

Royle Blast

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## September 25, 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:

SEPTEMBER

- 27 Royle Wrap Up Ends
- 27 Trash Free Tuesdays Begin
- 28 Royle Treatment New Family Coffee 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- 28 Royle Endeavors Fall Registration Ends
- 29 Rosh Hashanah No School**

OCTOBER

- 3 Royle Endeavors Fall Afterschool Program Begins
- 4 Enrichment Program: Author Len Cabral, K-2 & 3-5
- 5 PTO Executive Board Meeting 9:15 a.m.
- 5 Kids Care Meeting/Costume Drive Ends 3-4 p.m.
- 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 YOUS**

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We would like to thank Lisa Grant, Megan Spengler and the Encouragement Committee for providing the pizza dinner for our Royle staff on the evening of the Parents Open House. Also thanks to Catherine Gedney, Reedie Karl and the Hospitality Committee for the refreshments provided for parents that same evening. We wanted to give a big thank you to Annie Necakov and Ellen Melton for putting together our directory. This is a lot of work in a short period of time and they pulled it off seamlessly! It was great to have Royle Rags, School Store and Wrap Up at Parents Night too. Lastly, thanks to Julie Forsyth, Sue Hayes and the Kids Care Committee for a wonderful first meeting. We are sure the children in Bridgeport will appreciate all the backpacks and school supplies.

ROYLE WRAP UP

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Royle Wrap Up is about to wrap-up, with our last day scheduled for this Tuesday, Sept 27th. Remember, we are looking for ALL students to support this fundraiser, either through a \$100 check payable to the Royle PTO, or by selling \$200 worth of merchandise from the Genevieve catalogue. These funds go directly to support the PTO's Enrichment program that funds Author Visits, field trips, Science & Nature programs, and much more! Keep an eye out for those frogs coming home - a thank you to everyone who sold 20 or more items, or did the Direct Donation! We thank you for your support!

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

**ROYLE TREATMENT NEW FAMILY COFFEE**

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New Royle families and mentors, please come to the New Family Coffee! Get to know each other and see how the year is going. The coffee is at the home of Beth Cherico, 31 Brookside Road from 9:30-11. Please RSVP to Beth Cherico (203) 662-9269 or bcherico@me.com. Looking forward to see you there!

KIDS CARE HALLOWEEN COSTUME DRIVE

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Kids Care is collecting clean gently used Halloween Costumes for Person-to-Person. Please put costumes in a bag so that all pieces of the costume stay together and drop them off at the Kids Care Table in the lobby on or before October 5<sup>th</sup>. Children can also bring costumes with them to the **Kids Care Meeting on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 PM in the cafeteria**. Costumes will be sorted and sized during the meeting and delivered to Person-to-Person immediately following the meeting.

If you have questions, please email me at [crolapp@gmail.com](mailto:crolapp@gmail.com) or call (203) 656-1678.

**ROYLE GOES GREEN NEWS**

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Did you know...

100,000,000,000 plastic bags are thrown away by Americans each year. Just imagine all those Ziploc's you've used over the years! Why not pledge this Trash-Free Tuesday, September 27 to pack a trash-free lunch and skip the plastic baggies. Try switching to reusable containers or wax paper bags. A commitment to just this one day will get you started on your way to packing Trash-Free lunches everyday!

For questions please contact Kerri Sloan at kerrisloan@optimum.net or Beth Harmon at 5harmons@optonline.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.

**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
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 or 203-273-2323.

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.

**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.

TIP OF THE WEEK

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Plan to do a service project together as a group in your community or a surrounding community. For more information, go to [www.communityfunddarien.org](http://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

Upcoming elementary school highlights include:

September 27th, 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 13th)

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

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>.

### **MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL'S MAGAZINE DRIVE HAS BEGUN!**

MMS's Magazine Drive kicked off on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Funds raised during this annual drive go directly to student programs, supporting MMS club activities and intramural sports programs. Please support our middle school! Order turn in dates for the students are September 27, October 3, and October 5. Online ordering will also be available September 21 on the MMS website.

Again this year, MMS is giving you the opportunity to give back to our country! Magazine subscriptions can be donated to wounded soldiers or Veterans though the

school's "Gift of Gratitude" program. Choose subscriptions to be sent to wounded soldiers who are receiving care at Veterans Affairs Connecticut (VACT) hospitals/six outpatient clinics here in CT. For a student to receive credit for your order, please include his or her name on the first page of the online form. To donate to troops, enter the address below when filling out the recipient address: VACT, Sharon Croteau, Chief Voluntary Service, 950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

## **DARIEN LIBRARY NEWS**

### **Raising Our Sons/Raising Our Daughters**

Parents of boys and girls in the 3rd and 4th grades are invited to join this monthly Parent Discussion Group held in the Darien Library Conference Room beginning on October 12. Topics will include embarrassing tween issues, worrying, and effective parenting. Meetings are on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sign-up in the Children's Library by calling (203) 669-5235 or e-mailing [childrenslibrary@darienlibrary.org](mailto:childrenslibrary@darienlibrary.org).

### **A Visit with Author and Illustrator Dan Yaccarino**

Monday, October 10 at 4 p.m.

Dan Yaccarino is the illustrator of books by Margaret Wise Brown, Jack Prelutsky, and Kevin Henkes, as well as his own stories, and is also known for his work on animated TV series and his designs for The Backyardigans. Through images and animation, Dan will be sharing his writing process from idea to published book. A book signing will follow the presentation. Ages 5 and up.

### **Writing With Pictures: The Graphic Novel**

Monday, October 24 at 4 p.m.

Join author, artist, and all-around funny man Jarrett Krosoczka, creator of the popular Lunch Lady graphic novels, as he dissects and explains how plot, pacing, and character development need to be considered when creating a graphic novel. His photos, sketches, notes, and artwork will inspire kids to try their hand at creating graphic works of their own. Grades 3 and up.

### **LEGO CAMP AT YWCA DARIEN/NORWALK**

YWCA Darien/Norwalk Announces Lego Camp on Thursday, Sept. 29th (school holiday) for ages 4-8 at our office at 49 Old Kings Highway. Advance registration requested. Visit [ywcadariennorwalk.org](http://ywcadariennorwalk.org) to learn more and find registration forms or contact Shari O'Neill at [info@krazykoolcreations.com](mailto:info@krazykoolcreations.com).

### **FRIENDS OF DARIEN YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION KICK-OFF PARTY**

Friends of Darien Youth Hockey Association are hosting their biennial Season Kick-Off Party at The Tokeneke Club on October 1st. Friends of DYHA provides financial assistance to local kids who would otherwise be unable to participate in hockey programs. The event runs from 6.30pm - 11pm, including dinner. Tickets are \$55. For more information please see the invitation and RSVP form at <http://dyha.com/Documents.asp?snid=jHOGS7K4X&org=dyha.com> or call Mimi Flynn (203) 656-7282.

### **DARIEN ARTS CENTER THEATRE PROGRAM**

Back for its second year, the Theatre Program at the Darien Arts Center offers wonderful and inventive theatre classes that range from kindergarten through seventh grade. Whether it's Beginners Drama (grades K-1) putting on the folk tale

classic "The Tortoise and the Hare," the Drama for Young Actors I (grades 2,3, and 4) tackling Scheherazade's "1001 Nights," or Drama for Young Actors II doing a wacky twist on age-old fairy tales in "Unhappily Ever After," students get to participate in fun-filled classes that culminate in a performance underneath the bright lights in the Darien Arts Center. This is first year that all classes get to perform in the Weatherstone Studio, which provides a unique and enriching experience to performers as well as gives them the feeling of acting like a professional.

The Darien Arts Center is also excited to offer a brand new class: Improv Theatre and Clown! This engaging class allows students to conquer the fast-paced world of Improvisational Comedy. Improv and clown work give performers the necessary tools to feel confident onstage and often help performers who are scared of memorization or getting up in front of crowds.

Theatre classes create a confidence that carries over into all aspects of a child's life. Classes start soon and space is filling up, so contact the Darien Arts Center to sign up today and give your child a year they won't soon forget.

-For Questions, please contact the DAC office at (203) 655-8683 or [DACAdmin@darienarts.org](mailto:DACAdmin@darienarts.org).

### **PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED**

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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.

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.

TINY MIRACLES FUNDRAISER - SEPTEMBER 25th

Laughing Pizza will perform on **September 25th, 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. **\$30 Advance tickets for the event are on sale now at 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 4th 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 Volunteers needed, contact Dianne Hinton at 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.](#)

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](#)

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

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