

# Royle Blast

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**September 18, 2011**

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**in this issue**

[HOMEWORK](#)

[PTO THANK YOUS](#)

[ROYLE WRAP UP](#)

[ROYLE ENDEAVOR NEWS](#)

[BLAST OFF MATH FOR 5th GRADERS.](#)

[HELP ROYLE RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU GROCERY SHOP](#)

[FIRST PTO MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21st @ 9:15 A.M](#)

[PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS.](#)

[HEALTH ED WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?.](#)

[SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 22nd OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 P.M](#)

[REMINDER: BLUE EMERGENCY FORMS AND WHITE EMERGENCY CARDS](#)

[ROYLE GOES GREEN](#)

[REMINDER: ED-ALERT, PLEASE SIGN-UP](#)

[TIP OF THE WEEK](#)

[NO LONGER AT ROYLE?](#)

[BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS](#)

[COMMUNITY NEWS](#)

**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](http://www.darienps.org)  
Royle School: [www.darienps.org/royle/](http://www.darienps.org/royle/)  
Royle PTO: [www.darienps.org/roylepto](http://www.darienps.org/roylepto)

***Dates to Remember:***

**SEPTEMBER**

- |           |                                   |                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>21</b> | <b>PTO Meeting</b>                | <b>9:15 a.m.</b>  |
| 22        | Open House (Parents Only)         | 7:00 p.m.         |
| 27        | Royle Wrap Up Ends                |                   |
| 28        | Royle Treatment New Family Coffee | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. |
| <b>29</b> | <b>Rosh Hashanah</b>              | <b>No School</b>  |

**OCTOBER**

- |           |  |                  |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| 3         | Royle Endeavors Fall Afterschool Program Begins  |                  |
| 5         | PTO Executive Board Meeting                      | 9:15 a.m.        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Staff Development Day</b>                     | <b>No School</b> |
| <b>12</b> | <b>PTO Meeting</b>                               | <b>9:15 a.m.</b> |
| 24        | Royle Gift Card Sales Begin (Delivered by 11/21) |                  |

Messages from the PTO...

**HOMEWORK**

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Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful opening to the school year, in spite of the challenging weather conditions. Thank you for all you do to get your children ready to learn.

There have been some questions this week about homework, mainly: *Are students*

*receiving homework for the first two weeks of school?* The answer is: *Yes!* All students have been assigned to read for homework each evening. Reading is the process that has the greatest impact on success in school. The purpose of this period is to establish reading as the most important homework students complete each day.

Our hope is that the reading habits established in these two weeks will carry throughout the year. In mid-September, homework will expand into other areas. Our goal is to have homework assignments in the elementary grades that are meaningful, appropriate, and that can be completed in a reasonable period of time. We'll keep you updated.

Thanks again for your support.

Regards,  
Judith Pandolfo, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent, Elementary  
Darien Public Schools  
2 Renshaw Rd., P.O. Box 1167  
Darien, CT 06820-1167  
[jpandolfo@darienps.org](mailto:jpandolfo@darienps.org)  
(203) 656-7413

**PTO THANK YOUS**

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A huge Royle thank you to Tara Wurm, Katriena Devlin, the Social Committee and all the parent volunteers for making the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Royle Family Picnic a tremendous success! Once again, it was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends while enjoying some great food and fun games. What a great way to start off the new school year! Also thanks to Julie Forsyth, Sue Hayes and the Kids Care Committee for another successful Kids Care Bake Sale. Special thanks to everyone who provided home baked goodies and to everyone who showed their support by buying the treats. Also, thank you to Liz Herbert and the publicity committee for taking so many nice photographs of the students on the first day of school. Some of the local papers had photographs in the local papers this week and had posted some online earlier.

**ROYLE WRAP UP**

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Hope everyone is FLIPPING over the selection from the Genevieve's catalogue and supporting this year's Wrap Up fundraiser! Remember, when 20 or more items are purchased from the catalogue, or a direction donation of \$100 is made, those students will be entered in the raffle to win the FLIP Video Camera! Our sale period will end on Sept. 27th, so we are about half-way there. Please keep selling, or return your donation with the yellow Direct Donation form. And don't forget about Matching Gifts! Thanks for your support!

Any questions, contact Christa McNamara at [christamcn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christamcn@sbcglobal.net)

### **ROYLE ENDEAVOR NEWS**

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Due to delays at Wingspan, our afterschool provider, registration for the Endeavors Afterschool Program will be delayed a few days. Course descriptions went home on Friday, **September 16th**. Online registration will run from **Friday, September 16th - Wednesday, September 28th**. **Classes will begin on October 3rd as planned**. Please see the PTO website for more information. Questions? Please contact Royle Endeavors Co-Chairs Jennie Hewitt at [jlhewitt913@yahoo.com](mailto:jlhewitt913@yahoo.com) or 569-0390 or Courtney Darby [courtneydarby@yahoo.com](mailto:courtneydarby@yahoo.com) or 656-3834.

### **BLAST OFF MATH FOR 5th GRADERS**

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Attention parents, DAEG (Darien Advocates for the Education of the Gifted) is again offering the math enrichment program "Blast off Math" for 5<sup>th</sup> graders starting on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be a 10 week program designed for students who are interested in higher levels of math study. This course will be taught Keith Satter Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Registration forms went home in the backpacks early this week so please send in your forms as soon as possible. If you have any questions please email Patty Uhlman at [p\\_uhlman@yahoo.com](mailto:p_uhlman@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **HELP ROYLE RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU GROCERY SHOP**

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Last year Royle earned over \$800 simply by shopping and participating in the Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program. If you shop at Stop & Shop anywhere in the Northeast, you can help raise money for Royle. All you need to do is register your Stop & Shop card - it's that easy. You shop and Stop & Shop will give Royle A+ Rewards. Even your extended family members and friends can register their cards and benefit Royle. This year's program kicks off on October 7th so register today. Please note that if you registered last year, you do have to register again. Every year is a fresh start to get an A+.

How to Register Your Stop & Shop Card

1. Go to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus)
  2. Go to "Register your Card"
  3. Enter the 13 digit card number
  4. Enter Royle's ID number 07719 or pick Royle from the drop down menu.
- OR Call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone.

Then, every time you shop at Stop & Shop and use your card Royle will be rewarded. Thank you for supporting this effort. It is an easy way for Royle to raise funds to help fund the wonderful programs and activities that make Royle the A+ school it is! If you have any questions or need help registering your Stop & Shop card, please contact PTO Vice Chair Shannon Silsby at [thesilsbys@optonline.net](mailto:thesilsbys@optonline.net) or 203-273-2323.

### **FIRST PTO MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:15 A.M.**

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Please join us in the cafeteria for our first PTO meeting of the year. Mr. Margolus will bring us up to date on what is going on at Royle. You can also learn about all the great plans that our PTO Committees have for the school year. In addition, we have guest speaker Debbie Bossie, Darien's Director of Food Service & Nutrition, to discuss the changes to the lunch program. Coffee will be provided and younger siblings are always welcome. We hope to see you there!

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

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Please make sure that your child wears sneakers on gym days. Not wearing sneakers could result in injury or other foot problems due to the fact that most shoes are not made for athletic use. If your child wears sandals, dress shoes, boots or crocks, he/she will not be able to participate in gym class activities.

In addition, students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> will be practicing and participating in the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment during the month of October. During this time it is recommended that all students wear appropriate exercise attire. (Sweatpants, yoga pants, athletic shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc). Some jeans/pants can limit athletic movement or range of motion. Students will need to lay on the matted floor for the curl-up test. Therefore, skirts and dresses are not appropriate for this activity. Mr. Serrano and I want every student to be successful during testing time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [JCardamone@darienps.org](mailto:JCardamone@darienps.org).  
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.

**SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 22nd OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 P.M.**

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Open House is an evening to meet your child's teacher, learn about the grade-level curriculum, your child's class routines, and to meet other parents. It is a parent-only event; so please remember to line up your babysitter soon! Royle Rags, School Store and the Royle School Directory will also be on sale, so don't forget your checkbook!

Times are as follows:  
Grades 2 & 3            7:00 - 7:30  
Grades 4 & 5            7:40 - 8:10  
Grades K & 1            8:20 - 8:50

**REMINDER: BLUE EMERGENCY FORMS AND WHITE EMERGENCY CARDS**

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Please remember to turn in the blue emergency forms. These forms will be used in the event of an emergency early dismissal. Please also promptly return to the school office the white emergency cards (two per child) that will be used by the school nurse and teachers in the event of sickness, emergency, etc. These forms have different purposes, so please be sure to hand in all of them!

**ROYLE GOES GREEN**

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Did you know...

Royle school has collected 39,780 drink pouches! Wow! While keeping almost 40,000 drink pouches out of our landfills, Royle has earned \$795.60! Thank you to our Royle students and parents and a giant thank you to Royle mom, Mary Yvonne Faulkner. She started this program 2 years ago and has been collecting and mailing pouches weekly ever since! Mary Yvonne has aligned Royle school with <http://www.terracycle.net> for this great learning and earning opportunity. What a great example to our students and parents that one person can make a difference! Thanks again to Mary Yvonne Faulkner. Please continue to collect and turn in your pouches. The collection bin is located in the Royle Cafeteria. Contact <mailto:mymfaulkner@optonline.net> with questions.

**REMINDER: ED-ALERT, PLEASE SIGN-UP**

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The Darien Public Schools have contracted with an outside vendor to disseminate emergency information from the Superintendent's office via email or text message. Parents may subscribe free of charge to this "Ed-Alert" system using the following web address: [www.myschoolpages.com/schools/darienps](http://www.myschoolpages.com/schools/darienps).

This service is not intended to replace the Blast e-newsletter, but simply give the Superintendent the means to send out immediate notification re: emergency closings or other urgent school matters. Parents are responsible for keeping this account information (email addresses and cell phone numbers) up to date.

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

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Spend time together as a family. Try to eat together at least a few times a week. Make a date for dinner either home cooked or out for Family Dinner Day, September 26th. For more information, go to [www.communityfunddarien.org](http://www.communityfunddarien.org)

**NO LONGER AT ROYLE?**

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You can unsubscribe to Royle Blast at the bottom of this message.

**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](http://www.darienps.org/current/board_of_ed/master_agenda.pdf)

Upcoming elementary school highlights include:

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Board of Education Conference Room

- Presentation by Reiss Fund Scholarship Recipients
- Report on SAT, ACT, AP, CAPT and CMT Results (rescheduled from September 13<sup>th</sup>)

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### UPCOMING YWCA PARENT AWARENESS PROGRAM

#### **What should you know about turf fields, light bulbs and cleaning products**

Today's children are exposed to thousands of chemicals in the environment, most of which have never been tested for their toxic effects on children. Back by popular demand, Dr. Maida Galvez and Rhonda Sherwood, from Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, will sort the fact from fiction and present "Simple Steps to Raising Healthy Children in a Toxic World," on Wednesday September 28, 2011 at the Royle School Common Room from 9:30-11:00 AM. For more information, please contact: [parentawareness@ywcadariennorwalk.org](mailto:parentawareness@ywcadariennorwalk.org).

#### **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](http://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](mailto:gwb1972@gmail.com) or Barry Seeman at [barryseeman@me.com](mailto:barryseeman@me.com).

#### **TINY MIRACLES FUNDRAISER - SEPTEMBER 25th**

**Laughing Pizza**" will perform on **September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at The Wee Burn Beach Club, 2 Anchor Lane in Rowayton.** *Laughing Pizza* is a nationally acclaimed family band who's energetic, educational and interactive dance-filled shows have created a loyal following across the country. A six-time Parent's Choice Award winner, *Laughing Pizza* has performed three consecutive years at the White House (most recently with Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers!), has been featured on The Today Show, CNN, CBS and Fox Morning shows, and appears regularly on PBS stations nationwide. All proceeds from the Laughing Pizza Concert will benefit The Tiny Miracles Foundation, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping families of premature babies in Fairfield County. For more information about Laughing Pizza go to [www.laughingpizza.com](http://www.laughingpizza.com). **\$30 Advance tickets for the event are on sale now at [www.ttmf.org](http://www.ttmf.org). Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$40. Additional Parking at Bayley Beach.**

**JR FOREVER 4th ANNUAL MEMORIAL WALK**

Please join us for the JR Forever 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Walk on October 2, 2011.

This family and community event organized in memory of JR Schoen will raise funds for Darien organizations that impact the lives of children, including Darien Little League Challenger Division and JR's Ray of Hope. The Challenger Program enables mentally and physically-challenged youth to enjoy the full benefits of participating in sporting activities. JR's Ray of Hope supports local families with school-aged children facing serious illness, injury or the loss of a family member.

Date: Sunday, October 2, 2011  
Schedule: 12:30 sign-in 1:15 walk  
Location: Pear Tree Point Beach -Rain or Shine

Registration is \$25 per person or \$100 per family. Additional donations welcome. Day of event registration is available, however, only first 400 registrants receive a commemorative t-shirt. Adult supervision is required for those children under 12 years old. Registration forms are available on the website [www.jrschoen.org](http://www.jrschoen.org)  
Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Hinton at [dchinton07@optonline.net](mailto:dchinton07@optonline.net)

**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE DARIEN FOUNDATION FOR TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY, OCTOBER 1, 2011**

[GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS are performing private benefit concert for The Darien Foundation for Technology & Community on Saturday, October 1st, 2011 at The Palace Theatre in Stamford, CT. The Darien Foundation has provided over \\$1 million in grants to the Darien Public Schools since its founding in 1998. Please support the Foundation that does so much for our schools and our town by attending this outstanding event. Visit our website \[www.darienfoundation.org\]\(http://www.darienfoundation.org\) to purchase tickets or call Pam Dysenchuk at 203 655 5099 for more information.](#)

**PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED**

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**DARIEN PARKS & RECREATION FIT FRIDAYS  
BOYS & GIRLS AGES 5-9 4PM-5PM  
FIT FRIDAYS - GIRLS 10-14 5-6pm**

Day: Friday (10 weeks) September 16 - December 9  
Rebounding, Zumba, Hula Hoop Dance, Yoga/Yoga Circus and Boogie Box Kids with Jump Rope Sports (single & Chinese)are all added to the mix in this fun high energy, and never boring fitness program for kids that includes age appropriate nutrition and healthy lifestyle education.

**Family Fun at the Darien Road Race!**

Sunday, September 18 - 1:00 PM at Pear Tree Point Beach. The 32nd Annual Darien Road Race features two races a 10K (6.2) miles and "The Loop" (1.5 miles) over scenic waterfront roads. Under the "Finish Line" tent, games and small prizes, food and fun.

The DRR benefits The Bennett Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital, Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital and The Community Fund of Darien. For more information or to register go to [www.darienroadrace.org](http://www.darienroadrace.org) or call Lisa at 203-655-8775 or e-mail [lisa@communityfunddarien.org](mailto:lisa@communityfunddarien.org).

**ON-LINE SIGN UP FOR FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN OPENS**

The on-line sign up for the third annual Darien Feed My Starving Children Mobilepack™ Event is open. To sign up for a two-hour shift visit: <http://volunteer.fmsc.org/Register/mobilepack/event.aspx?event=1110-58>. The event, hosted by the churches of Darien and co-sponsored by the CDSP, will take place on October 1 & 2 at Middlesex Middle School. This year's goal is to pack 300,000 lifesaving meals for starving children around the world. It is recommended that youth volunteers be in 3rd grade and older. For more information about the Darien event and about FMSC visit <http://web.me.com/tamarapardo/darienfmscmobilepack2011/Welcome.html>.

**DARIEN LIBRARY NEWS**

7, 8, Create!

Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. (September 14-28 and November 9-December 7)

This program features books, activities, crafts, and games. Past sessions covered topics including codes, Mardi Gras masks, and pirates. The first two sessions for the fall, September 14 and 21, will be led by Kathy Hammell and have an origami theme! Both beginner and advanced paper-folders are welcome! Ages 7 and 8.

Nutmeg Book Group - Signal by Cynthia DeFelice

Wednesday, September 28 at 6:15 p.m.

Nutmeg Book Groups are back for the fall! In Signal, Owen meets a girl named Champion, who says her alien parents will be coming to pick her up in four days. Is she really an alien or just really strange? Each meeting includes a discussion over pizza and a book-related activity. Ages 9 to 12.

**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](#)

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



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