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Dear Darien Community,

Thank you to everyone who joined us last night for our evening with author Jennifer Wallace. It was inspiring to see our community come together to discuss building a "culture of mattering" and supporting our students' well-being. We hope the conversation provided you with valuable tools to help your children navigate modern pressures by centering their inherent value. Please find a summary of the evening's main points and strategies [here](#).

Enhanced Darien Board of Education Digital Hub

We are excited to announce a more streamlined way to stay connected with the Board of Education. We invite you to visit the new [Darien Board of Education public site](#), a dedicated resource designed to keep our community informed and engaged. On the site, you can easily find details on upcoming and recent meetings, review current Board of Education policies, and access an archive of past meetings. Our archive currently features records from July 1, 2023, through the present, and our digital update is ongoing as we continue to add historical documents to the collection. Meeting archives prior to July 1, 2023 remain available on the district [website](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

Football Fundraiser

On Wednesday, I attended the tenth annual Lift for a Cure fundraiser by the DHS football team. Seeing our players in action was a powerful reminder of why "Empathy", a core tenet of our Vision of the Graduate, is so much more than just a word in our district. Our students' dedication to lifting others up (literally and figuratively) continues to amaze me.

Voluntary Family Reading History Questionnaire

Learning to read is foundational to student success. In alignment with requirements from the Connecticut State Department of Education pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-14ee, families of students in grades K-3 will be asked to complete the state-developed Voluntary Family Reading History Questionnaire; responses, while not diagnostic, will be considered alongside universal screening data to determine whether additional support may be warranted. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the questionnaire will also be incorporated into kindergarten registration and new student enrollment. A letter with the survey link may be accessed [here](#).

Connecticut DECA Competition

Our DHS DECA chapter had an incredible showing last weekend at the Connecticut DECA Competition, with 90 of our talented members showcasing their business acumen and professional skills. We are thrilled to announce that 39 students have officially qualified to move on to the next level! These students will be traveling to Atlanta, Georgia, this April to represent DHS and compete at the International DECA Career Development Conference. Please join me in congratulating all our participants for their hard work and wishing our international qualifiers the best of luck on the big stage!

DPS vs. DPD Charity Basketball Game

Get ready for the [DPS vs. DPD Charity Basketball Game](#) on Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm at DHS! This high-energy night features professional announcers, refs, a 50/50 raffle, and exciting halftime contests. Beyond the court, we are coming together

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to support community wellness; Wave Strong and Shoulder Check will have tables on-site, with Elke Thorsen leading a pre-game Shoulder Check pledge. The DPD team is playing for the Special Olympics, while the DPS faculty is playing for Charlie's Cure, an organization dedicated to funding critical research to find a cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Don't miss this chance to cheer for our local heroes and support these vital causes!

Byrne's Book Club

Join us at The Depot on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm for our second book club. We'll be discussing *More Than Just a Game*, an insightful look at the high-stakes world of modern youth sports. It's a must-read for parents and coaches alike—hope to see you for the discussion!

DHS Sports

It is going to be a packed weekend for our athletes as we head into state trials and championships! Today, boys varsity swimming kicks things off at 11:15 am for the Class L State Trials at Cornerstone Pool and our girls varsity basketball team travels to Daniel Hand High School for a 6:00 pm tip-off. The momentum continues into tomorrow, as Courtney Timmeny from girls varsity gymnastics competes in the New England Championships at Fitchburg High School starting at 10:00 am. Finally, our FCIAC Champion girls varsity hockey team heads to the state semifinals at The Rinks in Shelton at 5:30 pm. Go Blue Wave!

Sincerely,



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