



Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

35 Leroy Ave
Darien, CT 06820
T. (203) 656 7412
F. (203) 656 3052
E. ebyrne@darienps.org

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Dear Darien Community,

It is hard to believe that next week is Thanksgiving! These first months of school have flown by at an incredible pace. I am so grateful for all of the new relationships I have developed in the community. Darien is a special place and I am proud to be a part of it! I am deeply appreciative to all of my colleagues in the DPS who work so hard to make school a wonderful experience for all of the children. Bringing a school to life takes so many dedicated people from our custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, nurses, office staff, facilities and technology teams, paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators and I am grateful to call each and everyone a colleague.

I had the privilege to attend the DHS Band Autumn Showcase last evening. Boy, what a show! I particularly loved the piece *Arabesque*. I have already marked my calendar with the date for the Holiday Spectacular concert on December 17. The DHS band has also embraced the Blue Wave competitive spirit with their annual turkey drive. New Canaan's band will be collecting donations as well, and the school with the fewest turkeys will perform the opposing school's fight song, with drum majors wearing the opponents football jersey. Let's support those in need and our band in their own "Turkey Bowl" event! Turkeys, fresh or frozen, may be dropped off at DHS from 7:00-8:00 am on Tuesday, November 25.

With the holiday next week, there will not be a regular issue of the Community Update. Enjoy Thanksgiving and have a wonderful few days with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving!

Field Hockey State Champions

Congratulations to Varsity Field Hockey on winning the state Championship game on Saturday versus Staples - Go Blue Wave!

MMS Quiz Bowl

Congratulations to the MMS Quiz Bowl Team, who hosted the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) Charter Oak Scholastic Open XIV this past weekend. Forty-four MMS students in grades 6, 7, and 8 competed by buzzing in to answer hundreds of fast paced questions on academic subjects and general knowledge. Three teams placed in the top 10 and two teams have qualified for the National Competition, to be held in Chicago in May. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

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DHS Upstander Brigade

Each afternoon during the week of November 17, the DHS *Upstander Brigade* (a group of thirty 10th-12th grade students) traveled to 5th grade classrooms at DPS elementary schools. They spent an hour with 5th graders at each school engaging them in activities that promote kindness and being an upstander. In groups, 5th graders created an ally and discussed the attributes that they believed to be essential for creating positive feelings for themselves and others. You can view photos from the week [HERE](#).

DHS Alumni Panel

DHSPA is hosting a Q&A session with a panel of recent DHS alumni on Monday, November 24 at 9:30 am in the DHS auditorium. Alumni will share their experiences with the college application process, academic preparedness, athletic and other extracurricular involvement, and provide other relevant insight concerning their transition to college. Bring questions and do not miss this valuable opportunity to learn from our alumni! This event is open to all DHS parents, regardless of their child's grade.

Around Town

On Friday, November 28 join fellow runners or walkers for The Depot's Overstuffed Turkey Trot taking place on the Darien High School cross country running path. There is something for everyone- a 5K, 1 mile fun run and specific kids runs. NEW this year, kids can participate in the Gobble Games for an additional fee. Go to [Turkey Trot](#) for more details and to sign up.

Parent University

Our very first [Parent University](#) will be Thursday, December 11 at 2:00 pm at Middlesex Middle School. Join us to learn more about the Science of Reading and experience our K-3 literacy practices through fun, interactive learning centers.

DHS Sports

There is just something about Thanksgiving and football! Our boys junior varsity football team plays New Canaan at home at 5:00 pm today. The competition continues when varsity football takes on New Canaan in the storied Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving at 10:00 am at New Canaan High School. This annual match-up is a spirited tradition that brings out the best in both our communities. Finally, good luck to our junior and senior girls at the first ever Gravy Bowl flag football game next week. Roll Wave!

Sincerely,



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