



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

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Dear Darien Community,

I hope you are staying warm during this frigid cold snap.

### **FY27 BOE Budget**

The presentation portion of the budget process concluded Tuesday when Mr. Rudl presented the FY27 proposed Operations & Capital budget. If you are interested in viewing it, please use this [link](#). The budget presentation begins at 4:29. 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.

### **2025-2026 School Calendar Update**

Due to the school closure on January 26, our district calendar has been updated to reflect the necessary makeup date and schedule adjustments. Please visit the [district website](#) to view the revised calendar and ensure your family is prepared for these changes.

### **Bye Bye Birdie**

Kudos to the MMS Players for a phenomenal production of *Bye Bye Birdie*! I got a sneak peek at the dress rehearsal and wow, this cast and crew are ready for the spotlight! Don't miss the chance to see this show: there are three more performances tonight at 7:00 pm and tomorrow at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Tickets are still available at the door or [online](#).

### **Alumni Spotlight: Kieran Blunnie (DHS Class of 2020)**

We are proud to celebrate the success of DHS alum **Kieran Blunnie ('20)**, whose debut documentary, *Neo-Typesetters*, is gaining national acclaim. The film serves as a "love letter" to the lost art of letterpress printing, a passion Kieran first began exploring during his time at DHS through video projects in his Spanish and History classes. After winning "Best Short Documentary" at the 2025 New York Documentary Film Festival and being featured in several international festivals, the film highlights the beauty of the "human touch" in a digital age. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the documentary and watch the film [here](#).

### **Kindergarten Registration**

**Darien Public Schools**

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DPS is excited to welcome the class of 2039! If you have a child, or know a child, who will be entering Kindergarten in the 2026-2027 school year, it is now time for registration. Please visit our [website](#) for more information and complete your registration by February 9.

### **The January Darien Difference**

The January issue of The Darien Difference is [here](#). Explore the stories to see the meaningful ways Royle students and staff are embodying the Vision of the Graduate! Missed an issue? You can also find all published issues posted on the school district website under News & Announcements.

### **Byrne's Book Club**

I am excited to announce that our next selection for book club is *More Than Just a Game* by Chris Bjork and William Hoynes. Far more than a simple sports history, this insightful read explores how youth sports have evolved into a high-stakes industry and the profound impact this shift has on our children, families, and community values. Whether you are a coach, a parent of a student-athlete, or simply interested in the changing landscape of modern childhood, this book offers a compelling starting point for dialogue. The discussion will be Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm at The Depot.

### **DHS Sports**

Another full weekend is ahead for our winter athletes. The action starts today with boys varsity swimming at the New Canaan YMCA at 3:30 pm and girls freshman basketball at Greenwich at 3:45 pm. Back at home, boys freshman basketball hosts Greenwich at 4:00 pm, followed by boys jv basketball at 5:30 pm and the boys varsity tip-off at 7:00 pm. Meanwhile, girls jv and varsity basketball travel to Greenwich for games at 5:00 pm and 7:15 pm, respectively. On the ice, girls varsity hockey travels to Newington to face East Catholic at 7:00 pm. Rounding out the night, boys varsity squash heads to Msquash Port Chester at 6:30 pm. Tomorrow begins early with boys varsity wrestling at the Brookfield tournament starting at 8:00 am. Both boys and girls varsity indoor track & field will compete in the FCIAC divisional championships at Wilton High School starting at 9:30 am. Later in the day, girls varsity gymnastics travels to Next Dimension Gymnastics for a 4:00 pm meet against Trumbull and St. Joseph, and boys varsity hockey returns home to the Darien Ice House to take on Greenwich at 4:30 pm. The weekend wraps up on Sunday, as boys jv squash hosts a multi-team meet at MSquash starting at 9:00 am. Roll Wave!

Sincerely,



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