Darien Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Darien Community,

On Wednesday evening, I was a dinner guest at ABC House. A Better Chance (ABC) is a long-standing program in Darien that provides high-achieving young women from underserved communities the opportunity to live in Darien and attend Darien High School. I enjoyed getting to know the students and learning about all of the activities they participate in at DHS and in town. It is a very impressive program. If you wish to learn more about ABC House, please visit the website.

National Principals Month
October is National Principals Month, a time to recognize and appreciate the leadership, dedication and spirit of the incredible principals that lead our school buildings. Please join me in celebrating all seven of our phenomenal principals at our Darien Public Schools - thank you all for the work you do and the amazing communities you create for staff, students and families in our district!

Royle Elementary School Ribbon Cutting
We celebrated our second ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday at Holmes Elementary School - thank you to everyone who joined us! We have one more ribbon cutting at Royle Elementary School next week on Thursday, October 15 at 4:00, and we invite everyone to join us!

Byrne's Book Club
Thank you to everyone for your input in selecting the books for this year's Byrne's Book Club! We are happy to announce our three selections for the year and the corresponding meeting dates. Our first session will take place on October 29 at 7:00 PM at The Depot to discuss *The Success Trap* by Stuart Slavin. We will then discuss *Situated* by Angela Duckworth on February 11 at 7:00 PM, and conclude with *The Emotional Lives of Parents* by Lisa Damour on April 21 at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendars—locations for the February and April meetings will be announced closer to each date!

Parent University
Please join us for our first Parent University session of the school year, "Demystifying Curriculum," on Thursday October 15 at 6:30 PM at Middlesex Middle School. With helpful information for parents and guardians K-12, this discussion will explore how learning is designed across our district, how consistency is maintained in the classroom, and practical ways to talk with your children about what they are learning in school. If you are interested in joining us, please use this Google Form to RSVP so we can properly plan for the event. Please note, Parent University sessions are only for parents and guardians of DPS students. We look forward to welcoming our families for a dynamic conversation about curriculum!

The Tokeneke Pumpkin Carnival Is Almost Here! Saturday, October 17th, 10am - 4pm

For 50+ years, on one magical October day, Tokeneke Elementary School transforms into a Halloween themed amusement park! **Buy ride tickets now and save almost 20%!** Advanced ride tickets and game/art punch cards are available online HERE and can be picked up at WILL CALL at the Carnival. Student volunteers are an invaluable and much-appreciated part of our Carnival! Volunteering is also a wonderful opportunity for older students looking to fulfill their community service hour requirements while supporting a beloved community event. Please consider the following volunteer opportunities within GAMES, ART, and CLEANUP. You can even sign up with a friend! Join us next Saturday for one of Darien's favorite fall traditions!

Around Town

Fall for Darien Festival - Celebrate the season with Darien Parks & Recreation at the First Annual Fall for Darien on Saturday, October 10 from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM at Highland Farm, 560 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820, for an afternoon of fall fun for the whole community. This FREE, all-ages event, will feature live music by Gunsmoke, family-friendly activities, local vendors with items available for purchase, and more seasonal fun to enjoy! Bring your family and friends, explore Highland Farm, and help kick off what will hopefully become a favorite annual Darien tradition. Celebrate fall, community, and everything that is loved about Darien!

Screenagers: Generation AI Screening at the Darien Library
Join The Depot Youth Center and their community partners for a special screening of Screenagers: Generation AI on Wednesday, October 14, from 7:00–8:30 PM at Darien Library. This timely new film explores how artificial intelligence is shaping the way young people learn, connect, create, and navigate everyday life. Following the screening, families will have an opportunity to continue the conversation around both the opportunities and challenges of growing up in the age of AI. The program is recommended for students in grades 6–12 and their parents/caregivers. Space is limited and registration is required through darienlibrary.org. Presented in partnership with Catalyst CT/ The Hub, Darien Library, Middlesex Parent Association, OK to Delay Darien, Thriving Youth Darien, and Wave Strong.

YWCA Events - The Darien YWCA is hosting two events in the coming weeks focused on topics surrounding our youth and teenage age groups.*Growing Up Today: Teen Voices on Relationships & Connection* - In collaboration with the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) the program will give parents and caregivers a window into the relationships and pressures teens are navigating today. Using anonymous feedback from local teens, this Parent Awareness program will explore what young people wish adults understood about their relationships, social media, communication, and the realities of growing up in today's world. This free virtual event will be held on October 20 at 7:00pm **Register Here**. The second event, *Beyond The Scoreboard: The Mental Game of Student Athletes* - in collaboration with Wave Strong, attendees will learn practical tools to help your child or teen athlete. This discussion will be led by Carrie Potoff, LCSW and Rhodie Lorenz, M. Ed. This free virtual event will be held on October 29 at 7:00pm **Register Here**.

Athletic Schedule
We hope to see you out this weekend supporting our Blue Wave athletic teams! Here is the varsity schedule for October 9 and 10:
Friday, October 9:
Girls Swimming vs. New Canaan: 3:00 PM, New Canaan YMCA
Boys Soccer vs. Trumbull: 5:30 PM, Trumbull High School
Girls Volleyball vs. Ridgefield: 5:45 PM, Ridgefield High School
Saturday, October 10:
Boys and Girls Cross Country vs. TBA at Wickham Invitational: 9:00 AM, Wickham Park (Manchester)
Girls Soccer vs. Fairfield Warde: 10:00 AM, DHS Center Oval

Have a terrific weekend!

Sincerely,



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