He is one of the first players on the coach's lineup sheet for every game.

Girls Soccer

Jenny Haskel (12), our captain, is a defender who moves up into attack throughout the game depending on need/role. She has five goals and leads the team with six assists. Jenny, who registered a hat trick in the team's win at Morris Catholic, is a leader on and off the field. She is an 80+ minute player who can contribute in whatever position is needed for the team.

Girls Tennis

Navya Yemula (9) was crowned Somerset County Third Singles Champion. She has recently moved up to play second singles and has beaten the Second Singles County Champion. Navya's contributions have helped the Ridge girls varsity tennis team (ranked #11 in the state) to an impressive 10-1 record so far this season.

Girls Volleyball

Tori Lai (12), one of our team captains, leads the Ridge volleyball team's defense. She is one of the best libero (defensive specialist) players in the state, and for September she has accumulated 13 aces, 51 service points, and a team-leading 133 digs.