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April 2, 2026

Dear Darien Community,

Today, the Darien school community joins millions around the globe in celebrating World Autism Awareness Day—a time dedicated to fostering deeper acceptance, appreciation, and inclusion for autistic individuals and recognizing their local and global contributions. You may have also noticed many of us wearing blue across our schools today. This sea of blue serves as a visual reminder of our commitment to ensuring every student feels seen, supported, and valued for exactly who they are.

Yesterday I began my day at DHS and it was an absolute privilege to join our Science National Honor Society students as they brought their impressive research back to our campus following their successful presentations at the Darien Library. Seeing the Vision of the Graduate competencies in action, from the curiosity required to tackle complex scientific problems to the communication skills needed to share that knowledge, was truly inspiring. These students have gone above and beyond their demanding course loads to pursue independent discovery. Their dedication and commitment to learning serves as a shining example for our entire school community.

### **Celtic Joy Strings Festival**

On Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Strings Festival at DHS. It was amazing to see so many of our string players on stage at the same time - what a performance! Many thanks to our incredibly talented string teachers and the Darien Music Parents Association for making it possible for our students to collaborate with guest artist Hanneke Cassel.

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

Thank you to everyone who joined me at The Depot this past Monday for our second Book Club; I enjoyed diving into Chris Bjork and William Hoynes' *More Than Just a Game* with such an engaged group. I'd also like to thank my colleagues, Mr. Chris Manfredonia, DPS Athletic Director, and Dr. Alycia Dadd, DPS Director of Mental Health, for participating on Monday. Our conversation really hit home as we discussed how youth sports have shifted from simple, community-based play into a high-stakes billion dollar industry that often puts intense pressure on our children and families. We owe a huge thanks to The Depot for hosting such a thoughtful dialogue in such an inviting space. Looking ahead, I am excited to announce our next selection: Jeffrey Selingo's *Dream School*. Please join us for the conversation on Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00 pm in the MMS library.

### **Town Wide Art Show**

Experience creativity in action as we celebrate the artistic growth and innovative spirit of our K-12 students at the

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DPS K-12 Town Wide Art Show. The show will be installed through April 30 at Town Hall and the Darien Library. Stop by to see artwork on display by our talented student artists!

### **Paraprofessional Appreciation Day**

Yesterday was Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. Please join me recognizing the important contributions that our paraprofessionals make in our schools as they support our students. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of paraprofessionals working across all of our schools and in our classrooms. Thank you to all of our paraprofessionals!

### **Parent University**

Parent University – Save the Date! Our next Parent University, Executive Functioning 101, will be held on April 20 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Middlesex Middle School Library Media Center and will focus on executive functioning, classroom strategies across PK–12, and practical ways families can support learning at home. Additional details and RSVP information can be accessed [here](#).

### **DHS Sports**

It is a busy week ahead for our student-athletes as spring competition swings into full gear. Today kicks off with girls varsity golf vs. Danbury at Richter Park and coed varsity sailing hosting Wilton and Weston at Noroton Yacht Club, both at 3:00 pm. At 4:00 pm, the home fields will be busy with boys junior varsity baseball, boys varsity baseball, and girls varsity lacrosse all hosting scrimmages against Greenwich and Greenwich Academy. Action continues Saturday, April 4 as boys freshman lacrosse travels to Fairfield Prep and girls varsity lacrosse heads to Chatham at 10:00 am, followed by boys junior varsity lacrosse hosting Fairfield Prep at 10:30 am. At 11:00 am, girls varsity softball plays away at Foran while boys varsity volleyball visits Westhill. Later that afternoon, girls junior varsity lacrosse plays at Chatham at 11:30 am, boys junior varsity volleyball plays at Westhill at 12:30 pm, and at 1:00 pm, boys varsity and junior varsity baseball travel to Xavier at 1:00 pm while boys freshman baseball and boys varsity lacrosse play at home against Xavier at 1:00 pm and Fairfield Prep at 1:00 pm. Roll Wave!

Wishing a very Happy Easter to all our families and staff celebrating this weekend!

Sincerely,



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