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DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

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

May, 2006

STUDENTS VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



On Saturday, April 29th, twelve students and science teacher Sean Otterspoor joined 100 other volunteers for a day of building homes with Habitat for Humanity. This was the fourth workday this school year, and the DHS crew joined others clearing lots in preparation for starting five new foundations. Sean Otterspoor's comments on the day, "Although the work included removing heavy debris and nearly a dozen rain-soaked mattresses, the students worked tirelessly. At the end of the day we had filled an entire dumpster with trash. The sunny weather and knowledge that we were helping several families achieve their dream of owning their own home made the work enjoyable." Located in Bridgeport, Habitat for Humanity of

Coastal Fairfield County is an independently operated affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry.

Founded in 1985, HFHCFC has built more than 100 homes in the Greater Bridgeport area by challenging individuals, congregations, businesses and other organizations to lend a hand up, not a hand out to those in need of better housing.

Group photo: The crew surmounts the mountain of debris they had cleared throughout the day.



From the Principal's Desk

Dr. Jerry Auclair

GREAT SERVICE TO DHS STUDENTS

Once again, I have been greatly impressed by the level of commitment and dedication shown by a group of parents helping the staff fulfill the mission of Darien High School. During the month of April on Tuesdays and Thursdays, students have been asked to get into the iZONE. The iZONE acronym stands for "The Information Zone," a program intended to provide students with information about the college application process and about careers. The iZONE program has had a successful beginning and will be continued and built upon in the future. The lion's share of the credit for this valuable program goes to a committee of wonderful parents.

Tuesday topics in the iZONE, designed specifically for juniors, were related to college information programs. Topics included the campus visit, the interview, the essay, athletics and the application process, and the portfolio. Guest speakers included staff members from Darien High School who had particular expertise in these areas and college admissions personnel. iZONE programs were run during all three lunch periods in rooms where students were able to bring their lunches. Thursday programs featured speakers from the community in career areas such as the media, sports, engineering, the internet, science research and the securities industry. The career-focused programs were open to interested students in all grades.

The iZONE committee's dedicated members included Karen Doying, Linda Kahn, Bohdana Puzyk, Lois Schneider and Stacey Sauerberg. Each of these terrific volunteers made significant contributions of their own special talents to the program. A great deal of organizational and public relations work was required to make this program operational. These committee members gave an incredible amount of their time, energy, and even their own resources to make the iZONE work. This program filled a need that was outlined in one of the recommendations in our 2002 accreditation report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. For this great work, the committee members have earned the title: "volunteers extraordinaire."

Bohdana and Lois deserve special credit for developing the concept and for being the primary organizers and motivators for this work. These two have given many hours of their time over the past three years to work on college and career education programs at Darien High School. Working together with the principal and the guidance director, Bohdana and Lois organized similar programs in the old school building that had limited success, largely due to scheduling problems. Despite discouraging levels of student participation, these two dedicated moms demonstrated great persistence and perseverance in making this program successful. They never lost their vision and belief that the programs could work well for the benefit of our students.

Many students took advantage of the iZONE programs this year. The iZONE committee and the school staff are committed to bringing back an even better iZONE in 2007 with new ideas, including other career focuses. If you have any suggestions or feedback on the program call Linda Cambareri (ext. 2218) or Patti Schoknecht (ext. 2353) at Darien High School (655-3981), or directly contact one of the committee members.

Principal's Newsletter

The excellent work of these five outstanding parents is typical of the high level of commitment and involvement of so many parents in our school's programs. The parents share the vision of the faculty and students to make Darien High School at least the equal of any high school in the United States. Thank you all. Very special thanks to iZONERS Karen, Linda, Bohdana, Lois and Stacey. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. We cannot thank you enough

News from Music and Foreign Language

DHS Jazz Ensemble at Pops Cabaret

The DHS Music Department's Pops Cabaret concert was recently held on Friday, April 21st and was a resounding success. Highlights of the evening included performances by the DHS Jazz Ensemble, the newly-formed contemporary strings pops ensemble, THX barbershop quartet, the Tuesday afternoon jazz lab, the Tudor Singers, and the Concert Choir.



Vive la France! AND the U.S.A.!!!

There were very few dry eyes outside DHS on Thursday, April 27, when fifteen of our students had to say "Au revoir!" to their French counterparts as a most successful 10-day exchange came to an end. The students, ages 14-16, from Cours St. Charles (high school) in Orléans, France,



arrived on Monday, April 17, and spent one and a half weeks learning about American culture and sharing information about their own. The group took several field trips to New York and around the local area and were warmly received and hosted by families within our own high school community. Our DHS French students enjoyed the experience as well and many have expressed an interest in participating in the opposite exchange next year, eager to see their French friends again, practice their French and immerse themselves in a foreign culture too.

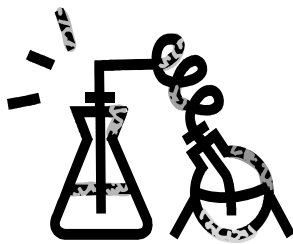
Upcoming Events

Fiesta de Mayo

The second annual Fiesta de Mayo will take place on May 16th in the cafeteria at 6:30 P.M. It will be sponsored by the Spanish, Building with Books, China, and Culture Clubs with international food, entertainment and crafts which represent a diversity of cultures. We are asking for donations of international foods from all those who have a favorite recipe. The cost will be \$5 if purchased before May 16th and \$7 at the door. The proceeds will be divided between the clubs as a contribution to their different events and causes throughout the year. This is a great opportunity at DHS to broaden the borders of diversity. Food should be brought to the cafeteria at 6:15. Please contact Anne Roorbach (ext. 2322) for more information.



Science Symposium to Showcase Student Research

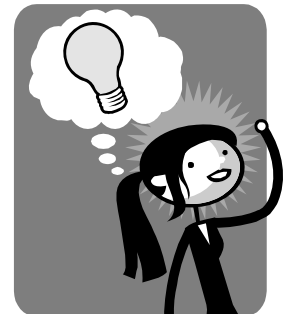


The 5th Annual Science Symposium will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 PM in the DHS main cafeteria. All students in the science research program will be presenting their independent research projects. In addition, Ms. Sadie Smith, a doctoral candidate in animal cloning at the University of Connecticut's Center for Regenerative Biology, will be delivering the keynote address. Science enthusiasts of all ages are invited to attend an exciting and educational evening!

Achievers' Night

Tuesday, May 16
High School Auditorium
6:15-9:30 P.M.

Family, friends, and faculty are invited to attend Achievers' Night to see the IDEA class student projects!



Theatre 308 Student Productions

Come see student produced, directed, and acted (and sometimes written) short performances. The project is designed as a "lab" of sorts to give students the chance to have complete artistic control and to try new areas of concentration within the theatre arts.

Producer is 308 President, Phil Garrott. Directors are Kirsty Hughan, Dana Clark (original script), Dave Travers, Peter Caporal, Molly Mercier (original script), Ben Chernin and Ted Rizzo (original script), and Berit Nelson (original choreography.) **Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Little Theatre.**

iZone

college and career

With enormous gratitude, the iZone Committee would like to thank the following people for providing our students with highly valuable information through the iZone programs:

College Tuesdays

Jessica Larit	The Campus Visit	DHS Guidance
Phyllis Weihs	The Interview	Darien Parent
John Keleher	Athletics & College Application Process	DHS Athletics
Deb Johns	The Essay	Fairfield University
Chris Andrade	Creative Arts & The College Application Process	DHS Music
Bob Brennan	Creative Arts & The College Application Process	DHS Art
Francis Janosco	Creative Arts & The College Application Process	DHS English
Charlie Vlahos	Creative Arts & The College Application Process	DHS Video

Career Thursdays

Mitchell Kreuch	Business of the Internet	Yahoo
Philippe Monin	Engineering	DHS Graduate
Ivan Crowther	Writing for the Media	DHS English
John Keleher	Careers in Athletics	DHS Athletics
Jennifer Johns	Careers in Science	DHS Science
Jim Mageras	The Making of a DVD	DHS Parent
Jolie Swanson	The Culinary World	Connecticut Culinary Institute
Orest Kzyk	Securities Industry	JNK Securities
Gwendolyn van Paasschen	Public Policy and Politics	DHS Parent
Kate Cottrell	Social Activism	Teach for America

And we thank the DHS Administration and staff for making it all possible.

Coming soon:

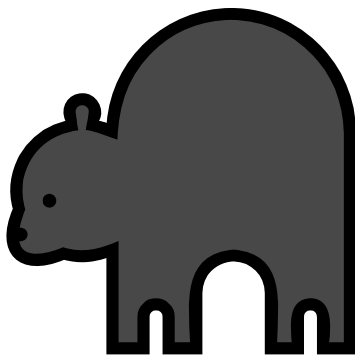
- > Parent to Parent: "College Application Survival Skills"
Daytime and evening sessions in May, watch for dates

DHS Students in the News

State History Day Competition

Congratulations to Thomas Hobbs whose project, *Little Rock Nine Stand Up For Justice*, took third place in the regional competition for the 2005-2006 National History Day theme *Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events*. His project was inspired by the film *The Ernest Green Story* and was supported by his American History teacher Lauren Byrnes. He will go on to the state level of competition this month.

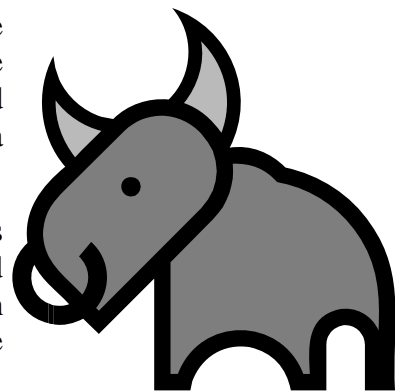
Senior Places First in Stock Market Game



Senior Aldo Giannattasio finished in first place in the Stamford region in the spring edition of the Connecticut Stock Market Simulation sponsored by the Advocate/Greenwich Time. Aldo beat out 69 other stock investing teams en route to earning the number one ranking. Even more impressively, Aldo had the eighth best portfolio in the state which included around 700 entries. The game, which lasted 10 weeks, is designed so that each team has a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Teams must prepare by not only researching potential stocks but also learning how the stock market works. All transactions are done online and teams have the ability to buy and sell stocks, buy on margin and sell short. The Advocate sponsored all 23 of the Darien High School teams. Aldo's investing strategy produced a portfolio that grew to over \$114,000.

Darien High School laid claim to six other top regional teams all of which made between \$4,000 and \$6,500. In fifth place was the team of Andrew Mayo, Kelsey Buchanan and Ryan Whitehead. In sixth place was the team of Greg D'Alelio and Greig Santos-Buch. In seventh place was Sara Lowman. The eight place team was Lauren DeSoiza, Erina Pae and Adrienne Busato. In ninth was the team of CJ Steen and Mark Chiodo and in tenth and eleventh respectively were Sarah Fiore and Sheila Michaels.

Aldo joins a long list of DHS students who have achieved success in the CT stock market game. All of the students who participated are enrolled in either the Principles of Mathematics course, which is an elective for seniors or Investment and Personal Finance which is a business education elective.



Post Graduation Party News

Attention all DHS Senior Parents

We are collecting photos of the Class of 2006 for use as decorations at the Post Graduation Party in June. We are looking for photos of seniors from their early years to present day. Photos can be individual, with friends, or of groups from elementary, middle, and high school years such as birthday parties, school parties, class trips, band, clubs, sports teams, town events, etc...

It is a great way for our graduates to see their photos and remember their younger years!

Please make copies of your photos on your printer/scanner or have them copied at Fairbanks, Kinkos or Staples. We do not want to have the responsibility of originals. Label them with your name and address so they can be returned.

At your earliest convenience, please drop your copied photos off at my house (in box on my front porch) or mail them to me:

Cindy Hogan
17 Settlers Trail
Darien, CT 06820
656-7226

Thank you from the Post Graduation Party Committee.

Attention: Seniors! Look for the Senior Graduation Party Invitations - Coming Soon!



Save Graduation night for all the DHS seniors, June 20th 10 PM-2 AM at the DCA. There will be DJ/music, karaoke, food, photo booth, fortune telling, ping-pong and of course the ever popular prize raffle event all night long! Everyone gets a special gift to take home.

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT CHANGE TO DHS GRADUATION PARTY EVENING!

Due to safety and insurance concerns the Weed Beach Party portion of the evening 2-4 AM will be eliminated this year. However the main event of the night--the Party at the DCA on June 20th from 10 PM-2 AM will be bigger with more prizes and fun than ever!

Seniors:

Blue List obligations must be paid *before* graduation.

Save yourself the hassle .

Take care of your blue list obligations now!

Welcome Center Opens

The Welcome Center (formerly known as the Message Center) is open! Donna Russo and Patti Schoknecht met with the Welcome Center volunteers for an orientation coffee on Tuesday, April 18th, and the Welcome Center opened the following day. The name has been changed since the Welcome Center is the first point of contact for visitors to Darien High School. This is a very important part of life at DHS, and we are pleased and grateful to have so many enthusiastic volunteers. Thank you!

Welcome Center Guidelines

- All items dropped off at the Welcome Center should **be in a bag and clearly marked with the student's name.**
- Arrangements to pick up lunches or non-emergency items should be made in advance by the parent and the student. We will not call students to the Welcome Center to pick up these items. Due to health considerations, all lunches/food items not claimed by 2:45 p.m. will be discarded.
- Examples of emergencies are:
 - A doctor's appointment
 - Illness or death in the family
- Examples of non-emergency items are:
 - Lunches/food items
 - Assignments or school materials left at home

The Welcome Center is not intended to encourage irresponsibility.

ALL SPORTS RELATED EQUIPMENT should go to the Athletic Department.

- The athletic department has a lockable storage closet for **LARGE** sporting equipment (golf bags, hockey bags, ski equipment etc.)
- The storage closet for large items is open to drop off equipment between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. This storage area is then open at 2:15 p.m. for students to retrieve their equipment.
- **SMALL** items relating to athletics (clothing, shoes, mouth guards, etc.) can be left on the table around the corner from the athletic director's office. These items should be dropped off in a **bag and clearly labeled with the student's name.** These items may be dropped off at any time, but please be aware, we are not responsible for lost or stolen items. The Athletics' department secretary is busy, and cannot be responsible for watching over items left on the table.

Buy Your Yearbook Now!

Send check for \$90 payable to DHS to the attention of Anthony Sweeney.

Please include student name and grade in memo.

Welcome Center Sign-Up



If you are interested in working a shift at the Welcome Center for the 2006 – 2007 school year, please contact Patti Schoknecht at 655-3981 ext. 2353 or email Patti at pschoknecht@darienps.org. Next year, Welcome Center volunteers will work 1 ½ hour shifts every other week. There are 5 shifts per day: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. When you call or email to sign-up, please include the following information: name, address, phone number, email address, the day you would like to work, and the shift you would like to work. If you are flexible, feel free to indicate more than one option, in order of preference.

Sign-up is on a first come, first served basis. If you are currently working at the Welcome Center you **MUST** contact Patti to sign-up for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

POST-PROM PARTY

WHEN: Friday, May 12th

WHERE: The Depot

TIME: 11.30PM – 1.30AM

COST: Is included in the price of the prom ticket (or \$10 at the door if you are not attending the prom)

Dancing and Food at the Snack Bar

There is also a chance to win some great prizes including a **Video iPod !**

QUESTIONS: Email Co-Chairs for this event

Liz Smith: smiths@optonline.net

Stephanie Flanagan: stephanieflanagan@hotmail.com

This event is sponsored by the DHSPA.

All School and Depot rules apply.

How to Make a Difference in a Kids Life... Become a Mentor

Community Service Opportunity for Juniors and Seniors

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to spend time helping out a child and show them that people care.”

That is the comment from a former Big Friend in the Junior Project Friendship Program at Family & Children's Agency (FCA) in Norwalk. Now in its 22nd year, the Junior Project Friendship mentoring program has worked with many children and young people since its beginning. In addition to Darien, there are also Junior Project Friendship programs in the towns of New Canaan, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton. Junior Project Friendship provides opportunities for its high school volunteers to give something back to the community, and they almost always feel they get as much from the program as their “Little Friend”, if not more.

Specifically, Junior Project Friendship is a one-to-one mentoring program, matching high school **juniors** and **seniors** (who have their license) with younger children, ages 6-12, who will benefit from a mentoring relationship. The teens, known as “Big Friends”, act as role models and friends helping their “Little Friends” expand their horizons. Big Friends spend 2 to 3 hours each week with their Little Friend during the school year. Training and orientation are provided, and the JPF Coordinator meets monthly with the teens at the high school to offer guidance and support.

Recruitment for volunteers for the fall of 2006 is now underway. There is always a special need for male teens. There will be an informational meeting about the program in May. Teens interested in being a Big Friend should call Mrs. Sheri Richards at 299-1532 ext. 302 for more information.

The Spring Fling

On April 28th students from the Freshman and Sophomore classes enjoyed themselves at Woodway Country Club for the Spring Fling/Ring Dance!



News From the DHSPA

The DHSPA is pleased to announce our Volunteer of the Year recipients for 2006. We honor our fundraising team of Andrea McDonald, Vicki Nolan and Kitty Wynne for their enthusiasm and dedication in raising money for the new Darien High School. Their efforts provided three plasma televisions with speakers to be installed in the main entrance, library and athletics, a Sirius radio receiver for the cafeteria as well as several other items which help make Darien High School special for our staff and students. Congratulations!

We also want to extend a big thanks to the iZONE team for their outstanding college and career programs held throughout the month of April. Lois Schneider and Bohdana Puzyk, Karen Doying, Linda Kahn, and Stacey Sauerberg led very informative and exciting sessions for all.

We also want to announce our End-of-the-Year DHSPA Reception. It will be held Friday, May 19th from 6:00-8:00pm at Lynn Gagliardi's home, 19 Sunswyck Road. Details will follow.

Sincerely,
Olof Preston
Barb Simms

Request for volunteers:

The End-of-Year Faculty and Staff Luncheon will be held on Friday, June 16 and we are looking for **volunteers to contribute food to the lunch**. All the food for this event has traditionally been donated so we would appreciate any contributions. We are looking for the following items: deli-type sandwiches or wraps, salads - pasta, chicken, green and fruit salads, and desserts. If you are think you might be able to contribute to this event, please e-mail Tricia Conley at triciacon12@aol.com. Thanks so much for your support.

Have You Heard

That prom season means teen drinking season

Talk with your kids before the prom.
Talk with your kids when you are calm
Talk with your kids when they come home

Brought to you by DCAARB (The Darien Collation Against At Rick Behaviors)

From the Health Office

The American Red Cross wishes to thank each and every person who contributed to the annual Darien High School Spring Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 29th. DHS students and faculty generously donated 53 pints of blood. DHS student coordinators: **Whit McCarthy, Alison Hill, Cailin Watters and John Haire** organized the event under the direction of the Darien Chapter of the American Red Cross. Thanks to everyone for an outstanding blood drive!

Teens and Alcohol: A Lethal Combination

The Facts About Alcohol

Brought to you by National PTA

"Most parents aren't teaching their kids anything about alcohol, especially not that alcohol in large quantities has many dangerous effects," according to Henry Wechsler, director of college alcohol studies at the Harvard School of Public Health. "Too many kids think that as long as they don't drive, it is okay to get drunk." Children and teens need to know and understand the basic facts about alcohol:

- Alcohol is a drug. Specifically, alcohol is a depressant.
- Alcohol slows body functions, coordination, and the ability to think and react.
- Alcohol affects everyone differently, and body weight and the amount of alcohol consumed over time are the two determining factors.
- Alcohol affects judgment and lowers inhibitions. Teens who are drinking or drunk do things they would not ordinarily do. Behaviors range from becoming upset emotionally, fighting, using other drugs, participating in unplanned sexual activity (including unsafe sex), to drinking and driving.
- Drinking very large amounts of alcohol over a short period of time (binge drinking) could cause sudden death from alcohol poisoning, which stops oxygen to the brain. Young people also should know if there is a history of alcoholism in their family. Many, many young lives would be saved the slow death of alcoholism or the pain of recovery by knowing at an early age that alcohol may not be something they can handle, even in small amounts, because of a genetic risk in their family.

Helping Teens Say No

Parents can help prevent underage alcohol use by sending a strong message at home. Here are some suggestions:

- Discuss expectations with your children. Then work with them to meet those expectations.
- Keep communication open about alcohol use. If you overreact to bad news associated with alcohol use by teens in your community, you are likely not to get a full story when you bring up the issue the next time.
- Help your children develop a strong sense of self-esteem, along with the social skills necessary to withstand peer pressure to drink. Let them know they are loved and valued.
- Plan and spend time with your children on a daily basis. They need to see how the rules you have set work with the experiences they have outside of the home, at school, or with friends.
- Let them know that you are aware of alcohol use in the school community, that they may be encouraged by their peers to drink alcohol, and that they'll have opportunities to drink.
- Make an alcohol-free pact with your children through high school and college. Constantly

Principal's Newsletter

remind them about the dangers of alcohol, including the possible lethal effect of binge drinking, and suggest other ways of dealing with stress and emotional problems.

- Suggest ways to refuse participating in parties or social gatherings where alcohol will be served. In most cases, this means putting yourself in the role of the heavy. Tell your teen simply to say, "I made a deal with my parents not to drink." If the pressure persists, he or she can follow up with, "Don't you get it? A deal's a deal, and I'm keeping my end of the bargain."
- Set consequences for your children's actions. Do not allow them to think they are "getting away" with behavior that's unacceptable to the family. Adults who expect their teens not to drink alcohol have to be willing to listen to them talk about the pressures to drink. The more your teen is willing to talk with you about alcohol, the better the chances that he or she will not drink.

Above all, parents should set a good example, so that means analyzing your drinking habits and adjusting those habits to be consistent with the message you're sending your teen. Be moderate or abstain in your use of alcohol.

Source: National PTA's *Our Children* magazine.

<http://life.familyeducation.com/drugs-and-alcohol/substance-abuse/29883.html>

What Parents Worry About

High-school proms are very expensive affairs. When you add up the prom dresses and tuxedos, prom tickets and pictures, stretch limos, extravagant dining, flowers, and those special hair-styles and French manicures, it's not unusual for the tab to top \$1,000. A prom bill, especially for seniors, may also include renting motel or hotel rooms for all-night, post-prom partying. High school goes Hollywood.

For parents, however, the primary prom-related concerns aren't financial. Our biggest prom worries are the risky behaviors associated with proms, most specifically driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and unsafe sex. Prom night always seems to be linked with drunken-driving injuries and deaths, date rapes, pregnancies and STDs. It's become the night where teens' poor judgment and dangerous choices have become institutionalized.

Think back to your own proms. While much more expensive and self-indulgent than yours were, the hopes, disappointments, joys and dangers associated with proms have remained essentially the same. The following tips may ease your prom anxieties, while helping to keep your kids as safe as possible:

Prom Safety Tips

The Talk -- Tell your children that you want them to have a wonderful, memorable prom. Keep that wish as a central focus. They need to give you their complete itinerary for the evening, including whom they will be with, where they'll be going after the prom and the phone numbers where you can contact them. "We'll just be driving around" is not an acceptable response. Come to a fair decision on a curfew, based upon your children's past level of responsibility in this area. Express your concerns about their health and safety and explain to them why prom night makes it more difficult to make safe and smart decisions. Don't be vague -- discuss drinking, drugging, driving under the influence, and sex. Ask them how

Continued on page 14

they plan to keep safe and avoid actions they will regret. Reinforce your belief in their character and in their ability to act responsibly.

The Ride -- If they're not driving themselves, you must know who'll be driving them. Regardless of how many times you have talked about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, emphasize that these dangers are particularly high on prom night. Your children cannot drink or take drugs and drive. They also must be driven by someone who has not drunk alcohol or taken drugs. You need their promise on these rules. These rules are non-negotiable.

The Connection -- If your children are not returning home right after the prom, you need to be able to contact them at all times until they return home. You also need to be reachable at all times as well. There can be no doubt where your kids will be and with whom throughout the evening and morning. If they're going to other kids' houses after the prom, check ahead of time with these children's parents. You also have a right and a responsibility to ask if these parents are going to allow drinking in their homes. Many parents believe that as long as they "take keys" in a situation like this that underage drinking is permissible in their houses. You must answer the question, "Do I want my kids at after-prom parties where parents aren't present?" Post-prom, parent-child check-in calls make sense. Establish a couple of mandatory call-in times with your kids. You might consider giving cell phones to your kids for the evening, thereby establishing a guaranteed connection.

The Offer -- Give your children the unconditional option of calling you at any time for help or advice. That includes picking them up at any time of day or night, with a promise not to shame or humiliate them in front of others. Assure them that you always welcome being part of their making smart and safe decisions. This unconditional offer of help and advice should be an outstanding offer throughout their lives.

From <http://life.familyeducation.com/teen/prom/36549.html>

From the Attendance Desk

New Attendance Letter: In an effort to streamline the process of keeping track of student attendance a new automated system has been put in place for 4th quarter. An automatic notification letter will be generated and mailed home if a student is marked tardy or absent (unexcused) from any of their classes. Parents are reminded to call the attendance office ahead of time if they know their child will be absent from school or a particular class.

In order to help make the new automated attendance letter system function more efficiently, parents are requested to keep the following in mind:

- 1) Students arriving late to school MUST sign in at the front desk prior to going to their class.
- 2) Students leaving school early MUST sign out at the front desk and get a pass from the attendance officer.
- 3) When calling in to report a student will be late or out of school it would be helpful if the student ID number was included in the message.

From the Guidance Office

Guidance Department Re-structuring

The DHS Guidance Department will be working out a different means of delivering services to students beginning next fall. Students will continue to work with their assigned counselor for personal and academic issues, and throughout the college application process. In addition, each counselor will serve as departmental expert for specific functions. Some of these functions include CAPT testing, College Board information, Financial Aid, etc. In addition, counselors will serve as regional representatives for information regarding colleges outside of the northeast. Specific information regarding this re-structuring will be furnished through the guidance website this summer.

Guidance Advisory Council News

At the April 11 Board of Education meeting, the Guidance Advisory Council presented a progress report on the council's goals for this year. Included in these goals are: Staffing the College/Career Center with parent volunteers; continued improvement of the guidance website; the development of a *Guidance Handbook* for all students; and a *College Counseling Handbook* for juniors and seniors. Seniors will receive their *College Counseling Handbooks* at the end of this school year. The committee will meet again during the month of May.

Darien Summer School

Darien Summer School starts on July 3, 2006 and continues until August 4, 2006. For details on course offerings and registration go to the website at www.darienps.org/dss/2006. Note that high school courses at DSS are generally remedial only. For other options, check with your guidance counselor.

Mr. Caro Tours Vermont Colleges

Mr. Caro participated in the Consortium of Vermont Colleges tour for guidance counselors April 23rd – April 28th. There were 45 counselors from 45 high schools. Seventeen colleges are on the tour. Each college had a program that lasted about two and one half hours where counselors met with admission personnel, faculty, and students. Tours of each school's facilities were provided. In cases where students at the colleges were from high schools represented by a counselor, the student was invited to join the counselor in part of the activities.

Counselors traveled by bus to and from the colleges and stayed in different hotels along the way. The days were 12 to 14 hours long including bus time, but it was time well spent. The cost of the tour is paid for by the Consortium with the exception of travel to and from Burlington, Vermont. There was also time for counselors to discuss with one another how their schools provide services and share information about the colleges in their area of the country.



IMPORTANT DATES

Darien High School

May 6	SAT
May 10	Senior Parent Coffee—9:30 a.m. 3 Siwanoy Road
May 12	Junior/Senior Prom
May 13	Father's Forum 8:00-9:30 a.m.—DHS Auxiliary Cafeteria
May 16	Achiever's Night—6:15 p.m. DHS Auditorium
May 16	Fiesta de Mayo—6:30 p.m. DHS Cafeteria
May 19	DHS All School Awards Ceremony 9:00 a.m.—DHS Auditorium
May 22	DHS Senior Scholarship Ceremony 7:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium
May 23	Theatre 308 Student Productions 7:00 p.m.—Little Theatre
May 24	Science Symposium—7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Cafeteria
May 25	Talent Show 7:00 p.m.—DHS Auditorium
May 29	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
May 30	Tri M Recital 7:30 p.m.—Little Theatre
June 1	Spring Awards Concert—7:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium
June 3	SAT
June 3	Concert in the Courtyard—8:30 p.m. DHS Courtyard
June 4	School Dedication—2:00 p.m. DHS Courtyard
June 5	8th Grade Orientation—7:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium
June 6	Band Banquet—6:30 p.m. in the DHS Cafeteria
June 6	Foreign Language Induction Ceremony—7:30 p.m. DHS Auditorium
June 14	Exams 8 & 7 (8th period exam 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., 7th period exam 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.)
June 15	Exams 6 & 5 (6th period exam 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., 5th period exam 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.)
June 16	Exams 4 & 3 (4th period exam 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., 3rd period exam 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.)
June 19	Exams 2 & 1 (2nd period exam 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., 1st period exam 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.)
June 20	Exam Make-up day
June 20	Graduation 5:00 p.m.— DHS Stadium Field (rain location DHS Auditorium)

End of Year Schedules

Exam Schedule & Information:

Please note the earliest dismissal on an 8:00 a.m. exam is 9:30 a.m. and on a 10:30 a.m. exam is 12 noon.

- DHS Library hours on exam days will be 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Breakfast fare, sandwiches and beverages will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Buses will operate over the usual routes at the regular morning pick up time. Dismissal time will be 12:30 p.m.

Graduation Notes:

Graduation rehearsals will take place on June 19th at 12:45 p.m. and June 20th at 11:00 a.m.— Location TBA.

Graduation will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20th. Please note that all graduates will receive an empty diploma case. Graduates must pick-up their name specific diplomas after graduation in the Wrestling Room.