Darien Public Schools

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Dear Darien Community,

I hope that you fared well during the storm on Sunday. There was so much rain in such a short period of time that led to flooding all over town and in neighboring communities. While the school district sustained some damage during the flooding, we are confident that all necessary repairs, replacement and new mitigation measures will be completed in short order. Our most significant damage was to the boiler room at Hindley School. Fortunately, we have already begun working with our insurance carrier and contractors to replace the equipment. We also lost some vehicles and landscaping equipment due to flooding and are in the process of procuring replacements while processing the insurance claim. I do want to be sure to recognize our town's first responders for their heroic efforts on Sunday. Additionally, I want to thank our facilities and custodial staff for making their way to Darien to safeguard our schools and facilities during the peak of the storm.

Open House Events completed - MMS and DHS held this week
This week, we wrapped up our final Open House Events with MMS and DHS. It was wonderful to see all of the families come out to meet teachers and staff at their children's schools. Thank you to the MMS and DHS teams for hosting fantastic Open Houses, and for all of our schools for welcoming our district families to all of the events held over the past week. It's going to be a great school year at DPS!

Hindley Bash
Hindley Elementary School will be hosting their annual Hindley Bash tonight from 5:00 - 7:00 PM! This family event will feature food, music, and the Kona Ice Truck - tickets are $10/pp and can be purchased using this link or at the door (cash only). Make sure to wear your Hindley spirit gear!

DHS Club Fair
It was a beautiful sunny day and a perfect setting for the annual DHS Club Fair this past Wednesday. I enjoyed talking with students and hearing about the many clubs and the amazing activities that are available. Over 60 student clubs and organizations were represented. Students had the opportunity to walk through the fair during their lunch waves, speak with the leaders of the clubs, and sign up for any that interested them. From community service and mental health advocacy organizations to activity-based groups such as pickleball, there is truly something for every student to get involved with at DHS!

Out in Schools
One of the best parts of being a superintendent is visiting schools and spending time in classrooms. On Thursday I spent some time at Tokeneke in second grade. I was very impressed by the quality of student writing that students' shared with me and the highly focused second graders who I met. I popped into Mrs. Catalano's classroom and the students were very

busy in *Ketchup & Pickle Time*. As this was not a time that I was familiar with, I asked several students to explain the time block to me and they shared that it is a time to catch-up on work or pick an activity that you'd like to spend time on such as independent reading. What a great block to include in a classroom schedule!

Around Town - Darien Road Race

This Sunday, September 20, The Community Fund of Darien will be hosting their 46th annual Darien Road Race & Family Fund Day from 8:00-11:00 AM at Pear Point Beach. To register for either the 1.5-mile walk/run or 5-mile timed races, use this link!

Around Town #2 - WaveStrong Event with Kevin Hines

WaveStrong, in partnership with Darien Community Association, The Darien Depot, Thriving Youth, and Wilton's Trackside Youth Center, is excited to welcome Kevin Hines for a night of inspirational conversation and messages of hope. This event will happen on Wednesday, September 23rd at DCA, with doors opening at 6:30 and the program beginning at 7:00. Admission is free, but registration is required - use this link to save your spot!

The Depot Youth Center Offerings for Middle and High School Students

The Depot Youth Center offers middle and high school students a wide range of ways to connect, lead, volunteer and have fun outside of school. For high school students, clubs include SGB for student leadership, SADD for healthy decision-making, SLOD for high school boys mentoring, empowHER for girls' confidence and connection, plus Helping Hands, Volunteer Club, Smiles for Seniors, Lighthouse and MTG Club. For middle school students, offerings include VolunTWEENS, Garden Club, MS Mahjong, Murder Mystery Club, Wave Strong, Math Tutoring, Cook Learn Grow, Lighthouse and MTG Club, along with DropZone, The Depot's after-school program. Most clubs and programs are $150 for the full year, and full scholarships are available so cost is never a barrier to participation. Families can learn more about current clubs, programs and events at dariendepot.com.

Athletic Schedule

Blue Wave teams are in action all weekend! Here is the varsity schedule for September 18-20:

Friday, September 18:
Girls Swimming vs. Wilton High School: 3:00 PM, Darien YMCA
Girls Soccer vs. Danbury High School: 4:00 PM, Danbury High School
Football vs. Norwich Free Academy: 6:30 PM, Norwich Free Academy

Saturday, September 19:
Boys & Girls Cross Country vs. TBA: 9:30 AM, Allen's Meadow (Wilton)
Boys Soccer vs. Danbury High School: 3:00 PM, Danbury High School

Sunday, September 20:
Field Hockey vs. TBA at the Max Field Hockey Invitational: 5:00 PM, The Proving Grounds (Conshohocken, PA)

Roll Wave! Have a terrific weekend. For all observing Yom Kippur, have an easy fast.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D.
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