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Superintendent of Schools

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November 14, 2025

Dear Darien Community,

It certainly felt like winter arrived this week as temperatures dipped into the twenties and flurries flew through the sky. As we move into the season of unpredictable winter weather, please be on the look out for a communication from me explaining how we navigate school closings or delays. In the next week or so I will be sending information out that clearly explains our process for making decisions about weather and school. This week's Community Update is chock full of information as there are so many amazing things happening in our schools and community. I continue to be amazed by the generosity of the community and the desire of so many students to help others as you will see below with the food collection efforts.

Almost, Maine

Huge congratulations to the entire cast and crew of Theater 308 for a truly stellar production of *Almost, Maine*! I had the pleasure of attending opening night and the cast and crew did an amazing job. Don't miss the chance to see this show: there are two more performances tonight and tomorrow night at 7:00 pm! Tickets are still available at the door or [online](#). Bravo on a beautiful show!

Fireside Chat

Thank you to all the community members who joined us at Holmes School on Wednesday evening for my inaugural Fireside Chat. It was truly a privilege to meet community members and have a conversation focused on three core elements of our Vision of the Graduate: Communication, Creativity and Curiosity. Your thoughtful participation and commitment to these essential skills made the evening a resounding success, and I look forward to our next chat when we turn our focus to Empathy, Independence and Integrity. For those unable to attend, here is a [link](#) to the recording. Additional thanks to Ms. Bleakley, Holmes Principal, and her custodial team for hosting the chat and setting up the space.

Community Connection: Our Thanksgiving Food Drives

This Thanksgiving season, our District is embracing the spirit of giving with several fantastic food and turkey drives benefiting local families in need.

- Hindley Elementary School has partnered with Person to Person for a frozen turkey drop off on Friday, November 21

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- Holmes Elementary School is participating in the Palmer's Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County Turkey Drive [online](#) through Friday, November 21
- Ox Ridge Elementary School is participating in the Palmer's Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County Turkey Drive [online](#) through Friday, November 21 and has coordinated an in person frozen turkey drop off on Thursday, November 20 from 8:00-9:00 am
- Royle is participating in the Palmer's Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County Turkey Drive [online](#) through Friday, November 21 and is holding an in person frozen turkey or chicken drop off on Tuesday, November 25 between 8:10-8:25 am
- Tokeneke is participating in the Palmer's Turkey Drive [online](#) through Friday, November 21 and is holding an in person frozen turkey or chicken drop off on Friday, November 21 between 8:10-8:25 am
- MMS is participating in the Palmer's Turkey Drive to benefit the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County [online](#) through Friday, November 21 and is collecting canned and shelf-stable food until Tuesday, November 24 to support Darien Person to Person's food pantry
- DHS' Class of 2027 is collecting canned and shelf-stable food until Tuesday, November 24 to support Darien Person to Person's food pantry and the DHS Band is hosting their annual food drive on Tuesday, November 25 from 7:00–8:00 am in the DHS Bus Loop. They are collecting frozen turkeys along with shelf-stable sides like vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rice, boxed mashed potatoes, and pasta to support the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County

Please check your school's communications for specific details on how you can help make this a warm and fulfilling Thanksgiving for all members of our community!

Parent University

This year we will launch a new opportunity for parents/guardians to learn more about our instructional programs and gain insights into how to best support your children at home. *Parent University* will offer targeted workshops for parents and guardians over the course of the school year. Our very first *Parent University* will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 2:00 pm. The topic will be K-3 Literacy. More details will be shared next week. We will host four *Parent University* sessions this year and we hope to see you there.

BOE Meeting

At the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 11, our newly elected and reelected members—Jonathan Dunn, Bill Vredenburgh, and Kadi Lublin—took their oaths of office. The Board also elected its new officers: Robin Nelson as Chairperson, Greg Grambling as Vice Chairperson, and Kadi Lublin as Secretary. Congratulations to our new leaders! Later in the meeting, Dr. Amy Fedigan presented the fall update on the District's Strategic Plan. If you are interested in viewing the Strategic Plan presentation, please click this [LINK](#).

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Congratulations & Weekend DHS Sports

Congratulations to our 29 student-athletes at Darien High School who affirmed their intentions to pursue athletics at the collegiate level this past week. Your hard work, dedication, perseverance and love of your sport is so impressive. We commend all of you on this incredible achievement.

The weekend kicks off today at Greenwich High School starting at 6:00 pm when the girls varsity competitive cheerleading team cheers on the boys varsity football team as they compete against Greenwich High School. The action continues tomorrow, as the boys junior varsity football team plays at home against Greenwich at 10:00 am and the girls varsity field hockey team faces Staples in the CIAC Class L Championship game at Wethersfield High School at 2:30 pm. Finally, girls varsity swimming heads to the CIAC State Open on Sunday at Yale University at 1:00 pm. Roll Wave!

Have a terrific weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric A. Byrne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools