

Good afternoon families,

Please see below for this week's Friday notes. There are quite a few this week and some exciting opportunities for students.

- On Thursday, March 31st, students will have the chance to see a performance by a **Spanish Flamenco Group**. It should be a great experience for all! Thank you to the MPA for sponsoring this event.
- **6th Grade** - The TOPS 6th Grade Clash Bash dance is tonight (Friday 3/25) at Town Hall with DJ-spun music, refreshments and prizes. Your child must be registered in TOPS to attend. Cost is \$10 payable in cash at the door. If not yet registered, print and complete this [registration form](#) and send it with your child, plus the \$10 entry fee. 7:30-9PM at the Darien Town Hall Gym. More info at [darienct.gov/yc](http://www.darienct.gov/yc). Link for registration form: http://www.darienct.gov/filestorage/28025/28563/6th_Grade_2021-22_TOPS_Registration_Form.pdf
- **International Photo Contest** - In line with International/World Language Month at MMS, the MPA is sponsoring an International Photo Contest for students. Prizes will be awarded for categories including Most Iconic, Most Creative, Best Traditional Outfit, Best Architecture, Most Delicious and Coolest Wildlife. Have your child submit their photos to **MPAphotographs@gmail.com** by April 1st. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. LINK HERE: <https://middlesexpto.com/2022/03/24/enter-the-international-photo-contest/>
- **What's So Awful, Falafel Book Read and Discussion** - The MPA is sponsoring an International Book Read & Discussion for any student interested in talking about a good book and learning about the experience of someone from another culture. Have your student read Firoozeh Dumas' book *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* and sign them up [HERE](#) for the book discussion on May 2 from 2:30-3:30 at MMS. LINK HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4caaaa29a1face9-international>
- Applications are available for our **2022 Summer Reading Ambassadors program**. Students in grade 6 and grade 7 are welcome to apply. ELA teachers have application forms for students, and [a digital copy is available here](#). The application deadline is Thursday, March 24. If you have questions about this program, please contact Francis Janosco, the 6-12 English department chair, at fjanosco@darienps.org.
- 8th grade students at MMS worked with guest presenters from **The Blues and Beyond** to gain a better understanding of Black History and the evolution of music in the United States. As a final project, students composed their own blues lyrics and 8th grade music teachers Kim Sadler, Matt Curley, Joel Knecht, and Caitlin Brown chose pieces to be professionally recorded by the Blues and Beyond team. The songs were premiered during a virtual "Dinner and a Show Night" on Wednesday, March 23rd. Congratulations to the students whose lyrics were selected: Hadley Hazelton, William Sapione, and Lucie Smith. A 4th song was recorded, but that student chose to remain anonymous. Thank you to the MPA and Darien Music for Youth for contributing to the event! Use this link to view the song presentation on YouTube: https://youtu.be/OxLSY_tRynU

Wishing you a restful weekend,

Karolyn

Principal