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# DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Darien High School, 80 High School Lane, Darien, Connecticut 06820 • (203) 655-3981

January, 2007

### Donna Russo: Connecticut Assistant Principal of the Year

Darien High School's own Donna Russo has recently been selected as Connecticut High School Assistant Principal of the Year for 2007 by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Donna will compete with other state winners for National Assistant Principal of the Year Award, sponsored by Virco. She will be honored at the National Association of Secondary Principals Annual Convention in Las Vegas in February and at a Connecticut Administrators Awards Dinner next fall. Criteria for the award included making positive contributions to high schools through collaborative leadership, leadership in curriculum, instruction and assessment, and leadership in personalizing the school experience for students.



Donna Russo has been an Assistant Principal at DHS since 1996. Her career as an educator started as an Art teacher in Rochester, New York then Baskin Ridge, New Jersey. Russo was the Fine Arts Director at Bethel High School before she became an Assistant Principal there for seven years. She has many roles as an administrator at DHS and is a go-to person, whom students, faculty, staff, and parents feel comfortable approaching.

"Donna's level of efficiency and effectiveness, extreme dedication and commitment, wonderful ability to relate to all others, and extremely strong character make her a model for all others in her role and a most appropriate representative of assistant principals," said DHS Principal, Dr. Jerry Auclair.

Superintendent of Schools Don Fital says, "She's a hard working administrator who labors without great fanfare, does her work, every day, every month, school year after school year and never has been one to seek accolades." Russo received a standing ovation at the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> when Fital announced the award.

Donna Russo earned a B.S. in art education from Hofstra University, holds a M.Ed. in administration and supervision from Rutgers and was awarded a Sixth Year Professional Degree from Fairfield University. She is currently completing her doctorate at Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

# From the Principal's Desk

Dr. Jerry Auclair

## WHO CAN BEST ASSESS YOUR CHILD'S ABILITY?

A recent column in *The Darien Times* suggesting that Darien High School have open enrollment in Advanced Placement courses caused me to again think about this issue, which I do from time to time. In support of open enrollment it would seem like a good idea to allow students to challenge themselves academically to the greatest extent possible. The professional staff of Darien High School would agree with any critic of our programs that this is our goal. The question then remains, how best can we accomplish that goal?

Placement in advanced level courses, like all decisions about a child's abilities, is often a source of some contention between parents and teachers. For courses like BC Calculus or AP Physics in which it is more obvious what intellectual abilities and pre-requisite knowledge are required to be successful, there is usually little argument about who belongs in the class. For courses in the area of the humanities that require higher level thinking skills such as synthesis, analysis and application of abstract concepts and an exceptional ability to write effectively and contribute to class discussions, the judgments are viewed to be somewhat more subjective. It is not surprising that there is frequently more disagreement regarding English and history placements. The English and history departments at Darien High School have attempted to make the criteria for admission as objective as possible and have created an appeals process to help with difficult decisions. The appeals process seems to work well in most cases.

Darien High School has also responded to parent concerns about students being kept out of advanced level classes by adding more AP courses over the past few years. These courses serve to provide advanced learning opportunities for students who do not qualify for the most competitive courses and whose strong interest in a subject allows them to succeed at an advanced level. We believe that the best measure of the effectiveness of our efforts is our school's increased level of participation and continuing high scores on AP examinations. Since 2001 the number of AP exams taken at Darien High School has increased by 70%. For the Class of 2006, 52% of the graduates earned a 3 or better on at least one AP exam and 26% of the class were designated as AP Scholars of varying levels. We have accomplished this without sacrificing the quality of our programs. Evidence of this is that 39% of our scores were 5, 34% were 4 and 22% were 3, a total of 95% scoring at the level accepted by most colleges and universities for credit. This evidence clearly supports our contention that we are providing our students with academically challenging programs in which they find success.

Often parents think that motivation can make up for gaps in ability. While this is true to an extent, if the motivation is the parent's and not the student's there isn't much chance of success. If the child is motivated, then the child has probably met the pre-requisites or has demonstrated an ability to compete at the more advanced level. It is only natural for teachers to teach to the level of the class. Advanced level classes can be slowed down by less capable students to the detriment of the brighter students in the class. Our goal is to challenge all of our students. It

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should also be mentioned that the honors level is not the only challenging level of classes at Darien High School. We strive to challenge every student at the appropriate level of academic difficulty.

The critical question here is: are you the best judge of the abilities of your child? Parents certainly should support and advocate for their child, but they should also recognize that their judgment is clouded by their love. Not every basketball player in the school can start on the varsity team. It takes more than motivation to finish first in the state cross country championship. Not every player in the orchestra can be the concert master. Not every singer in the chorus makes Tudor Singers. Not every student in the school belongs in AP English. These are difficult decisions that may be difficult for parents to accept. However, the most objective people to decide which students make the cut are the coaches, the music teachers and the classroom teachers.

### Welcome to the College and Career Center!

Welcome to the CCC! The College and Career Center is now open on a regular basis to all DHS students, parents, and staff on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. As the year progresses, Guidance staff will also be present in the Center whenever possible.

Please come visit the CCC and discover the resources available there. CCC committee volunteers guide visitors through the files which contain the following information:

- Viewbooks and applications to colleges in the US and other countries
- College course catalogs
- Alternative programs for the study of music, art, and other specialized areas
- Scholarship availability
- Post graduate year studies from a list of private secondary schools
- Summer internships

The mission of the CCC is to provide information on a wide array of post high school opportunities. The Center is also equipped with computers for access to Naviance, and SAT/ACT registration materials.

Each fall the Center is host to the visiting college representatives and is a very busy place. Now that the rep visits are over, the Center will be open as a library resource. Please stop in!





# DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

80 High School Lane  
Darien, CT 06820



**James Coleman, Faculty Advisor**

**On Monday, December 19th the DHS Faculty Council offered membership in the DHS National Honor Society to the following students:**

Katie Balloch	Mika Ike
James Bishko	Lindsay Lyons
Kimberly Carey	Brianna Mulligan
Isabel Castro	Timothy Nelson
Katherine Cobb	Katy Quintal
Carolyn Conley	Katherine Rawden
Evelyn Cordner	Erik Rogers
Courtney Finkel	Kristen Schau
Meghan Foley	Sarah Streeter
Renee Gagne	Amanda Tripodi
Daniel Gentile	William Vernon
Lindsay Gordon	

Twenty-three students from Darien High School were inducted as new members of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held on December 19th. Members were selected by the chapter's Faculty Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

"We are very proud to recognize these outstanding members of our student body. National Honor Society members are chosen for and then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community," said James Coleman, chapter adviser.

Each year, the Darien High School chapter sponsors several service projects for the school and community, which in the last few years have included volunteering at Stepping Stones Children's Museum, tutoring students at Royle School, and organizing holiday food drives.

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in more than 15,000 high schools and, since 1921, millions of students have been selected for membership. Millions of dollars in scholarships have been awarded to senior members since 1945 by the sponsoring organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

### Ice Hockey Incident

At a recent boys' ice hockey game against Hamden High School, along with the police supervisors, we made a decision to remove the Darien High School student rooting section from the rink. The decision was made because the large majority of the students in the section continued to harass the Hamden goalie, despite several warnings from us.

Our decision was not popular with the students and many parents. We regret that we had to take such a drastic measure. However, we would ask you to consider that it is our obligation to control our fans and to enforce the FCIAC sportsmanship code. A large section of students in an emotionally charged athletic atmosphere can develop a mob mentality in which they do not see the need to comply with the requests of the supervisors. In reflecting on our actions, we feel that had we done anything else, we would not have met our obligations to promote positive sportsmanship. If this unfortunate situation was caused by our lack of enforcement of good sportsmanship in the past few seasons, we apologize. However, there has been an increased emphasis placed on sportsmanship this year by both the FCIAC and the CIAC. We are also motivated by the ugly incident at last spring's lacrosse finals.

On the day after the Hamden game, we had many excellent discussions with students about what had occurred. As always, we were most impressed by the willingness of the Darien High School students to listen to us and consider our point of view. We listened carefully to the students and have the greatest respect for their opinions and perceptions. The result has been a better understanding on all of our parts about what are and are not reasonable expectations for good sportsmanship behavior.

We encourage fan support and want all of our spectators to have a great time. Athletic events should be great fun. We appreciate everyone's efforts to make them so. Go Blue Wave!

Sincerely,

Jerry Auclair, Doug Rubin and John Keleher

### Enjoy "An Enchanted Evening" a Dessert Dance for Adults



The DHS Orchestra will be hosting **An Enchanted Evening Dessert Dance** for adults on **Saturday, January 20th** in the main gym at Darien HS from 8:00 – 11:00 pm. All adults are invited to attend. The evening will feature DJ Tony Reno (formally of KOOL 96.7) his live orchestra, a dessert bar and ball room dancing. Semi-formal attire or Disney costumes encouraged! For more information and/or tickets please email [annfitz@yahoo.com](mailto:annfitz@yahoo.com) or drop by Barrett Books. All proceeds will be used to help with expenses for the Darien High School Orchestra's trip to Disney Music Magic Days this spring.

## DHS Student and Faculty News

Senior, **Caroline Nash**, was among forty-four students who earned 2006-07 USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll honors. Caroline, who rows locally for Maritime Rowing Club and will continue her rowing and academic career at Yale in the Fall, received Gold Medal honors. She is a member of the US Junior National Team, and competed in Amsterdam last summer at the Junior World Rowing Championships. The USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Applicants must be USRowing members, have rowed or coxed at least one year and successfully competed at or above the league or regional level.

Darien High School juniors **Katie Bennett** and **Brekke McDowell** volunteer their time and energy to assist in the "Spirit Bow" Bracelet program at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The program was started by Stamford resident, Amy Jo Rice, a 33 year old woman diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. She created a bead bracelet with a purple bow for herself that lifted her spirits whenever she looked at it. The Spirit Bow Bracelet program was launched when Amy decided to pass on the "positive purple energy" to others. Katie and Brekke are helping Amy's goal to donate as many Spirit Bow Bracelets as possible, every month, to young girls hospitalized at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

**Emilie Gallo** was presented with the "Youth Volunteer of the Year Award" by Star, Inc. at the organizations annual meeting in October 2006. Star, Inc. assists individuals with developmental disabilities. Emilie volunteered for the organization in numerous ways. She and her father raised funds by participating in Star, Inc.'s First Annual Walk and Stroll. Most notably Emilie devoted several hours each week to the "Star Café" (formerly located at the Darien Sport Shop) working with other area teens and with three developmentally challenged adults, cooking and serving lunch and snacks. "I made a commitment to work *with* the Star employees and not just for the organization, and in doing so I learned much more from them than I ever thought possible," Emilie remarked when she was presented with the plaque. The Star Café profits helped support the program and provided work opportunities for three of Star, Inc.'s clients. [Since the Star Café closed, the three clients were placed in employment at the Darien Sport Shop.]

On Nov 2, 2006, Weekend Alternatives sponsored a badminton tournament in the main gym. **Julie Prescott RN**, the group's advisor, was assisted by **Coach Tim Chase** who set up the event and refereed the games. "We were amazed at the turn out! The kids really enjoy the game and have requested a rematch in the spring" says Mrs. Prescott. Thirty-six teams turned out, and many students and parents came to watch. The winners were seniors **Brian Coupe** and **Santiago Ynigo**, "Team Shuttlecock", who took home a badminton set. In second place was "Team 4.36", **David Joosten** and **Garrett Visi**. They received iTunes gift certificates as a prize. Look for a night of extreme bowling coming up, and some more sporting events later in the year. Many thanks to Coach Chase for his help.

## Principal's Newsletter

The “**Snow Ball**”, which returned to the Darien High School social calendar after a hiatus, was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and was a big success for both social and philanthropic reasons. Students who attended were able to enjoy the dance as well as make Christmas more enjoyable for fellow teenagers in the area. DHS students were asked to bring an appropriate gift or gift card to donate to local teens. Social Service programs say teenagers are often overlooked in holiday gift drives, as people tend to concentrate on younger children who are in need. The students who attended the dance were generous, and \$1,000 in gift cards in addition to a truck load of other gifts and toys were donated.



**Emily Cortright** was awarded a Congressional Award bronze medal at the office of Congressman Christopher Shays. She has been working on this for about 2 years and has completed several projects in the areas of volunteerism, personal development, physical fitness, and travel/exploration. She sewed quilts for a local Veterans Hospital and Neonatal Intensive care unit, tried out for and won a role in the school play at MMS, pitched every inning of every game for her Little League softball team (after the starting pitcher got mono during the 1st game of the season: 15-1-1 record), and camped out and hiked the Appalachian Trail. She is halfway finished with her silver medal requirements after spending time this past summer helping rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina.



**China Program**—In preparation for the upcoming trip to China, the China Exchange students have had several Chinese lessons with teacher **Hui Wen**.



**Recycling** — The Community Council has organized recycling in the DHS Cafeteria. Please keep recycling!



# News from Guidance

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The guidance department would like to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy 2007!

## IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Mrs. Larit, who gave birth to a daughter, Emma Ashley in mid-December. Mrs. Debra Webb-Maloney has been working with Mrs. Larit's students in her absence.

## “HOW IT IS”

“*How It Is*” was held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The presentation helped present seniors get a first hand look at the life of college students. We would like to thank the following DHS alumni who participated for sharing their insights and knowledge with our seniors: Kara Barclay, Christopher Bogie, Michelle Bolduc, Michael Coburn, Chloe Ettari, Kate Farley, Haley Murphy, Catherine Shortliffe, Lauren Thoren, and Zach Saffa.

## FINANCIAL AID FORMS ON-LINE

The easiest way to process financial aid forms is on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (do not use [www.fafsa.com](http://www.fafsa.com)--this is a pay site).

The PROFILE can be accessed at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>

Some other helpful financial aid websites include:

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Most colleges have set financial aid priority filing deadlines of either **February 1 or 15**.

## 2007-2008 REGISTRATION

Honors testing for English and history classes for next school year will take place in January. For deadlines, please see information provided in this newsletter. **Registration for 2007-2008 is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007.**

## CAPT TESTING:

The State of Connecticut has scheduled mandatory CAPT Testing in March. All sophomores must sit for all segments of CAPT Testing. Juniors who have not met the state goal in one or more area(s) of CAPT should re-test in order to meet Darien High School graduation criteria. Freshmen will sit for a practice version of the Response to Literature on Friday, March 2. Students not testing will follow a delayed-start schedule (to be announced) from Fri-

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day, March 2 through Friday, March 9. Students absent during regular testing will be administered make-up tests during school hours the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>.

March 5	Monday	Math I, Science I
March 6	Tuesday	Writing I, Reading for Information
March 7	Wednesday	Response to Literature
March 8	Thursday	Writing 2, Editing & Revising
March 9	Friday	Math II, Science II
March 12	Monday	Writing Ia (Sophomores only)
March 12	Monday	Response to Literature (Freshmen only)
March 19	Monday	MAKE-UP Math I, Science I
March 20	Tuesday	MAKE-UP Writing I, Reading for Info.
March 21	Wednesday	MAKE-UP Response to Literature
March 22	Thursday	MAKE-UP Writing 2, Editing & Revising
March 23	Friday	MAKE-UP Math II, Science II

### QUESTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR?

If you have questions about anything you have read or heard, feel free to call your counselor. Better yet, send an email:

[rpomer@darienps.org](mailto:rpomer@darienps.org)  
[mcaro@darienps.org](mailto:mcaro@darienps.org)  
[jdoucette@darienps.org](mailto:jdoucette@darienps.org)  
[jflaherty@darienps.org](mailto:jflaherty@darienps.org)  
[ktaylor@darienps.org](mailto:ktaylor@darienps.org)  
[bthorne@darienps.org](mailto:bthorne@darienps.org)  
[dwebb-maloney@darienps.org](mailto:dwebb-maloney@darienps.org)

### FOR THE CLASS OF 2011 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade):

Next September may seem a long way off, but planning and preparation for the transition from Middlesex eighth grader to High School Freshman have already begun. The following information outlines the process for you. There are important dates here that you might want to place on your calendar. Please note that the pre-registration workshops for parents will be held Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> (see below).

#### January/February

Middlesex grade 8 Guidance Department distributes and explains high school course information in grade 8 classes. Topics covered include: The pre-registration process, required freshman courses, prerequisites for courses, and Freshman electives.

## Darien High School

The week of February 5, the eighth grade teams apply course criteria for required subjects on pre-registration forms.

**February 5 (Monday)** High School Department Coordinators present a brief overview of ninth grade offerings to parents at **7:30 P.M.** in the DHS Auditorium. Introduction by high school principal, Jerry Auclair.

**February 13: (Tuesday)** Mr. Robert Pomer, DHS Coordinator of Guidance will present one afternoon and one evening pre-registration workshop. The afternoon workshop will be held from **1:30 – 2:30**. The evening workshop will be held at **7:30 P.M.** **Both workshops will be held in the DHS auditorium.** *Each workshop covers the same material. It is only necessary to attend one.*

**March 5** pre-registration forms mailed home to eighth grade students. These forms require parent signature for approval. The deadline return date to the Guidance Department is **March 8.**

**May 2 “Academic Planning Workshop,” 7:30 P.M., DHS large cafeteria.**

At this workshop, we will be looking ahead to the Sophomore, Junior and Senior years. Based on your student’s academic strengths, areas requiring reinforcement, academic and non-academic interests, the DHS guidance staff will discuss and recommend various options that will become available as your student progresses through Darien High School.

### Course Placement and Standardized Test Information

Final grades earned in grade 8 will influence placement for most Freshman core offerings. (English, history, mathematics, science, and foreign language). Scores on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and other group achievement tests administered during the eighth grade year also help determine course placement in English, mathematics, and science. Scores on the Comprehensive Test of Proficiency IV (sometimes referred to as “the ERB”) will influence placement into Accelerated English.

### SUMMARY OF EVENTS CALENDAR FOR PARENTS

**February 5 at 7:30 P.M. DHS Auditorium**  
**Presentation of grade 9 course overview**  
**Dr. Jerry Auclair, Principal of DHS**  
**DHS Department Coordinators**

**February 13 at 1:30 P.M. or 7:30 P.M. DHS Auditorium**  
**Pre-registration Workshops**  
**Mr. Robert Pomer, Coordinator of Guidance, DHS**

**May 2 at 7:30 P.M. DHS Auditorium**  
**Academic Planning Workshop**  
**Mr. Robert Pomer and High School Counselors**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **John Keleher to Speak at Father's Forum**

On Saturday, January 20th, 2007 from 8:00—9:30 a.m. John Keleher will be speaking at the Father's Forum on "How to be the parent of an athlete."

### **The 2007 Darien Young Composers Concert**

The Music Department of the Darien Public Schools would like to announce the seventh annual Darien Young Composers Concert. This special concert program will be held on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middlesex Middle School auditorium and will feature the works of student composers in the Darien Public Schools from the Elementary, Middle School and High School levels.

All compositions for performance consideration must be recorded on a cassette or CD and submitted along with the application form to one of the school music teachers no later than March 8, 2007. Students whose compositions are chosen to be included on the concert performance will be notified by March 19. The student composers selected to perform will also have the opportunity to meet with a professional composer and have their compositions reviewed. During the course of the school year music teachers in the Darien Public Schools will be engaging their students in composition activities and encouraging participation in this unique opportunity. Guidelines, application forms and other information are available from all school music teachers in the Darien Public Schools, at: [www.darienps.org/dpsmusic](http://www.darienps.org/dpsmusic) or by calling the Music Office at: 655-3981 ext: 2250.



## **THANK YOU!**

A sincere thank you from the Faculty and Staff of DHS to Debbie Kunces, Wendy Brokaw, Rhetta Vinson and the Darien High School Parents Association for the lovely luncheon they hosted on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

We also wish the entire Darien High School community a prosperous 2007!

## AP Exam Success

Darien High School Students performed exceptionally well on the 2006 Advanced Placement Tests. In all, Darien High School students took 351 AP Exams in 15 different subjects. Scores were distributed as follows:

Test Score	Number of Students Taking Exam	Percent of Students with Test Score
5*	137	39%
4	119	33.9%
3	76	21.6%
2	16	4.6%
1	3	0.9%

\*5 is the highest test score

In all 61 members of the Class of 2006 earned some level of distinction on AP Exams, accounting for 25.6% of the graduating class, and 52% of the class earned a 3 or better on at least one AP Exam. The College Board reported that AP Award notifications and certificates were sent to the following students:

**National AP Scholar** – Average of at least 4 and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more AP Exams: Matthew Jones.

**AP Scholar with Distinction** – 3.5 average and 3 or higher on 5 or more AP Exams: Timur Akman-Duffy, Michael Coburn, Katharine Davis, Joshua Doying, Kathleen Farley, Katharine Hill, David Joosten, Alison Ko, Jennifer Lauro, Emily Leimkuhler, Elaine Masek, Lisa Mengwall, Jennifer Merritt, Heita Miki, Haley Murphy, Gregory Papis, Alexander Puzyk, John Saffa, Jonathan Salmans, Kathryn Samsen, John Saulitis, Samuel Schlinkert, Catherine Shortliffe, Sayuri Soejima, Laura Thoren, Suzanne Waller.

**AP Scholar with Honor** – Average of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more APs: Carolyn Birsky, Christopher Black, Catherine Flanagan, Phillip Garrott, Tyler Gidseg, Matthew Greene, Allison Hobbs, Kirsty HUGHAN, Katherine Johnston, Jason Klein, Kathrine Pearson, William Powers, Kasey Rischmann, Natalie Rogers, Mallory Walsh.

**AP Scholar** – Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP Exams: Kendra Albert, Elizabeth Bennett, Kathryn Biggart, Sarah Biggart, Kelly Buch, Kenyon Colli, Joseph Conetta, Tara Fitzpatrick, Daniel Flowers, Timothy Grejtak, Theodore Helms, Bonnie Licero, Nicholas Montaperto, Richard Munoz, Robert Munro, Berit Nelson, Paul Nelson, Mina Remole, John Schlinkert, Erika Sekse, Sarah Seymour, Mikiya Silver, Matthew Teatom, James Wyper.

# News from the DHSPA

Dear Parents;

Welcome to 2007! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

The DHSPA hosted a Holiday luncheon for the faculty and staff in December. Thanks to Debbie Kunces, Rhetta Vinson, and Wendy Brokaw for organizing this event. The staff truly enjoyed the luncheon and we appreciate all that they do for the students of Darien High School throughout the year.

January is an important month, as it begins the budget process for the Board of Education. Our budget representative for DHS is Gwen Mogenson. Your support for the Board of Education and Board of Finance are of vital importance. Please attend meetings and make your voices heard. The schedule of meetings will be in our e-mail blasts.

Our nominating co-chairs Susan Orr and Lynn Reilly are beginning the process of putting together the slate for 2007-2008 and would love to hear from you. Please consider getting involved at DHS by submitting a form or contacting one of the co-chairs. Your participation is much appreciated and vital to the needs of The DHSPA.

Our next DHSPA meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the Auditorium. Coffee will be served at 9:00 a.m. and you can take it with you for our meeting! The program will feature the Guidance Department, Naviance, and what happens next for our juniors. Thanks to Mary Moore and Amy Pomponi for organizing this presentation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Looking forward to 2007, we will be revising our By Laws with Dot Kelly's help. Your suggestions are welcome. Also, remember the College & Career Center is open for students and parents alike. Stop by and visit this wonderful resource!

We wish you all a healthy and Happy New Year! Attend our meetings and contact us with your thoughts and ideas. We would like to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jayne Stevenson and Barb Simms

### **DHSPA Positions:**

Anyone interested in volunteering for a position on the 2007-2008 PTO should contact Susan Orr [eldhorr@optonline.net](mailto:eldhorr@optonline.net) and Lynn Reilly [xlorx@optonline.net](mailto:xlorx@optonline.net), nominating chairs for PTO. The initial slate will be pulled together this month.

## Eating Disorders More Prevalent

- More than 90 percent of the 11 million Americans who struggle with some form of eating disorder are women between the ages of 12 and 25. (Source: National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA))
- In a landmark NEDA survey conducted earlier this year, approximately 20 percent of 1,002 male and female college students admitted to personally struggling with an eating disorder, and 40 percent claimed they know someone who purges.
- Another 2006 survey of 170 female student-athletes between the ages of 13 and 18 at six Southern California high schools revealed that 18 percent experienced disordered eating – eating that in some way puts the individual at risk, even if the condition does not meet the official diagnostic criteria for anorexia, bulimia, laxative abuse or other common eating disorders.
- A 2003 study published in the *International Journal of Eating Disorders* indicated that 40 percent of newly identified cases of anorexia occur in girls between the ages of 15 and 19, that the incidence of bulimia has tripled in females between the ages of 10 and 39 since 1988, and that the majority of individuals affected do not receive adequate care.

A recent St. Louis University study looked at 76 female student-athletes playing Division I sports and determined that abnormal and low-calorie eating habits could lead to leg pain and stress fractures because of decreased estrogen production. Researchers also say that eating disorders can result in serious heart conditions, kidney failure or death.

Source: CAS Bulletin, December 2006

The Depot January 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HAPPY NEW YEAR!	1 DEPOT CLOSED	2 KID'S IN CRISIS YOUTH CORPS \$6B EXEC 7/FULL 7:30	3 \$1.00 MENU NIGHT 5-7 pm	4 "CELEBRITY CHEF" w/VINNY'S BACKYARD! 6-7:30 pm \$5/plate	5 "OPEN MIC" 8 pm/\$5	6 DDR TOURNAMENT 7:30-10 pm \$7 ENTRY FEE
	7 DEPOT CLOSED	8 DEPOT CLOSED	9 \$6B EXEC 7/FULL 7:30	10 \$1.00 MENU NIGHT 5-7 pm	11 AROUND THE TABLE w/'SOOZ' 4-5:30 pm	12 BAND NIGHT \$6
	14 DEPOT CLOSED	15 DEPOT CLOSED	16 NO \$6B	17 \$1.00 MENU NIGHT 5-7 pm	18 \$6B COMMITTEE MEETING 7:30 pm	19 CALL NIGHT
	21 DEPOT CLOSED	22 DEPOT CLOSED	23 \$6B EXEC 7/FULL 7:30	24 WINTER SPORTS CAPTAINS DINNER 6-8 pm	25 AROUND THE TABLE w/'SOOZ' 4-5:30 pm	26 MOVIE & PIZZA 8-9 pm
	28 DEPOT CLOSED	29 DEPOT CLOSED	30 \$6B EXEC 7/FULL 7:30	31 \$1.00 MENU NIGHT 5-7 pm	DON'T MISS CELEBRITY CHEF NIGHT!	
						20 BAND NIGHT \$6
						13 CALL NIGHT
						27 "BATTLE OF THE SEXES" 8-10 pm \$5

### 2006-2007 Honors Class Exams and Applications

#### English

English Honors placement exam for grades 11 and 12 will take place on exam make-up day, scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23rd, at 8:00 a.m.** in A203-A205. In order to take the exam, students must complete and return an application, which they can pick up in the English office (A202) beginning January 3. They must be returned no later than **January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Current grade 9 students in both 300 and Accelerated English who would like to apply for Grade 10 Honors English need to fill out an application for placement into Grade 10 Honors English. These applications can be picked up in the English Department office (A202) beginning January 3 and must be returned to the English office by **January 16th**. There is no placement exam for students in Grade 9 applying for placement into Grade 10 Honors English.

Students currently in an English 400 level class need not fill out an application for Honors nor take the entrance exam, but they must receive at least a B- for their second semester grade to remain in the Honors program.

#### History

Attention parents of students in grades 9, 10, and 11 who are in level 300 Social Studies classes: Students who wish to be considered for 400 Honors next year must take a qualifying test, currently scheduled for exam week make-up day, **Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.** Applications to take the test will be available January 3rd from Social Studies teachers and should be returned no later than **Tuesday, January 16th** at 2:18 p.m.

### Have You Heard?

That Darien kids do a lot of good things.

Toy drives, helping Person to Person, sending gifts to people in the military, volunteering at the fire house and at Post 53 as well as many other organizations in Fairfield County.

Darien students have a lot to be proud of.

Let your kids know how much you appreciate how special they are.

Brought to you by DCAARB (The Darien Coalition to Address At Risk Behavior)

### SAT Prep Class

English teacher Libby Rubin and math teacher Patrick Dooley will be offering SAT review classes this winter. The English review classes will run on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in B-203 on the following dates: February 7, February 14, February 28, and March 7. The cost for the four classes is \$125.

Math review classes will run on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in B-101 on the following dates: February 8, February 15, March 1, and March 8. The cost for the four classes is \$125.

# IMPORTANT DATES

January 9	DHSPA Meeting—Auditorium 9:00 a.m.
January 10	Understanding your PSAT/Jr. Class Meeting — 7:00 p.m. — DHS Auditorium
January 15	Martin Luther King Day: NO SCHOOL
January 16	End 2nd Quarter
January 17-23	Exams
January 20	“An Enchanted Evening” Darien Dessert Dance—DHS Gym - 8:00—11:00 p.m.
January 24	Begin 3rd Quarter
January 27	SAT
February 1	Volunteer Day
February 2	Jazz & Pasta Fest—MMS Cafeteria—6:00 p.m.
February 5	Presentation of Grade 9 Overview — 7:30 p.m. — DHS Auditorium
February 6	DHSPA Meeting 9:00 a.m.
February 13	Preregistration Workshops 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.— DHS Auditorium
February 10	Valentine’s Day All School Dance—South Gym—8:00-11:00p.m.
February 19-23	February Recess: NO SCHOOL
February 28	All-Town Band Festival—DHS Gym—6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

## 2006-2007 Mid Year Exam Schedule

Wednesday, January 17	Exams 1 & 2
Thursday, January 18	Exams 3 & 4
Friday, January 19	Exams 5 & 6
Monday, January 22	Exams 7 & 8
Tuesday, January 23	Makeup Day

Daily Exam Schedule:	1st Exam:	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (earliest dismissal is 9:30 a.m.)
	2nd Exam:	10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (earliest dismissal is 12 noon)

Note: If school is closed for inclement weather, power outages, or emergencies, the exam schedule will be adjusted so that the next school day will have the exams that were missed and the schedule will move along in the order listed above.

- On exam days the DHS Library will be available for silent study from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. On makeup day the Library will be available for silent study from 7 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Breakfast fare, sandwiches and beverages will be available in the cafeteria from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Buses will operate over the usual routes at the regular morning pick up time. Dismissal time will be 12:30 p.m.

### **DHSPA MEETING**

January 9th in the DHS AUDITORIUM  
9:00 A.M. Coffee 9:15 a.m. Meeting

PROGRAM: Bob Pomer  
Guidance News including the College & Career Center,  
Guidance Advisory Council, What’s Next for Juniors, and the Naviance program

*New for 2007 ...we can bring our coffee into the Auditorium!*