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Dear Darien Community,

We are pleased to share a significant update regarding the education reform efforts we've discussed in recent months. House Bill 5327, introduced by State Representative Tracy Marra, has officially passed the General Assembly. This bill directly addresses the gaps in our state's disclosure laws by requiring that hiring school districts be notified of any open or pending investigations involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct. By ensuring that a potential employee's history is fully transparent before they enter a classroom, this legislation provides a critical layer of protection for our children. We are deeply grateful to Representative Marra for her steadfast leadership and to First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky for rallying support across our delegation.

Byrne's Book Club

Thank you to everyone who joined Director of School Counseling Ms. Cathy Ostar and me in the MMS library this past Tuesday for our final Book Club of the year. It was a pleasure to engage in such a meaningful discussion on Jeffrey Selingo's *Dream School* and to hear your thoughtful perspectives on the evolving landscape of higher education. Your insights into how we can help students find a "fit" that fosters both academic success and personal growth made for a truly rewarding evening. These conversations are invaluable as we work together to support our students, and I am already looking forward to our next selection in the new school year!

Hindley Happening

Hindley's biggest and most exhilarating day of the year arrives tomorrow! On Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the Hindley field will undergo a total transformation into a magical carnival. This year's "Happening" features something for everyone: thrilling rides, classic carnival games, face painting and crafts by Sparklicious, and high-energy performances by Dance on the DL. Between the food trucks and the kids' games area (complete with fantastic prizes), it's sure to be an unforgettable community event. In the spirit of inclusion, the event will open early at 9:00 AM specifically for families with special needs.

Middle School Night at the Hindley Happening!

The Depot is thrilled to offer a special opportunity for all middle schoolers in grades 6, 7, and 8 to enjoy the Hindley Happening tonight, Friday, May 8! Admission is \$40, which includes access to the carnival rides. Please note that food, drinks, and carnival games are available for separate purchase, and no refunds will be issued unless the event is cancelled due to weather. Secure your child's spot now by signing up at dariendepot.com.

Community Presentation

A vital community presentation, "Problem Gambling: Sports Betting 101," will be held at Middlesex Middle School on Wednesday, May 13, at 9:00 AM. This session is designed for both middle school and high school parents to address the growing presence of sports betting and gambling among students and the serious impact these behaviors can have on

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mental health. As access to online betting becomes easier and more normalized, young people are increasingly exposed to risks such as addiction, anxiety, depression, and financial stress. Kids In Crisis TeenTalk Counselors Karla Greto and Ashley Lopez will be joined by guest speakers Sarah McCarty from Thriving Youth Darien, as well as John Hastings and Ethan Bourque from Sasco River Center, to provide insight and guidance on navigating this complex landscape.

DHS Sports

The Blue Wave energy remains high as we head into another busy weekend of competition! Friday features a major home slate with baseball, softball, and lacrosse taking center stage, while our track athletes travel to represent Darien at the prestigious Loucks Games and the CT Distance Festival. The action continues through the weekend with a Sunday afternoon lacrosse matchup back on our home turf.

Please see the schedule of weekend games:

Friday's Schedule:

- 4:00 PM: Boys Freshman Baseball vs. Fairfield Warde (Home at DHS)
- 4:00 PM: Girls Varsity Softball vs. Fairfield Warde (Home at DHS)
- 4:00 PM: Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Fairfield Warde (Away at Fairfield Warde HS)
- 4:00 PM: Boys JV Baseball vs. Fairfield Warde (Away at Tunxis)
- 4:00 PM: Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Staples (Home at DHS)
- 4:00 PM: Boys Varsity Track @ Loucks Games (Away at White Plains HS)
- 4:00 PM: Boys Varsity Track @ CT Distance Festival (Away at Hall HS)
- 5:30 PM: Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Staples (Home at DHS)
- 6:30 PM: Boys Freshman Lacrosse @ Connor Corish Tournament (Away at Don Bosco Prep)

Saturday's Schedule:

- 9:00 AM: Girls Varsity Track @ Loucks Games (Away at White Plains HS)
- 10:30 AM: Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Chaminade (Away at Chaminade HS)
- 1:00 PM: Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Chaminade (Away at Jackson Avenue School)

Sunday's Schedule:

- 1:00 PM: Boys Freshman Lacrosse vs. Chaminade (Home at DHS)

Have a wonderful weekend. Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms out there!

Sincerely,



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