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March 13, 2026

Dear Darien Community,

I was honored to join the Class of 2026 for the DHS "100 Days to Graduation" Dinner on Tuesday. It was an evening dedicated to fostering gratitude, awareness, and reflection as seniors honor their final chapter and prepare for the transition to life beyond DHS.

Last Day of School

Due to the weather-related cancellations this year, our final day of school has shifted to June 19. Following the model of our Veterans Day observances, DPS will recognize Juneteenth through school-based programming. We believe this will be an impactful way to show respect for this holiday and engage our students in its history and significance, like we do each Veterans Day.

Elementary Conferences

Elementary parent-teacher conferences are next week on Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, March 20. These meetings offer a vital opportunity to connect one-on-one with your child's teacher to discuss their academic journey, review recent progress, and establish shared goals for the remainder of the school year. Please note that evening conferences will be available on Thursday, March 19 to accommodate various schedules. All elementary schools will follow an early dismissal format during this period. We encourage you to check your school's specific schedule for exact dismissal times to make the necessary arrangements. Your partnership is invaluable. We look forward to these important conversations next week!

DHS Students Advance to State History Day Finals

Twelve DHS students recently showcased their research skills at the Fairfield County History Day competition, centered on the theme of "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History" with several students advancing to the state finals at Central Connecticut State University on May 2. Congratulations to Kenny Arrunategui and Pierce Brawley, who earned an Honorable Mention for their documentary on the Munster Rebellion, and to Thomas Ehrbar, Brandon Yao, and Harrison Dilts, who secured first place for their documentary, "A Home for Veterans - An Inspiring Legacy for All." This winning project highlighted Darien's own Fitch Home for Soldiers, demonstrating how local reform efforts created a lasting legacy of support for Civil War veterans and orphans.

Board of Education Meeting

At Wednesday's Board of Education meeting, Dr. Amy Fedigan, Dr. Jennifer Falcone, Ms. Christina Ledesma (K- Holmes), Ms. Ann Novotnik (G2 - Holmes), Ms. Bess McNamee (G1 - Royle), Ms. Arley Carr-Harris (G1 - Tokeneke), Ms. Stacy Johnson (G2 - Ox Ridge), and Ms. Linda Dragotta (G3 - Royle) presented an update on K-3 Literacy. If you are interested in learning more about this topic and viewing the presentation, please click on this [LINK](#).

Darien Public Schools

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Byrne's Book Club

Head over to The Depot next week on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm for our [second book club](#). We'll be diving into *More Than Just a Game*, a compelling 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!

Theatre 308 Presents: *The Lightning Thief*

Darien High School's award-winning Theatre 308 is proud to present *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical!* Based on the beloved book by Rick Riordan, this high-energy production follows Percy on an epic quest to prevent a war among the Greek gods. Featuring a rock-inspired score and plenty of heart, it is a thrilling adventure for the entire family. Performances run March 19, 20, and 21. Tickets are on sale now! Visit Theatre308.org for more information and to secure your seats.

Around Town

The Depot's Student Governing Board is excited to host the first-ever Depot Sports Equipment Sale on Saturday, March 14 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Stop by The Depot to shop for gently used gear, including soccer, football, hockey, lacrosse, and baseball equipment, along with Darien and club apparel. All proceeds benefit The Depot.

DHS Sports

Congratulations to girls' varsity hockey on winning back-to-back state championships on Wednesday night and to DHS senior, Jake Simon for breaking his own school record with his state open diving win last night! As the winter athletics season wraps up, our teams are heading into high-stakes competition this weekend. Boys' indoor track member Brendan Houchin, the school record holder in the pole vault, will once again attempt to break the mark of 14 feet as he competes today at the Nike Indoor Nationals at the Armory in New York City. Tomorrow, the boys' varsity swimming team travels to Yale University for the swim state opens, with events scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm. Also on Saturday, boys' varsity hockey will compete in the CIAC division state quarterfinals against Northwest Catholic at 1:00 pm at Bennett Rink in West Haven. Finally, boys' indoor track member Drew Sharron, the school record holder in the 800, 1000, and 1600, will be attempting to break the school record in the 1 mile on Sunday at the New Balance Indoor Nationals in Boston. Roll Wave!

Sincerely,



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