Darien Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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November 13, 2026

Dear Darien Community,

In 1999 I was a first year principal at P.S. 183 in Manhattan. Not to sound like a dinosaur, but email had not yet arrived in schools. When someone needed to reach a school, parents either called or actually stopped at the school. In the main office, I left a notebook with a sticker on the front that said, *Notes for Mr. Byrne*, where parents left me a note if they stopped by and I was out of the office. It was a much simpler time when administrators were not tethered to a computer or a cell phone. This week's global Microsoft outage brought back fond memories of the pre-email and cell phone days in schools. I also heard from a lot of friends in the business community that not having access to Outlook or Teams made for quite a productive day on Thursday! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we've navigated this disruption.

National School Psychologist Week
November 9-13 marks National School Psychology Week, and we are proud to recognize the invaluable contributions of our dedicated school psychologists. These essential educators play a vital role in supporting the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of all our students. Please join me in thanking our school psychologists for their expertise, compassion and unwavering commitment to our school communities. They are:
● Taylor Bonano, Bahar Musa, Jenna Poulos and Jacquie Vele, Darien High School ● Taylor Kurtz, Fitch Academy ● Patricia O'Meara, Katherine Petruzzelli and Monique Ross, Middlesex Middle School ● Nisha Chokshi and Cassandra McGrath, Hindley Elementary School ● Emily DiCostanzo and Elizabeth Viducich, Holmes Elementary School ● Annie Farson, Danielle Rathey and Myriah Rosengarten, Ox Ridge Elementary School ● Caitlyn Crean and Diana Whamond, Royle Elementary School ● Nicole Broomfield, Morgan Cole, and Irmina Chrzastek (Intern), Tokeneke Elementary School

Fireside Chat
I am excited to announce that our Fall Fireside Chat will be held next Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 PM at Hindley Elementary School! We will be discussing the topic of resiliency and have invited a panel of Darien High School students to share their experiences and perspectives. I encourage families of students in all schools and grades to join us as we engage in conversation about this crucial topic.

Theatre 308 - You Can't Take it With You
Congratulations to Theatre 308 on a fantastic first performance of their production of *You Can't Take it With You* last night! Miss the opening show? No worries, there are performances tonight and tomorrow at 7:00 PM at Darien High School. Come out and support our talented cast and crew of students!

Parent University - Demystifying K-12 Curriculum
As a reminder, we will be hosting a daytime session of our Parent University program on Demystifying K-12 Curriculum on Friday, November 20th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Board of Education meeting room at Central Office, 35 Leroy

Avenue. To sign up, use this Google Form. If you have already signed up, we look forward to seeing you and encourage you to bring your own device (laptop, tablet, etc.) as the session will be interactive!

Darien Music Parents Association Poinsettia Fundraiser

Get into the holiday spirit and help fund music enrichment programs for every student, PreK-12! Purchase beautiful red or white poinsettias through the Darien Music Parents Association's annual fundraiser. Decorate your home, spread some holiday cheer, or give one as a gift! Order deadline is Wednesday, November 25th, with pick-up on Wednesday, December 2nd after school at the DHS Auditorium. For more details and to place your order, **visit this link.**

Middlesex Parent Association Direct Appeal

The Middlesex Parent Association is currently running their Direct Appeal fundraiser, and is 35% of the way to their goal! Your generous donations play a vital role in providing MMS students and teachers with many fun and enriching opportunities including: renowned author visits, Blues & Beyond, and student & parent programming such as internet safety expert, Scott Driscoll, 8th Grade Career Day, High School transition visit, graduation celebrations, teacher and staff appreciation throughout the year, including back-to-school and holiday lunches, gifting of festive Thanksgiving pies, and all our staff appreciation week efforts.

It's easier than ever to donate! Click here to Venmo your donation today, or Pay4schoolstuff and check options are also available. Thank you for your support in helping our middle school students have enriching learning experiences!

Around Town

2026 Depot Overstuffed Turkey Trot Sign Up

Come burn off those extra calories on Friday, November 27th at the 4th annual Depot Turkey Trot being held on the Darien High School cross country trail. There is a 1-mile walk/run that starts at 10:00AM, followed by a 5K walk/run option that starts at 10:30AM. To register and learn more, visit dariendepot.com.

Athletic Schedule

It's another great weekend of sports action for Blue Wave athletics as our teams continue to dominate in post-season play! Here is the schedule for the weekend:

Friday, November 13:
Field Hockey vs. Greenwich High School (CIAC Quarterfinal): 4:00 PM, DHS Stadium Field

Saturday, November 14:
Football vs. Stamford High School: 11:00 AM, Stamford High School
Girls Swimming at Class L Trials: 11:45 AM, Cornerstone Aquatics Center (West Hartford)

Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,



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