

Royle Blast

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**November 6, 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:

NOVEMBER

- 8 Election Day (Staff Development) No School
- 9 **PTO Meeting with Guest Speakers: 9:15 a.m.**
Dr. Steve Falcone, Superintendent and
Dr. Judith Pandolfo, Assistant Superintendent
- 9 Royle Wrap Up pick-up in the Common Room
- 9 Kids Care Mtg: UNICEF Trick or Treat Drive 3:00 p.m.
- 10 Enrichment: Author Tony Abbott, Grades 3 - 5
- 10 New Family Ladies Night Out 8:00 p.m.
- 15-18 Book Fair (Family Night 11/16)
- 22-23 Kids Care & Student Council Turkey/Chicken & Food Drive
- 23 Thanksgiving Recess Begins Early Dismissal
- 24-25 **Thanksgiving Recess No School**
- 28 Enrichment: Author Laurie Keller, Grades K - 2
- 29-30 Parent Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal
- 29 DAEG Conf. Week After School Program 1:00 p.m.
- 30 Family Movie Matinee 1:00 p.m.

Messages from the PTO...

PTO THANK YOU'S

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Thank you to Christa McNamara, the Royle Wrap Up Committee and all who donated or bought items. Over \$38,000 was raised for the PTO which helps fund enrichment programs, including author visits and field trips.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE PROPOSAL**

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At the Wednesday, November 9th 7:30 pm Board of Education Meeting there will be

a discussion on the World Language Proposal for Elementary Schools. All parents interested in the World Language Proposal are welcome to attend. At the meeting, the Board will hear about how the proposed program may be integrated into our children's school day.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT PTO MEETING 11/9

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Please join us for our next PTO meeting on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria. Come hear about the Book Fair, Royle Gift Cards, Family Movie Matinee and more PTO activities. We are very excited to have **Dr. Steven Falcone**, Darien Schools Superintendent and **Dr. Judith Pandolfo**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, on hand to discuss the 2011/2012 District Goals and Objectives as well as answer any questions you may have.

**VETERAN'S DAY**

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Veterans Week is here! The Wall of Heroes is up and looks terrific. It is a very moving tribute to all of our Veterans. If you haven't done so yet, please feel free to come in and take a look.

Monday through Thursday of this week, students will be writing letters, poems and/or coloring pictures for soldiers stationed overseas or retired Veterans to thank them for their service.

Please join us on Veterans Day, 11/11, for our school ceremony. The entire school community will congregate outside the front entrance of the school for a Veterans Day Ceremony commencing at 8:45. There will also be a school-wide Pledge of Allegiance, Patriotic songs, and a few speeches. Keith will also be recognizing the veterans within our community.

We ask that the students come to school dressed in red, white and blue. This will not be considered a "Spirit Day" but an observance of a special holiday.

Thank you again for all of your support and help to make this week such a success! Please contact Amy Benedict 203.656.2486 or Chrissy Rooney 203.656.1781 with any questions.

ROYLE GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE FRIDAY, 11/11

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Make the holidays easier on yourself by buying gift cards for your holiday giving and your regular everyday shopping. You'll be supporting Royle while you do it. If you are not familiar with the program, the Royle PTO purchases gift cards from a national vendor at a discount and sells them to parents at face value; the difference goes back to Royle as a fundraiser. We have all your favorite national vendors like iTunes, Starbucks, GAP, Dunkin Donuts, JCrew, REI and the list goes on. Plus we can do special orders if you don't see what you like. A flyer with all the info and the order form went home in back packs this week. Or you can check the Royle web site <http://www.darienps.org/roylepto/RGiftCards.htm>. You can get your gift cards hand delivered before the Thanksgiving holiday or pick them up at school during conference week on December 1st or 2nd. But hurry! The deadline to order is Friday, November 11th! Any questions, please contact Cathy Droogan at

[cjdroogan@gmail.com](mailto:cjdroogan@gmail.com). And thanks for supporting Royle school!

**ROYLE WRAP UP REMINDER**

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Please come to the Common Room **THIS WEDNESDAY** to pick up your Wrap Up merchandise and prizes! We will be there from 8:15 - 3:15. It is important that you come on Wednesday, or make arrangements for someone else to pick up your boxes.

KIDS CARE NEWS

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Kids Care Trick or Treating for UNICEF count the money!  
  
Come and join us at our Kids care meeting Wednesday November 9th from 3-4 PM. At our meeting we will: count the money raised for UNICEF during trick-or-treating, learn how collections will help children around the world and make posters for the Holiday Hope Chest and Toy Drive in December.

Please EMAIL Cindy Rolapp if your child will attend [crolapp@gmail.com](mailto:crolapp@gmail.com) with child's name, grade, teacher. PICK UP IS AT 4:00 IN THE CAFETERIA!

- Help Kids Care help others by donating:
- Your winter coats, boots, hats, and gloves for our January winter wear drive for the homeless in Harlem
  - Your gently used Halloween costumes for next year's costume drive
- \*\*Please leave donations on the Kids Care table in the lobby.

**ROYLE SCHOOL STORE NEWS**

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Give thanks for a great Thanksgiving selection at the school store! Turkey Day merchandise includes pencils, bouncy balls and stamps! Located in the cafeteria, the store is open Wednesdays from 8:05 - 8:25 a.m. Contact Stephanie McGraw at tsmcgraw@optonline.net or 655-6585 with any questions.

ROYLE LEGEND YEARBOOK UPDATE

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Artwork - keep those wonderful nautical flags coming!! The deadline has been extended to Wednesday, November 9th - extra copies are available on the Royle PTO website, in the office or by contacting Anne-Lise Brown at [albdjb@aol.com](mailto:albdjb@aol.com). Remember, a fifth grader's work will be selected for the front cover.  
  
Yearbook order forms went home in backpacks last week. The cost is the same as last year, \$22, and personalization is an additional \$3. Deadline to order is Friday, November 11th. Questions - contact Anne-Lise.  
  
Keep taking photos of your child's classroom activities. Drop off in the office or send photos to [albdjb@aol.com](mailto:albdjb@aol.com) Thank you!!

**ROYLE BOOK FAIR**

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Royle Book Fair is fast approaching, November 15 - 18th, so

mark your calendars now! Hours will be 8 to 4 pm that Tuesday through Thursday and 8 to 1 pm on Friday. The theme this year is "Enter the Kingdom of Reading, Where Books Rule..." This year we will have an amazing family night on Wednesday, November 16th from 6 to 8 pm. In addition to shopping at the book fair, we will have a bake sale, mystery reader, a jester, crafts for the kids, chess games and a chance to win 4 Yankees tickets by guessing the number of coins in the king's treasure chest! The reading contest started this past Monday and ends Friday, November 11th, so don't forget to turn in your reading slips. Read three books and you will become a Knight. All Knights receive a small goodie and one Knight from each class will be selected to attend the Knight of the Round table breakfast with King Margolus on Tuesday morning, November 15th before school and you will gain early entrance to the book fair that day. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Dellaruso at mdellaruso@aol.com or Stacey Smith at Stacey.foster@sbcglobal.net.

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).

### **CRANIUM CHALLENGE**

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IT'S BACK!!

4TH AND 5TH GRADERS

Mrs. Tiani and Ms. Mirabella present Cranium Challenge for 4th and 5th graders! For those who enjoy a challenge, this class captivates students through an array of fun activities while supplementing their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Students will work individually and cooperatively to explore and solve mathematical investigations using many creative strategies, such as puzzles and more. This program is geared towards children who excel in mathematics. Space is limited to 24 students. Deadline for entry is Friday November 11th. Please register soon; this class tends to fill up quickly!

Please go to Cranium_Challenge@ROYLE_grades_4&5 to enroll your child on a FIRST come/FIRST served basis. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth Hearle at elizabethhearle@yahoo.com.

The class meets six times for 1-hour sessions on Wednesday mornings November 16, 2011 and runs through December 21, 2011. (11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7,

12/14, 12/14). All classes are held from 7:25 - 8:25 p.m. in Mr. McCully's classroom. \$95 fee includes all material and manipulatives (scholarships are available for those qualifying for financial assistance and are completely confidential-please contact Allison Molkenthin at allisonmolk@optonline.net with questions on scholarships).

2ND AND 3RD GRADERS

Mr. McCully and Ms. Russel (yes!) present Cranium Challenge for 2nd and 3rd graders! For those who enjoy a challenge, this class captivates students through an array of fun activities while supplementing their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Students will work individually and cooperatively to explore and solve mathematical investigations using many creative strategies, such as puzzles and more. This program is geared towards children who excel in mathematics. Space is limited to 24 students. Deadline for entry is Friday November 11th. Please register soon; this class tends to fill up quickly!

Please go to [Cranium_Challenge@ROYLE, grades 2&3](mailto:Cranium_Challenge@ROYLE,grades_2&3) to enroll your child on a FIRST come/FIRST served basis. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth Hearle at elizabethhearle@yahoo.com

The class meets six times for 1-hour sessions on Wednesday mornings November 16, 2011 and runs through December 21, 2011. (11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/14). All classes are held from 7:25 - 8:25 p.m. in Mrs. Tiani's classroom. \$95 fee includes all material and manipulatives (scholarships are available for those qualifying for financial assistance and are completely confidential-please contact Allison Molkenthin at allisonmolk@optonline.net with questions on scholarships).

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 4<sup>th</sup> and all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students on Tuesdays during the school day. Please remember to bring your Band instrument to school.

Instrument Lessons for 4<sup>th</sup> 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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Praise children for the things they are doing well; ask them what they are most proud of. For more information, go to www.communityfunddarien.org

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.dariensps.org/current/board\\_of\\_ed/master\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.dariensps.org/current/board_of_ed/master_agenda.pdf)

Upcoming elementary school highlights include:

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Board of Education Conference Room

- Reorganization of Board of Education (Election of Officers)
- Report on Curriculum Work related to the Teaching and Learning of World Languages and Examination of Structures for Expansion into the Elementary and Middle Schools

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Board of Education Conference Room

- Presentation of Proposed 2012/2013 Capital Projects
- Presentation on District Enrollment and Space Utilization including Special Education

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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ICNS HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA
The Italian Center Nursery School Mother's Club will be hosting their 8th Annual Ladies Holiday Extravaganza on November 4, 2011 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Please join us for wine, light appetizers and a wonderful shopping opportunity just in time for the holidays! 100% of the proceeds will go directly back to the IC Nursery School program. Come enjoy an evening out and bring a friend or two! Tickets are \$15 and are available for advance purchase and will call only. Please contact Amy Balzarano for ticket sales and details at amylyn32@yahoo.com or call Kim Gerardi at 203-249-8281 for questions or concerns regarding the event.

SILHOUETTE ARTIST DEBORAH O'CONNOR AT THE DARIEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The historical society will once again host acclaimed silhouette artist Deborah O'Connor for individual appointments on Friday, December 2 from 10am until 5:30pm. Her exquisite artwork captures the image of children (including infants), adults, and pets for a treasured holiday gift. Multiple copies, as well as mounts and frames will be available. Appointments are required. Please contact the society at 203-655-9233 or sbhirud@darienhistorical.org.

WHY CAN'T MY CHILD READ: DYSLEXIA & HOW IT AFFECTS LEARNING

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities, Inc., is pleased to announce a free program presented by Dr. Margie Gillis, "**Why Can't My Child Read: Dyslexia & How I Affects Learning**", to be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at Eagle Hill School, 45 Glenville Road, Greenwich, CT.

Margie Gillis, Ed.D., President, LiteracyHow will discuss the classic signs & symptoms, how dyslexia is evaluated, its effects on reading, writing, and math. She will discuss guidance on the kind of help a child with dyslexia needs in order to be

successful.

Margie Gillis, Ed.D. is the president of Literacy How, Inc., www.literacyhow.com, which promotes the science of teaching reading through comprehensive professional development, coaching and classroom support. She is Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven. Dr. Gillis has served as a language therapist in schools and school districts throughout CT as well as other states, and is a frequent presenter on reading issues, both nationally and internationally.

Please rsvp for this free program on Wednesday, November 16, at the Eagle Hill School, Greenwich, CT by emailing Programs@SmartKidswithLD.org or call 203-226-6703.

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities, Inc. is a Westport-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the parents of children with learning disabilities and ADHD via its educational programs, website, Facebook and free e-newsletter available at www.SmartKidswithLD.org.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

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PARENT AWARENESS/DARIEN LIBRARY SHOWING: MISS REPRESENTATION

Youth, Beauty and Sex: What Message is the Media Sending our Kids? The 2011 Sundance Festival film, *Miss Representation*, explores this multi-faceted topic, and the Darien YWCA Parent Awareness and Darien Library are proud to present the film's first public showing in the state on November 2nd and November 9th, both at 7:00 p.m. at the Darien Library. The film runs 1 hour 30 minutes and is rated PG-13 due to some harsh language and images. There will be a panel discussion following the Nov. 2nd showing. The film explores how the media's misrepresentation of women has led to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence. A must-see for parents of boys and girls alike. For more information go to www.ywcadariennorwalk.org.

Starting Monday, Nov 14th -- 2012 Registration Darien Youth Lacrosse Association

The Darien Youth Lacrosse Association is springing forward with online registration for the 2012 season! Parents can register their children starting on NOVEMBER 14 via the Register Online tab on the DYLA website, <http://www.dylax.com>. The program is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 - 8, and descriptions of each program can be found on the website.

Regular registration will be open from November 14 - December 23, 2011. From December 24, 2011 through January 15, 2012, a late fee of \$35 per player will apply. Mail-in and drop-off registrations and non-credit card payments will not be accepted except with prior permission from the Registrar. Need-based scholarships are available, for which more information can be found on the website or by contacting Andrew Barnard, abarnard66@gmail.com.

There will be a mandatory orientation on Sunday, February 12, 2012. More information to follow. For any questions, please contact the Registrar

at dylaxregistrar@gmail.com.

THE ART OF LIVING WITH FOOD ALLERGIES - DARIEN LIBRARY 11/14 7-8:30PM

During this free educational forum, presented by the Food Allergy Initiative (FAI) of CT,

Dr. Eyal Shemesh, will present on how we can use a positive approach to empower children and families who manage food allergies.

Eyal Shemesh, M.D. is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry; Chief, Division of Behavioral and Developmental Health; Director, the EMPOWER (Enhancing, Managing, and PrOmoting WEll-being and Resiliency) Program, the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute Department of Pediatrics and Kravis Children's Hospital Mount Sinai Medical Center and School of Medicine New York. There will be a Q&A after Dr. Shemesh's presentation.

Most patients who suffer from food allergies can lead a full, normal and healthy life and yet, the unpredictability of food allergy symptoms poses unique challenges that may increase a family's anxiety or distress level. In this discussion, Dr. Shemesh will share research findings as well as clinical anecdotes to illustrate principles that can help patients and families cope. Specifically, he will discuss the benefits as well as the risks of anxiety; the progression of coping needs and strategies in developing children; and the difference between simple avoidance (of foods that the child is allergic to) and "avoidant coping" (when the child avoids foods or activities that in fact are safe). Finally, Dr. Shemesh will discuss when to ask for further help and where to get it if needed.

RSVP: Seating is limited. Please RSVP to reserve a seat, KBaginsky@faiusa.org. For more information, please contact Helen Jaffe, hdjaffe@optonline.net.

GIRL SCOUTS COAT DRIVE - LAST CALL

This is the last call for the Darien Girl Scouts Coat Drive! We have done an amazing job so far but we know there are a few more of you out there who have coats to donate! If you haven't already done so, please clean out your closets and bring in your unwanted coats to help the Bridgeport Rescue Mission reach its goal of 5000 coats. The box will be in the front hall until Monday, November 7th.

Please contact Tracy Schiff at tbschiff@yahoo.com with any questions. Thanks so much!

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

There is still space available in the free computer classes for school and community volunteers being offered by the Darien Foundation for Technology & Community. Classes include: Photo Organization, PowerPoint, Excel, Mail Merge and Publisher. For more information and to register, please visit our website 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.

13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE - PIEDMONT CLUB

The 13th annual Christmas Boutique at the Piedmont Club will take place just in time for unique holiday shopping on Thursday and Friday, November 10th and 11th, with a special Jo Malone shopping event on Thursday evening featuring a gift bag for the first 100 shoppers, wine tasting from WinePort of Darien, sweet treats from Sister Sweets, and other delicious nibbles. This year's gift bags will include a special fragrance gift from Jo Malone, fun baubles, sweet treats, great reads, and other surprises. Vendors at this high-end gift boutique include MRS Monogram, Jo Malone, Jingle Nog, Ilyse's Pieces, Gina Made it, Elegant Pots and Petals, Stanton Sweets, Anjolie Ayurveda, Pocket the Date, Hopscotch, Barbara Gerwit, In2Green, Monograms Off Madison, Lynne T. Ward Antique Prints, Asiatique, Dizzie Lizzie, Carrie Dunham, Oliphant Design, BabyBox, Everything Is Rosey and many more.

Suggested entry donation is \$5 for daytime shopping hours and \$10 for the Thursday evening event. A percentage of the event's proceeds will benefit the YWCA of Darien/Norwalk to fund its ongoing community programs including YWCA Parent Awareness, a lecture series to educate local parents, and scholarships for the YWCA Job Search Support program that helps women learn job skills to gain employment. Shopping hours are Thursday, November 10th from 9am to 4:30pm and 6:30-9:00pm and Friday, November 11th from 9am to 4pm. The Piedmont Club is located at 152 Hecker Drive, Darien. For more information, visit www.ywcadariennorwalk.org or call 203-655-2535.

HOLIDAY FAIR TRADE MARKET

The Darien Nature Center & Handcrafting Justice invite you to a HOLIDAY FAIR TRADE MARKET featuring unique handmade goods from Women's Cooperatives in developing countries around the world. All proceeds go to Handcrafting Justice, an economic justice project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, an NGO in special status with the United Nations. **GOODS ON SALE, November 1 - 16, Weekdays 9:00 - 3:00** at the Darien Nature Center.

PACK 56 CUB SCOUTS NEED YOUR HELP MAKING CHRISTMAS CRACKERS DONATE TOILET PAPER/PAPER TOWEL ROLLS AND HALLOWEEN CANDY

At our November 10 meeting, Pack 56 will attempt to make over 1000 Christmas Crackers for the Norwalk Emergency Shelter to hand out during the holidays. In the front hall there is a box for toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls and left over Halloween candy. Please donate all that you can from now until November 10. We'll stuff the rolls with candy and wrap with holiday paper and ribbon. It's a small gift that goes a long way during the holiday season. Questions? Contact Karen Brennan, Chair of Pack 56, kbrennan15@aol.com.

DARIEN LIBRARY NEWS

Introduction to Hand Sewing

Children Ages 8-12 class size is limited to 20, Date: November 12th 2-4

Sewing learned at a young age can be very empowering to a young crafty child. A sewing machine is not required to learn to sew. All you need is some fabric, thread and a needle. There are many great resources available to continue their love affair with sewing. I've been teaching both my 7 and 4 year old how to sew. Sewing is a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation in my family. In my class, your child will learn a few basics elements of hand sewing. We will practice making yo-yo's and learn some basic hand embroidery techniques. Register at <http://www.darienlibrary.org/events/calendar>.

**SWINGSET MAMAS PERFORM AT THE FERGUSON LIBRARY IN STAMFORD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 6:00 P.M.**

A ROCK N' ROLL BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Come rock and roll with the Swingset Mamas for a good cause! Blending terrific musicianship and heartfelt parenting tips, the Swingset Mamas will have people of all ages on their feet dancing to an eclectic style of music ranging from rock to reggae. The Stamford School Readiness Foundation will use the concert proceeds to send 1000 Childcare Learning Center preschool children to Goodnight Moon at the Palace Theater in December 2011. General admission is \$10 and includes free parking (children under 3 are free). A limited number of \$250 premium packages are available and include 4 concert tickets, parking, a pizza party with the band, t-shirts, and autographed CDs and DVDs. Tickets may be purchased online at: <http://swingsetmamas.ticketleap.com>. Donations will also be accepted at this site. Since 1902, Childcare Learning Centers has been the largest provider of low-cost early childhood education and care programs for children from birth to five, and social services programs-health, nutrition, literacy, and parenting for predominantly low-income families in lower Fairfield County. The Ferguson Library is located at 96 Bedford Street in Stamford. Please call 203-977-5168 with questions.

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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