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Dear Darien Community,

In light of the forecast for snowmageddon this weekend, I would like to provide a quick reminder regarding our weather-related decision protocols. Safety is our primary concern. School closings, delays and early dismissals are largely determined by local road conditions and the ability of our buses to navigate them safely. While I always consider the travel conditions for our staff commuting to the District, the current conditions within Darien remain the most significant factor in the final decision. Please note that I will only send a message if we are closing, delaying opening or early releasing. I've also enlisted the help of some industrious students for the phone call notifications, so I suggest listening to the entire message. Based on the certainty of the forecast, a closing or delay announcement could occur the evening before the event. Additional emergency weather information, including school arrival/dismissal times and official weather-related decisions, will be posted directly to our [website](#).

Safety PSA

As winter weather continues, please remember that ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water around town are not safe unless officially tested and marked open.

- Ice thickness can vary greatly—even when it looks frozen
- Warmer days and moving water weaken ice quickly
- Children and pets are especially at risk
- ★ Stay off all frozen ponds and waterways
- ★ Never assume ice is safe
- ★ In an emergency, call 911 immediately

Let's all do our part to keep our community safe this winter.

FY27 BOE Budget

The budget process is gaining positive momentum as we progress through the different departments and priorities. Ms. Klein presented the Special Education and Student Services budget on Tuesday. If you are interested in viewing it, please follow this [link](#). The budget presentation begins at 3:07. Mr. Manfredonia also presented the Physical Education and Athletics budget on Tuesday. If you are interested in viewing it, please follow this [link](#). The budget presentation begins at 55:56. The FY27 Budget process will continue with the Operations & Capital budget

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presentation and discussion on Tuesday, January 27. The FY27 Budget public hearing will be on Tuesday, February 3 and the Board of Education FY27 Budget vote will take place on Thursday, February 5.

Parent University

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Parent University session on AI! We explored current trends like AI schoolwork tools and emotive companions through interactive, age-appropriate activities. It was great to see everyone engage with the hands-on activities, and we hope the resources provided help you guide your children in using AI responsibly and effectively. Additional thanks to Kate Dimoulas, MMS Principal, and her custodial team for hosting the event and setting up the space. Many thanks to Tim McGuire and the team of presenters and organizers for their hard work in developing and delivering this program.

The World Famous Harlem Wizards - Postponed

The Blue Wave Booster Club event at DHS has been postponed to Sunday, March 1! Tickets are still available to see the Harlem Wizards take on our very own Blue Wave Home Team of teachers and administrators. This high-energy basketball event is full of audience participation and is sure to be a sell-out. Click [HERE](#) to buy tickets now!

DHS Sports

It's another packed weekend for our athletes with plenty of action both at home and on the road. Today kicks off with a major showdown against Trumbull; the freshman girls and boys basketball teams tip off at 4:00 pm (away and home, respectively), followed by jv at 5:30 pm and varsity at 7:00 pm. Meanwhile, our boys and girls' varsity track and field teams head to the Hillhouse varsity showcase at 4:30 pm, and boys varsity hockey takes on the Salisbury jv team at the Darien Ice House at 5:00 pm. The night wraps up with boys jv hockey facing Greenwich High School at 8:30 pm. Tomorrow is just as busy, starting early at 9:00 am with boys and girls varsity track and field traveling to Wilton High School to face Wilton, New Canaan, and Ludlowe. Varsity wrestling hits the mats at Joel Barlow High School at 9:30 am, while our varsity gymnasts host Greenwich, Stamford, and Westhill at the Darien YMCA at 2:30 pm. In the evening, boys varsity hockey travels to Rhode Island to face Pilgrim High School at 5:45 pm. Finally, both girls and boys varsity squash will compete under the lights at Yale against Squash Haven starting at 9:30 pm. If there are any changes in the schedule, athletes will be informed. Go Big Wave!

As we keep an eye on the shifting forecast, we encourage everyone to stay tuned for any weather-related updates and to travel safely this weekend.

Sincerely,



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