Darien Public Schools

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Dear Darien Community,

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, I am incredibly grateful to be a part of the Darien Public Schools community. This week, I had the opportunity to visit Ox Ridge Elementary School to see some of our incredible Darien High School students lead an Upstander Brigade program for the fifth grade classes. They did an amazing job speaking to the younger students and guiding them through activities to reinforce the importance of being an ally and friend to all of their classmates. Watching how the fifth graders interacted with and looked up to the older students was a wonderful example of the rich community that exists in DPS, and one of the many things that sets us apart from other districts.

Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27: No School
As a reminder, we will be closed on Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, November 30!

Board of Education Meeting Recap
Our Board of Education Meeting was an exciting one this week as we welcomed new members Crystal Hill and Peter Orphanos. The board re-elected Robin Nelson, Greg Grambling, and Kadiatu Lublin to their positions as Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. We also had a very informative presentation by Dr. Amy Fedigan about an update of where we currently stand on our District Strategic Plan progress - if you missed it, watch here!

Fireside Chat Embers
Thank you all who attended my first Fireside Chat of the school year. It was an enlightening evening as Dr. Alycia Dadd and I had the chance to chat with two very impressive young people from the community. We enjoyed speaking with our two DHS student panelists, Kylie Best and Joe Roche who shared their experiences in our schools and talked about how they have developed resilience over the years. We heard about the importance of family time watching Dancing with the Stars and hearing how important it is to have family movie night as well. If you were unable to join us, we will be posting a recording of the chat on our district website in the coming days. Stay tuned!

DHS Parent Association Direct Appeal
The 2026 DHSPA Direct Appeal is underway! This is the only direct appeal of the year for DHSPA, and they rely on your support to reach their $30,000 goal by November 25th. This year's Fuel the Wave campaign gives our students, faculty, staff and volunteers the resources they need to shine. Your support enables the Darien High School Parents Association (DHSPA) to fund programs, events and initiatives that enrich the DHS experience for everyone. Please donate today using this PayPal link. You may also send checks to DHS payable to Darien High School Parents Association. Thank you for helping Fuel the Wave and making DHS the vibrant, inspiring community our students deserve!

Around Town

2026 Depot Overstuffed Turkey Trot Sign Up!
Come join the fun on Friday, November 27th and participate in the 4th annual Depot Turkey Trot being held on the Darien High School cross country trail. There is a 5K walk/run option that starts at 10:30AM and a 1 mile walk/run that starts at 10:00AM. Adults are $50 and kids ages 6-12 are $30 and under 6 are free. To register and learn more go to dariendepot.com.

Athletic Schedule
Congratulations to the DHS Field Hockey team in their 3-0 victory over New Canaan on Tuesday in the CIAC State Semi-Finals to advance to the State Championship this weekend! They will take on Fairfield Ludlowe at 11:00 AM tomorrow at Wethersfield High School in a FCIAC Championship rematch as they battle for the state title. Good luck, Blue Wave Field Hockey! Here is the full athletic schedule for the weekend:

Saturday, November 21:
Field Hockey vs. Fairfield Ludlowe (CIAC State Championship): 11:00 AM, Wethersfield High School

Sunday, November 22:
Girls Swimming at State Opens: 1:00 PM, Yale University

Turkey Bowl Livestream
I look forward to seeing our community gather for the annual Turkey Bowl at DHS on Thanksgiving morning! If you plan on watching from home, use this link from DAF Media. Go Blue Wave!

Have a terrific weekend!

Sincerely,



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