

## *In this Issue:*



## **New RPS Superintendent: Mark Schwarz**

- **Audrey Vernick Books Sale CLOSES FRIDAY**
- **Travell Ladies' Night (4/20)**
- **Volunteers Needed: Door Decorating for Teacher Appreciation Week (4/28)**
- **Save the Date: Donation Truck @ Travell (5/6)**
- **Grade 5 Parents: Save The Dates/BFMS Sessions**

**Get your photos in now!  
Yearbook submissions  
due NO LATER THAN  
APRIL 10!!**



**travellyearbook2023@gmail.com**

March 28, 2023



**RIDGEWOOD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Ridgewood Board of Education  
Education Center  
49 Cottage Place  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
info@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Dear Ridgewood Community,

The Ridgewood Board of Education is excited to welcome Mark Schwarz as Ridgewood Public Schools' next Superintendent. Mr. Schwarz will assume his leadership role with Ridgewood beginning July 1, 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter, bringing a wealth of experience and leadership qualities developed over his 20 years in K-12 public education.

Mr. Schwarz comes to us from Madison Public Schools where he has served as Superintendent of Schools since 2017. Under his leadership, the district introduced a variety of program enhancements for students, including blended learning practices, a new Government and Leadership Academy, dual enrollment opportunities with local universities, expanded AP and STEM course offerings, increased in-district placement opportunities for IEP students, and the development of a multi-tiered system of supports. These efforts resulted in improved outcomes in student achievement, increased acceptances to selective colleges and universities, positive recognition by ranking and rating systems, and a United States Education Department Blue Ribbon Award for Torey J. Sabatini Elementary School.

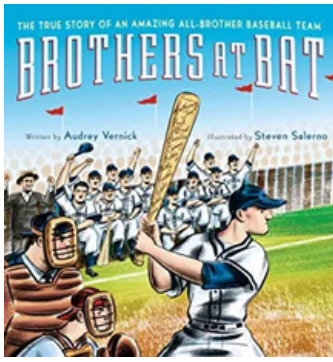
Mr. Schwarz's prior experience includes five years with Rockaway Borough School District, where he served as vice principal, middle school principal, and superintendent of schools. During his tenure in Rockaway, Thomas Jefferson Middle School was recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education for "substantially closing the achievement gap." Before Rockaway, Mr. Schwarz served the Jefferson Township Public Schools for nine years as a high school teacher; the K-12 supervisor of social studies, visual art, and technology; and the founding head coach of the district's volleyball programs.

We are thrilled to have Mr. Schwarz joining the Ridgewood Public Schools team and look forward to working with him to continue Ridgewood's legacy of academic excellence. His leadership and guidance will help us to further advance Ridgewood Public Schools while finding ways to improve the learning and support services that we provide to our students and our community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our extensive search process by taking part in the focus groups and completing the online survey. The feedback collected was instrumental in developing a strong candidate profile to meet the needs of our district and guide the process.

Yours in Education,

Michael W. Lembo  
President  
The Ridgewood Board of Education



Travell School  
welcomes  
Award Winning Author  
**Audrey Vernick**



April 28, 2023

We are excited to announce that Audrey Vernick will visit with all students at Travell School on Friday, April 28th. She will discuss her books and the process of writing for children in a variety of forms, from picture books to nonfiction to chapter books.

One of Ms. Vernick's favorite parts of being a writer is sharing her books and stories with readers and aspiring writers of all ages. She enjoys visiting schools and shining a light on the dark mysteries of writing and publishing. Because her books include both fiction and nonfiction, she is able to address a wide range of topics that naturally align with many Common Core standards. She employs a variety of high-energy interactive techniques and speaks about her own experiences, with a focus on where authors find their stories and where students might find their own.

Author visits are a wonderful opportunity for young readers, writers, and artists to meet the creators of the books they read. Consider extending this learning experience through the purchase of a personalized or autographed book. (A percentage of the sales will benefit our school!)

This visit is made possible due to the generous support of the Travell HSA...many thanks!!

**Book Orders are due Friday, March 31st**

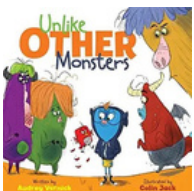
Order online at: <https://register.communitypass.net/ridgewood>



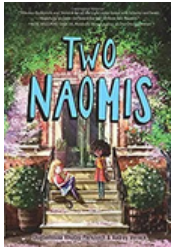
**Scarlet's Tale** Hardcover (K-3) \$18 When Scarlet was born, her parents did the usual counting. Two eyes. One nose. Ten fingers. Ten toes. Also: one long, fluffy, fuzzy, furry tail. That was a surprise! Celebrate the power of differences with this funny and heartwarming children's book about a little girl who faces her fears on the first day of school -- and learns to love what makes her unique.



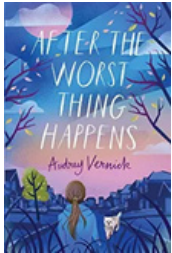
**Bob, Not Bob!** Hardcover (K-3) \$18 Little Louie is stuck in bed with a bad cold. His nose is clogged, his ears are crackling, and his brain feels full. All he wants is his mom to take care of him, but whenever he calls out for her, his stuffed-up nose makes it sound like he's summoning slobbery dog Bob instead! This silly but sweet picture book will make kids laugh out loud as Louie tries to make himself understood. They won't be able to help joining Louie in crying out, "Bob, not Bob!"



**Unlike Other Monsters** Hardcover (K-3) \$18 Zander is a monster. Monsters don't have friends. They prefer to scare children and eat their raisin bread alone. Then one day Zander meets a bird, and the unexpected happens. They start to spend time together, and Zander is reminded of how he's unlike other monsters. But does the fact they share secrets and hang out mean this is a fledgling friendship? And what will the other monsters think?



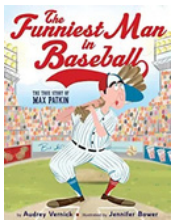
**Two Naomis** Paperback (Gr 3-5)\$10 Other than their first names, Naomi Marie and Naomi Edith are sure they have nothing in common, and they wouldn't mind keeping it that way. When Naomi Marie's mom and Naomi Edith's dad get serious about dating, each girl tries to cling to the life she knows and loves. Then their parents push them into attending a class together, where they might just have to find a way to work with each other—and maybe even join forces to find new ways to define family.



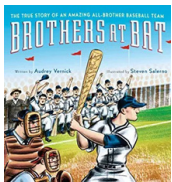
**After the Worst Thing Happens** Paperback (Gr 3-5)\$10 Army Morand feels like her life has been blown to bits when the worst thing imaginable happens—her beloved dog dies. It was an accident, but it was also Army's fault. She can't seem to stop hiding from everything and everybody including her best friend JennaLouise. This is a bittersweet story about a girl surprised by the force of a growing need inside her to reach out and lend a hand while trying to escape the swirling sadness of her own sudden loss. In the end, it is about finding love and hope and friendship in very surprising places.



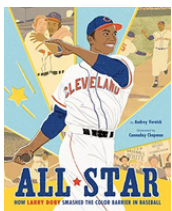
**She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story** Hardcover (K-3)\$17 Effa always loved baseball. As a young woman, she would go to Yankee Stadium just to see Babe Ruth's mighty swing. But she never dreamed she would someday own a baseball team. Or be the first—and only—woman ever inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. From her childhood in Philadelphia to her groundbreaking role as business manager and owner of the Newark Eagles, Effa Manley always fought for what was right. And she always swung for the fences.



**The Funniest Man in Baseball: The True Story of Max Patkin** Hardcover (Gr 1-4)\$18 Max Patkin was pitching in the minor leagues when he was injured and had to leave his dreams behind. He joined the Navy and eventually was able to play again while in the military . . . and this time he got to pitch against superstar Joe DiMaggio. When Joe hit one of Max's throws out of the park, Max threw down his glove, left the mound, and chased Joe around the bases, making faces and imitating his every move. The crowd loved it! And a baseball clown was born.



**Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team** Hardcover (K-3)\$19 The Acerra family had sixteen children, including twelve ball-playing boys. It was the 1930s, and many families had lots of kids. But only one had enough to field a baseball team . . . with three on the bench! They loved the game, but more importantly, they cared for and supported each other and stayed together as a team. Nothing life threw their way—not even a World War—could stop them.



**All Star: How Larry Doby Smashed the Color Barrier in Baseball** Hardcover (K-3)\$19 In 1947, Larry Doby signed with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first Black player in the American leagues. He endured terrible racism, both from fans and his fellow teammates. Despite this, he became a unifying force on and off the field, and went on to become a seven-time All Star. Illustrated with Cannaday Chapman's bold, stylized illustrations, this exceptional biography tells the story of an unsung hero who not only opened doors for those behind him, but set amazing records during his Hall of Fame career.

Questions? Contact Christina Morbelli at [christinamorbelli@hotmail.com](mailto:christinamorbelli@hotmail.com) or 602.466.8697

# Ladies' NIGHT

Come join us for **FRIENDS, FUN,  
FOOD & DRINKS**

**TRAVELL LADIES' SOCIAL**  
Thursday. April 20th. 7-10PM

The OFFICE  
32 Chestnut Ave, Ridgewood  
\$50 per person  
Venmo @TravellHSA

If any questions, contact  
[deirdre.byrne@gmail.com](mailto:deirdre.byrne@gmail.com)



Ahead of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-5),  
on Friday April 28 between 3:00 and 5:00pm  
we are going to decorate the doors of Travell to show  
our gratitude for the faculty and staff that show up,  
support, and care for our students each day. We are  
seeking 1-2 volunteers for each door. Details on  
logistics, supplies, etc. will be shared upon sign up or  
email Jess Vartughian with any questions  
([jvartughian@gmail.com](mailto:jvartughian@gmail.com)).

**SIGN UP HERE**

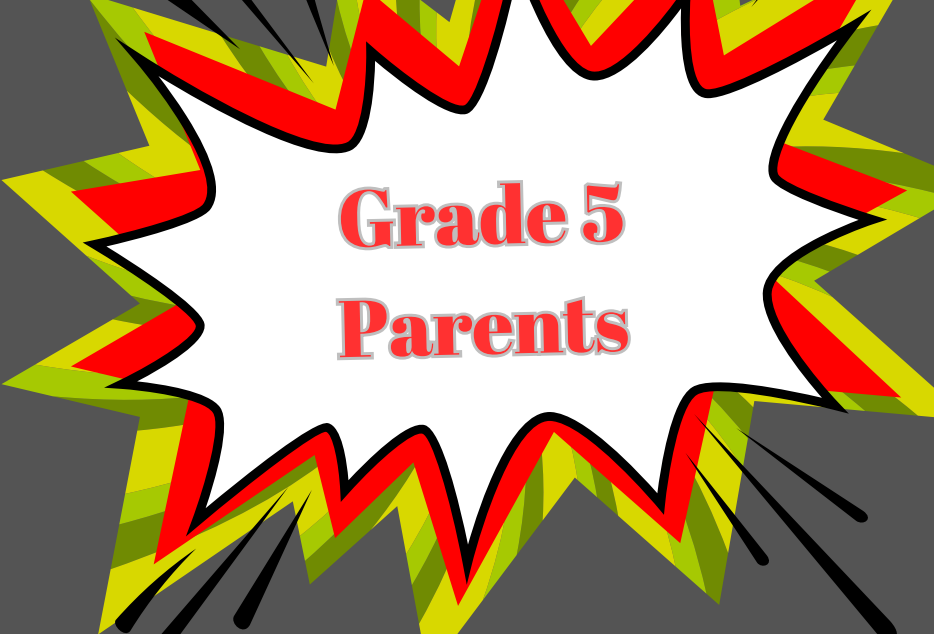


# ***SAVE THE DATE:*** ***Clothing Drive – May 6***

Spring cleaning is upon us! Travell will have another clothing donation drive with CDS on Saturday May 6.

Stay tuned for details but save your bagged clothes in the meantime!





## Grade 5 Parents

**GRADE 5 PARENTS** are invited to attend BF's presentation by **Melissa Straub from High Impact Youth Training Solutions** who helps raise awareness about apps and programs students are using on the internet to communicate.

**May 9, 6:30pm**

**BF Auditorium**



**HIGH IMPACT**  
youth training solutions LLC



**Grade 5 Parents:  
Mark Your Calendars**



# **BFMS Information Session for Grade 5 Parents**

**May 15, 7:00pm**

**BF Auditorium**

**with BF Principal  
+ Asst. Principals  
+ HSA members**

*Come hear all about BFMS and ask any questions  
you might have as you get ready for your student  
to begin there in the fall.*





# FRIENDS OF TRAVELL

January 2023

Dear Travell Families,

The Travell Home & School Association (HSA), with generous financial contributions from Travell families, supports the school curriculum and further enhances student experience, by coordinating, securing, and presenting enrichment programs and special activities to benefit our children. In hopes of providing accessible ways for making donations by ALL families, the HSA organizes fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Our primary fundraisers for enrichment programs are the Travell Auction and "Friends of Travell". These two major fundraisers alternate, with this school year (2022-2023) being a Friends of Travell year. "Friends of" fundraisers are also held at most of the other Ridgewood schools.

#### Author Visits

- Jason Patterson ('22)
- Kelly Yang ('23)
- Audrey Vernick ('23)

#### Tic Toc Art Docent Program

#### Drama Club

#### International Expo

#### Science Fair

#### DEI Storywalk

**AS A RESULT OF FUNDS RAISED,  
THE HSA WAS ABLE TO  
COORDINATE & EXPAND  
ENRICHMENT OFFERINGS THIS  
SCHOOL YEAR TO INCLUDE:**

**AND SO  
MUCH  
MORE!!!**

#### Grade 5 Recognition & Yearbook Party

#### 4th of July Float

#### Kindergarten Playdates

#### One School, One Book: Dragons In a Bag

#### School-wide Assemblies

- Let it Move ('22)
- National Circus Project ('22)
- SkyDome Planetarium ('23)
- Dragons and Ice Sorceress ('23)
- Lenape Native American Presentation ('23)
- Snakes and Scales ('23)

#### Field Trips

- Turtle Back Zoo (1st)
- Meadowlands Environmental Center (2nd)
- Lakota Wolf Preserve (4th)
- Storm King Art Center (5th)
- Buehler Challenger & Science Center (5th)
- RHS Performance: Clue (3rd - 5th)

Travell HSA's total enrichment costs are approximately \$51,000 per year. **Our fundraising goal for this year's Friends of Travell is \$40,000. We hope to achieve this goal by May 2023.** Additional revenue comes from smaller fundraising initiatives, such as grocery store cards, bake sales, Book Fair, No Cook Nights, among others.

The average cost for enrichment is \$150 per student. However, any donation amount is greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

Every dollar makes an impact and helps enrich the experience of our children throughout the school year. On behalf of the entire Home & School Association, we thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Gratefully,

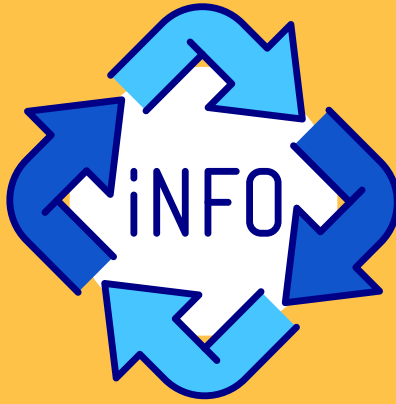
Nancy Joachim-Ventura and Kimberly Ramirez, Travell HSA Co-Presidents  
& the Travell HSA Executive Board 2022-2023

#### Donations can be made by:

**Personal check** (please see form sent home)

**Venmo @Travellhsa** (memo should state: "Friends of Travell" + your child's/children's name(s), and class(es))

**PayPal** (visit [www.travellhsa.com](http://www.travellhsa.com))



**ALWAYS BE IN THE KNOW!**

We use GroupSpot as an up to the minute communication tool.

Visit the app store on your smartphone and download GroupSpot. Create your account, search for Travell & request to join.

School Group Name: Travell Elementary HSA  
Invite Code: YzVz



**PHOTOS DUE BY APRIL 10**



**SUBMIT PHOTOS  
FOR THE 2022-2023  
YEARBOOK!**

*First Day of School, Back to School BBQ...  
let's make memories!*

**Travellyearbook2023@gmail.com**



**PHOTOS DUE BY APRIL 10**

# Travell Home & School Association 2022-2023

## HSA Executive Board

Presidents: Nancy Joachim-Ventura & Kim Ramirez  
VPs: Meg Agatep & Jen Tesseyman  
VPs of Fundraising: Laura Anghelone & Kate Semeniak  
VPs of Enrichments: Stephanie Fox & Lynn McTeague  
Treasurer: Frank Wang  
Asst. Treasurer: Katie Devlin  
Technical Secretary: Jess Vartughian  
Secretary: Beenu Chaturbedi

**Questions: [TravellHSA@gmail.com](mailto:TravellHSA@gmail.com)**

## HSA General Meetings

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:00pm (*revised date*)  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7:00pm

More Information:  
[www.travellhsa.com](http://www.travellhsa.com)  
IG: @TravellHSA  
Facebook: Travell Home & School Association  
GroupSpot



*Content for eNews must be submitted no later than Sundays at 12:00pm in order to be reviewed and approved for inclusion. Please email Jess Vartughian at [jvartughian@gmail.com](mailto:jvartughian@gmail.com)*