

Royle Blast

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**October 9, 2011**

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The Message Board is a weekly email newsletter that is sent Sundays throughout the school year. It is created by the PTO to keep parents informed about school and community news that is relevant to you and your child at Royle. Submission guidelines are posted at the end of each Message Board for your reference. If your email address changes, please click on the "Update Profile/E-mail address" link at the end of this newsletter to update it. We are pleased to provide this information to all of you and look forward to an exciting year at Royle.

Useful Web Sites:
Darien Public School: www.darienps.org
Royle School: www.darienps.org/royle/
Royle PTO: www.darienps.org/roylepto

Dates to Remember:

OCTOBER

- 10 Staff Development Day**
- No School**
- 12 PTO Meeting**
- 9:15 a.m.**
- 24 Royle Gift Card Sales Begin (Delivered by 11/21)

Messages from the PTO...

IDEA - Fall 2011 Screening Process

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**Open to Students Who are New to Darien Schools & All First Graders**

Throughout the next few weeks, IDEA will be accepting recommendations for their fall screening process. The fall process is open to all New Students to the Darien Public Schools and All Current 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students. Recommendations will be accepted between October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

If you believe your child may be a candidate for **IDEA**, please discuss his or her candidacy with your child's teacher. To further assist you in your deliberations, you are encouraged to visit the IDEA Program website at [www.darienps.org/ideaprogram](http://www.darienps.org/ideaprogram) for more information about the program and the identification process.

Parents, who are interested in recommending their child for the gifted program, should follow the steps below:

- Write a brief nomination letter to your child's teacher
- Download, complete, and attach the "Parent Questionnaire" form found on

- the IDEA website
- Submit these documents to Mrs. Heffron's Main Office mailbox no later than October 14, 2011.
- Once all nominations are received, the screening process will begin.

\*Please note that All Students in grades 1-5 will be eligible to take part in the IDEA screening process in the late winter/early spring 2012. Please be on the lookout for the IDEA email blast shortly after the holiday season.

**Gifted students, in the Darien Public Schools, are those students in grades 1 through 9 who demonstrate or show potential for exceptional intellectual or specific academic capability. They comprise 5 to 8% of the general student population and their needs cannot be met fully in the mainstream education environment.**

**Natasha Torre-Heffron**

Assistant Principal, Royle School  
 133 Mansfield Avenue  
 Darien, CT 06820  
 (203) 655-0044 x8125

**PTO THANK YOU'S**

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 Thank you to Courtney Darby and Jennie Hewitt for the successful launch of the fall Royle Endeavors afterschool program. They have also organized the sign up for the Royle Chess Club which meets on Friday mornings. Thank you to all the parents who have signed their children up to participate in these enriching programs.

NEXT PTO MEETING - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

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 Come hear from our Principal and what our committees are up to and vote to approve the 2011/2012 budget. Don't forget to bring your own coffee mug and help Royle be a greener place! Younger siblings always welcome.

**PICTURE ORDERS**

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 Your child's picture proofs have been sent home. Please return orders by Friday October 14. The picture retake date will be announced shortly.

**INVESTMENT CLUB: CALLING ALL STOCK PICKERS! AFTER-SCHOOL CLASS OPEN TO ALL 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS. TUESDAYS 3-4:10pm STARTING OCT. 11TH**

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(Class offered through DAEG: Darien Advocates for the Education of the Gifted)
 Interested in learning how the stock market works? Mr. Betts will guide students

through the basics of investments and stock research. The students will then form a team and be given a sum of "money" to invest on an interactive site tied to daily stock market returns. No prior investment experience needed; just an interest in learning about the stock market. If you took this class last year, you are welcome to sign up again, and you will be well prepared to start the hands-on investing.

Class starts on October 11th, and will meet for 8 Tuesdays, ending December 13th. The cost is \$120. Class size is limited to 12 students, and we need a minimum of 8 students to hold the class. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth Hearle at elizabethhearle@yahoo.com or (203) 655-0246. Scholarships are available to those seeking financial assistance. Contact Allison Molkenhain at gusheemolkenhain@bentleylp.com. **Register Online:** Sign-ups will be processed online on the Darien Summer & Continuing Education site on a first come, first served basis. Class size is limited to a maximum of 12 students, minimum of 8 students. <http://www.dariencontinuinged.com/CourseCatalog/classView.asp?id=1563>

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 14th, 8am ROOM 101

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Miss Pagliaro and Mrs. Smith are again running the Student Council at Royle and would like to announce the first meeting of the year on October 14<sup>th</sup>. All reps and alternates should attend this meeting at 8am in Miss Pagliaro's Room (101). We will hold elections and go over our upcoming schedule. Reps and alternates will be given reminders the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**MISSING CAPRI SUN BACK PACKS**

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The Go Green Committee is trying to track down two Capri Sun back packs removed two years ago from the Cafeteria bulletin board when a new board was created. If anyone has them in their possession, please contact Mary Yvonne Faulkner at 656-2934 and/or mymfaulkner@optonline.net. We need them for a new display. Thanks so much.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

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After last year's big success with our Box Tops incentive, we are bringing it back with the hopes to raise more money for Royle School. We will be counting and keeping a running tally of all the Box Tops brought in this year. The classroom that brings in the most coupons will win a brown bag lunch and popsicle party with Keith Margolus! The classrooms that come in second and third place will receive a popsicle party as a thank you for their efforts. All you have to do is put your Box Tops for Education coupons in an envelope marked with your teacher's name. There is a collection box in the main office. Keep a look out as there will be a chart near the main office tracking the numbers for each class! We will be keeping count until February 15th! Thank you for participating. Questions please contact Lisa Elwell at [lisavelwell@gmail.com](mailto:lisavelwell@gmail.com).

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

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On Wednesday, October 12, at 2:30PM Royle School will be joining National

Geographic Kids and First Lady Michelle Obama to break the Guinness world record for the most people doing jumping jacks. Royle school will be participating by having the ENTIRE school (staff included) doing one minute of jumping jacks simultaneously! Stephen Kletter, who is in Mrs. Pennino's 3rd grade class approached me several week ago about taking part in this event. Mrs. Kletter will be recruiting parents to be official witnesses for the event. We need your support to be a part of this jumping jack world record event. Make sure your children wear sneakers on October 12, and be prepared to do jumping jacks for one minute!! Thank you, Mrs. Cardamone

HEALTH ED WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

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By now, students hopefully have seen Health Ed's bulletin board featuring the new **My Plate** recommendations based on the *2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. It is designed to help consumers make better food choices and provides a visual reminder of how much of each food group should be on your plate at meal time. Health Ed would love to see what is on the plates of Royle students! Please have your child color and submit the What's on Your Plate coloring sheet in the Forms & Flyers section of the PTO's website: <http://www.darienps.org/roylepto/FormsFlyers.htm>. We'll feature the submissions on the bulletin board in coming months. Thank you.

**ROYLE BAND REHEARSALS**

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Fifth Grade Advanced Band rehearsals on Tuesdays at 7:30am in the Instrumental Music Portable.

Instrument Lessons for a few 4th and all 5th Grade Band students on Tuesdays during the school day.

Instrument Lessons for 4th Grade Band students on Wednesdays during the school day.

Please remember to bring your Band instrument to school.

TIP OF THE WEEK

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Talk to your children about decision making. Share how you make decisions, weighing pros and cons, considering the consequences. Try to empower them to make some of their own decisions. Talk about what you may have learned from bad decisions.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

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For the latest detailed Board of Education Master Agenda, please refer to the following link: http://www.darienps.org/current/board_of_ed/master_agenda.pdf

Upcoming elementary school highlights include:

October 11th, 7:30 p.m., Board of Education Conference Room

- Review of the 2010 - 2011 PTO Elementary Cultural Enrichment Programs and Discussion of 2011 - 2012 PTO Elementary Cultural Enrichment Programs

October 25th, 7:30 p.m., Board of Education Conference Room

- Presentation of October 1st Enrollment Report and Projections
- Presentation of Updated Seven Year Capital Plan

COMMUNITY NEWS

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### **HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR CONCERT**

The Darien High School and 8th Grade Orchestras will be performing a free "Halloween Spooktacular" concert on Thursday, October 27th at 7:30 p.m. at Darien High School. This one-hour concert will be a fun experience for the whole family! Audience members of all ages are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes to the concert. The seasonal program will include *The Addams Family*, *Danse Macabre*, *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, and *Highlights from Harry Potter*.

From 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., the Darien Art Department will be having an opening reception for their Monster Invasion Art Show in the DHS Auditorium Gallery (2nd floor). Arrive early and enjoy!

For more information, contact Jane Minnis at 203-655-3981 ext 2287 or [JMinnis@darienps.org](mailto:JMinnis@darienps.org).

### **NOROTON HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE!!!**

Sunday            October            16            -            10am            to            4pm

The volunteers of the Noroton Heights Fire Department invite children of all ages to come join us for this year's Open House. It will take place behind the firehouse at 209 Noroton Avenue (by the baseball fields). Activities will include fire truck rides, extinguisher training (on a real fire), shooting water from hoses and participation in loads and loads of great demonstrations. In addition, Met Life will be on scene to create free child safety identification cards, Norwalk FD will bring its smokehouse simulator, Post 53 will be doing blood pressure checks and the CT State Police will be showing off its new rollover simulation device. Any questions, please call the firehouse at 203-655-1033.

### **FREE COMPUTER CLASSES**

Free computer classes for school and community volunteers are being offered by the Darien Foundation for Technology & Community from October 11th to November 10th. Take one class or take them all! Classes include: Photo Organization, PowerPoint, Excel, Mail Merge and Publisher. For more information and to register, please visit our website [www.darienfoundation.org](http://www.darienfoundation.org) and click on the Computer Class button. All classes are held from 9:00am to noon at the Darien Library. If you have questions, call Pam Dysenchuk at 203-655-5099.

### **DARIEN LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

**Celebrate Deepavali!** Tues 10/25 4:15 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of Deepavali (Diwali), the Festival of Lights and Indian New Year! Learn more about its traditions, enjoy Deepavali stories, and design holiday diyas! Ages 7 to 10. Register at [darienlibrary.org/youth](http://darienlibrary.org/youth).

**Nutmeg Book Group - *Masterpiece* by Elise Broach** Wed 10/26 6:15 p.m.

A beetle who can draw and an art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art are just two parts of this mystery story. Join us for pizza, a book discussion, and a story-related activity. Ages 9 to 12. Drop in.

**Nurturing the Arts Panel Discussion** Wed 10/26 7 p.m.

Darien Library and YWCA Parent Awareness present a discussion of the value of art in a child's life. The panel will include experts who work with children in the arts and teens who are active in the arts.

### **DARIEN NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

The Darien Nature Center invites families to its fall open house, Hoot & Howl Sunday 10/23 4-6p.m. Hayrides, haunted hikes, campfire stories, s'mores, live animals and more!! Admission: \$5 per person.

### **DARIEN ARTS CENTER SATURDAY WORKSHOPS**

The Darien Arts Center is accepting registration for two **SPOOKY FUN** Saturday art workshops! Call 203-655-8683 for information and to sign up!

Halloween and Day of the Dead will inspire your ghoulish creations in **MONSTER MARIONETTES!** With artist Heather Kahlert, Sat 10/22 10:30-12noon, \$35. Ages 8 & up!

Sculpt a papier-mâché **JACK-O-LANTERN** you can bring out for many Halloweens to come, with Joyce Bottone! Sat 10/29, 10:30-12noon, \$28. Ages 5 & up!

### **PARENT AWARENESS PROGRAM**

"College Success Guaranteed: 5 Rules to Make it Happen" will be the topic of discussion by Malcom Gauld on Wednesday, October 12th from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Darien High School. Gauld, an author, leading educator, and president of the Hyde Schools, will offer some straightforward advice to college-bound seniors on simple things to do after enrolling in college to help ensure a successful college experience. His book, "College Success Guaranteed," is written with honesty, insight, and a touch of humor, and includes candid feedback from students and graduates of dozens of colleges and universities across the country. This event is

sponsored by the Parent Awareness Network of the YWCA Darien/Norwalk. For further information, please go to [www.ywcadariennorwalk.org](http://www.ywcadariennorwalk.org) or contact [pa@ywcadariennorwalk.org](mailto:pa@ywcadariennorwalk.org)

**YMCA FAMILY FUN DAY**

The 15th annual Darien Family Fun Day, hosted by the Holly Pond School, will be held from 12 noon to 3 pm on Sunday, October 16th, at the Darien YMCA. This family event is open to the public and is designed for pre-school and elementary school age children. Due to ongoing construction, this year's event will be held indoors regardless of weather. Tickets cost \$25 per family.

Family Fun Day, the Holly Pond School's largest fundraiser of the year, will feature pony rides, a magic show, a bouncy castle and ball pit, games, crafts, bake sale and a silent auction of fabulous gift baskets. Food and beverages will be available at the event. All crafts and activities are organized and staffed by Holly Pond School parents. Activities include face painting, pumpkin and cupcake decorating, mask making, bowling and learning karate moves from a skilled instructor.

Holly Pond School students and parents will also create themed gift baskets for the silent auction which will be held during Family Fun Day. The baskets will be on display in the front lobby of the Darien YMCA; bidding will begin on October 10th. This year's basket themes will be designed to appeal to a wide variety of age ranges. Basket highlights include princess dress-up, cars and trucks, American Girl dolls, beauty and fashion for tweens, as well as birthday parties, date night, mommy spa day, and activities for dad.

For more information regarding Darien Family Fun Day, please contact April Greene, Holly Pond School Youth Services Director, at 203-655-8228 ext 309.

**PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED**

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JUNIOR GOLF DEVELOPMENT

Looking for an after school activity that is different? The Darien Parks and Recreation Dept. is offering Junior Golf Development, a program designed for juniors Tuesdays, October 18 thru December 13, ages 5 - 8 (4:00 - 5:00 pm) and 8 - 12 (5:00 - 6:00 pm). This program will introduce the fundamentals of athleticism specific to golf. Juniors will toss, hit, throw, catch, work on agility, balance, coordination and speed. Please visit www.darienct.gov/parkrec or call (203)656-7325 for more information. Don't miss out on this exciting new program!

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE INTERNET: WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

YWCA Parent Awareness and Middlesex Middle School Parent Associations will host a panel discussion entitled, "**Middle School and the Internet: What Parents Should Know,**" on Thursday, October 19th , from 9:30-10:30 AM in the Middlesex Middle School Auditorium. Geared toward parents with children in **upper elementary school and above**, the panel will help parents better understand dangerous websites and the unregulated environment of cyberspace. The panel of experts will be moderated by Dr. Debi Boccanfuso, Principal, Middlesex Middle School. For more information, please contact pa@ywcadariennorwalk.org.

SMART KIDS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities presents, Dr. Alan Wachtel to speak on ADHD & Mood Disorders: New Strategies & Treatments on Wednesday, October 19th to be held at Darien Library, Darien, CT from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Alan Wachtel, M.D., will discuss strategies, medication options and treatments for children who struggle with mood and attention. Research has shown that parents and teachers need to foster a child's focus and executive functioning skills to maximize a child's ability to learn. In addition, many children with LD also experience anxiety and depression, which affects learning and focus. Alan Wachtel, M.D., will discuss the integration of behavioral strategies and pharmacological approaches in the treatment of attention and mood disorders. In addition, he will address the benefits and risks of various treatments and decisions when to commence or postpone treatment at various stages of a child's life. Alan B. Wachtel, M.D. who is a board certified psychiatrist is the founder and director of Familyhealth Associates, a multi-disciplinary private group practice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of attention, behavior, learning, and mood disorders. He lectures throughout the country on the pharmacological treatment of Attention Deficit Disorder. Dr. Wachtel is the author of The Attention Deficit Answer Book. To reserve a place at this free program on Wednesday, October 19th at the Darien Library, please email Programs@SmartKidswithLD.org or call (203) 226 6703.

DARIEN YMCA ADVENTURE GUIDES AND PRINCESSES

The 2011-2012 program of Darien YMCA Adventure Guides and Princesses is a school-year program where fathers and their elementary school-aged children participate in various indoor and outdoor activities. Registration is now open to all Darien students in the 1st through 4th grades. Registration will close October 15th. Please log into www.darien-ymca.org, or register at the front desk of the YMCA. For more information about the program, please call April Green at the Darien YMCA at 655-8228, ext. 309 or email Co-Chiefs Geoff Ball at gwb1972@gmail.com or Barry Seeman at barryseeman@me.com.

COMING SOON.....TOKENEKE'S PUMPKIN CARNIVAL!

Saturday, October 15th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. (The rain date is October 16th.)

For over forty years, Tokeneke's Pumpkin Carnival, held at the Tokeneke Elementary School on Old Farm Road, has been an annual tradition for families in and around Darien. The Carnival features attractions for all ages, including a haunted house, rides, games and crafts, rock climbing, bouncy castles, a bake sale and raffle prizes. In addition, food will be provided by Burgers, Shakes & Fries, Upper Crust Bakery & Café, and Heights Pizza.

The Carnival is organized each year by the Tokeneke Parent Teacher Organization (TPTO). Local businesses are key supporters of the event, donating prizes for the raffle. Proceeds from the Pumpkin Carnival provide critical funding for the enrichment program for the children of the Tokeneke Elementary School. The enrichment program has helped bring inspirational visitors in the arts and science into the classroom for personal visits and instruction with students. Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/pumpkincarnival>.

ROYLE BLAST SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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If you would like to post a message in the Royle Blast, please note the following guidelines:

- Send information to [roylemsgboard@gmail.com](mailto:roylemsgboard@gmail.com)
- Please no attachments, limit submission to 1 paragraph, include contact name/phone/email
- Must be related to school activity or approved non-profit community event
- Must be e-mailed no later than Thursday at 5pm
- Editor has final discretion as to whether information is appropriate for the Message Board

For questions or comments on the Royle Blast, please send an email to [roylemsgboard@gmail.com](mailto:roylemsgboard@gmail.com)

*Annie Necakov, Mary Canaday and Jennifer Shea  
Royle Blast Editors*

**USEFUL LINKS**

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- [Royle Lunch Menu](#)
- [Royle PTO Website](#)
- [Royle School Website](#)
- [Royle Rags](#)

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email: [roylemsgboard@gmail.com](mailto:roylemsgboard@gmail.com)

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