



# DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

### DHS Musicians Perform in Western Region Honors Ensembles

Twenty-four outstanding musicians from Darien High School, chosen through a highly competitive audition process, performed at the Connecticut Music Educators Association Western Region Music Festival. The honors music festival took place at Darien High School on January 13-14. The students had the privilege of working in Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Jazz ensembles with some of Connecticut's most accomplished high school musicians conducted by nationally renowned conductors and educators. The students representing Darien High at the 2012 Connecticut Western Region Honors Music Festival were: From Band: **Julia Evans**, alto saxophone, **Danica Hornick**, French horn, **Charles Stout**, Trombone, and **Nick Vilter**, double bass. From the Orchestra: **Matt Evans**, cello, **Nicole Gagne**, double bass and **Ryo Usami**, violin. From the Chorus: **Charlie Baird**, tenor, **Hannah Caldwell**, soprano, **Patrick Collins**, tenor, **Florian Eenkema van Dijk**, tenor, **Matthew Hayes**, bass, **Amanda Hutter**, alto, **Kevin Koenitzer**, tenor, **Reed Morgan**, tenor, **Douglas Phipps**, bass, **Juliane Roach**, soprano, **Lily Saffa**, soprano, **Addison Thalhamer**, bass and **Melanie Turner**, soprano. Jazz Ensemble: **Steven Ciasullo**, tenor saxophone, **Jeffrey Sload**, Trombone and **Andrew Trautmann**, guitar. (Not pictured: Evans, Hornick, Usami, Gagne, Evans and Turner.)



WINTER 2012

Continued on p. 6

### From the Principal's Desk Dan Haron

Aside from being a top notch academic institution, Darien High School is also remarkable for the quality and quantity of its extra-curricular offerings to students. We have over 45 active clubs and activities ranging from the academic to the artistic, from the athletic to the more “general interest”. The process by which new clubs are introduced is also very much student-driven, thus ensuring that what we have to offer caters to students’ interests. From time to time I bring to your attention a particularly exciting and unique new club (the last one featured was our Free Thinkers Club) and would like to do so once again by featuring our newly formed Best Buddies Club.

**Club advisors Kate Curcio and Ann Sather** along with juniors **Courtney Kyritz and Claire Walker**, started the Darien High School chapter for this international organization earlier this year. The club’s mission is to foster one-on-one friendships between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their non-disabled peers as well as develop leadership opportunities for both groups. There are Best Buddies groups at middle schools, colleges, and adult organizations in all 50 states and in over 50 countries around the world.

While we have many wonderful service organizations at DHS, what makes Best Buddies unique is the one-on-one, direct contact that students have with each other. The structure of the club is such that each IDD student is paired up with one regular education student and they become “Best Buddies.” The buddies, as well as other club members, not only participate in club-run activities (like a recent bowling outing, Halloween party, and Thanksgiving lunch) but also spend time during the school-day interacting in the halls, cafeteria, and classrooms.

One of the many things that has always impressed me about our students in the general population is the way they relate to and interact with the many students in our school who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Whether it’s in the classroom or other school-related activities, I am always amazed how patient, understanding and empathetic our students are when confronted with the differences in their IDD peers. In that regard, I must say, our society as a whole has come a long way as well. What is particularly impressive about the Best Buddies relationship however, is that it takes this understanding to a new level; a level where IDD students are not just tolerated, but are treated by their Best Buddy counterpart like any other student (with the requisite compassion and sensitivity). They don’t only support the inclusion of IDD students in high school life in theory, but are actively engaged in making it happen.

Another impressive aspect to the Best Buddies relationship is more subtle, but shouldn’t be underestimated: teenage-hood is often marked with hypersensitivity to one’s public

# Principal's Newsletter

*Continued from p. 2*

image; an image that is often determined by the individuals with whom one associates (hangs out with, sits with in the cafeteria, etc.). In taking on their responsibilities as “Best Buddies,” our non-IDD students put all that aside. Whereas others might feel uncomfortable associating with those deemed “uncool,” students in the Best Buddies Club are able to look beyond that superficiality and embrace their relationship wholeheartedly and without much regard to how they’ll be viewed by others.

It’s no secret that students who want to feel better connected to our school should make every effort to join an extra-curricular activity. The Best Buddies Club is a great new option for any student who wants that connection to be especially strong on a direct human to human level.



## Congratulations to the Newly Elected Members of the National Honor Society



|                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Alptekin     | Katherine Graves   | Francesca Milewski |
| Alexandra Aparicio | Emily Greene       | Reed Morgan        |
| Annie Archibald    | Emma Hamilton      | Meredith Ott       |
| James Baker        | Lindsey Hartfelder | Alexandra Pear     |
| Henry Baldwin      | Christopher Hecq   | Shelby Penfield    |
| Joseph Berkowitz   | Stephanie Hurn     | Mary Petner        |
| Kathleen Burke     | Luis Johnston      | Shruthi Raghuraman |
| Emily Caccam       | Eric Kanigan       | Marielle Ravosa    |
| Bradley Cage       | Cameron Lattimer   | Valeria Rivero     |
| Sarah Colon        | Isabel Lee         | Katrine Ryan       |
| Kyra Conciatori    | Geoffrey Leeker    | Annabel Schneider  |
| Caroline Congdon   | Caitlin Lowden     | Jeffrey Sload      |
| Kailin Edgar       | Tommy MacLean      | Claire Treesh      |
| Kaitlin Farren     | Kylie Maier        | Katrina Vassell    |
| Andrew Fletcher    | Kelly Manhart      | Paxton Voigt       |
| Jonathan Gill      | Alison McGarey     | Caroline Weihs     |
| Henry Glick        | Katherine McKay    | Dana Wensberg      |
| Caroline Golino    | Nicole Meir        | Cameron Wong       |

## Student and Faculty News

### Ecocitizens Club Encourages Recycling Efforts



The **Ecocitizens Club** is recycling old electronics and ink cartridges as a fundraiser. Proceeds support global conservation efforts. Please donate the following items to the box in the main lobby or to Room C106.

**Accepted:** Laptops, e-readers, cell phones, iPods, GPS devices, digital cameras, hand-held games, and any ink cartridges.

Other, larger electronics may be recycled for free at the local Refuse and Recycling Area (a.k.a. the Dump) per Connecticut state law.

### Local Businesses Join Forces with AP Economics Classes

Last school year the Darien Chamber of Commerce approached the Guidance Department about the possibility of having speakers from the local business community in the classroom. AP Economics teacher **Steve Balazs** took them up on the offer, and, in order to ensure the information presented by the speakers related to and supplemented the curriculum, he met with the Chamber to develop the series. Mr. Balazs created an outline with information that would be most helpful in advancing the curriculum, and the Chamber began the process of locating and preparing speakers for the presentations. The first speaker, **Bill Jensen**, spoke to the class about owning and operating a toy store in Darien as well as his prior career in the oil industry. He was joined by **Steve Ellwanger** from the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Balazs acted as the moderator. Mr. Balazs is in the process of scheduling the next speaker, and eventually he intends to incorporate the information the students acquire from local business people into the post-AP exam projects.

### Holiday Visit to the Senior Center

A group of Darien High School students visited the Senior Center for a pre-holiday tea, bringing homemade cookies, working on a craft project together, and challenging the seniors in table tennis. As usual the students and the seniors enjoyed the time spent together. **Jacob Rucquoi** gave a holiday trumpet preview of several pieces the band would be playing at the DHS Holiday Concert.



# Principal's Newsletter

---

## Art and Architecture Experience for Western Civ Classes

Two Western Civilization classes travelled to Manhattan on December 6th to take a closer look at Medieval art and architecture. The students viewed the Romanesque and Gothic architecture at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, including a climbing tour to the roof. They were also able to see firsthand the symbolism that was included in cathedral architecture, as it needed to be able to relate messages to the illiterate population of the Middle Ages. The classes then travelled to The Cloisters, at Fort Tryon Park where they saw artwork, sarcophagi, and the famous unicorn tapestry.



## “Do What You Are”

In December the Special Education Department partnered with the Guidance Department and held Transition Workshops using the Naviance program “Do What You Are”. This provided an opportunity for the students in learning centers to further connect with their guidance counselors and begin to learn about what careers they may be interested in based on their personality types. Naviance is a program available to all students to help them transition to post-secondary opportunities. Students should see their guidance counselors if they want to learn more about the program.

## Applied Math & Tech Ed

One of the Applied Math classes visited the Tech Ed Department and participated in a lesson on scale drawings. The students were taught how to look at an actual stool and then draw the parts of the stool in  $\frac{1}{4}$  “ scale. It was exciting to see the students applying their newly acquired knowledge on proportions and ratios to a real-life situation. The students really enjoyed the in-school field trip and are excited to take electives in Tech Ed in the future. Thank you **Mr. Strecker** and **Mr. Reynolds!**

## Quidditch Team Participates in International Tournament



Members of the Darien Muggle Quidditch League participated in the 2011 International Quidditch Association World Cup. This was the team's first year participating in the world cup and they played five hard fought rounds over two days against much more experienced teams.

Freshman **Mallory Zabrocky** managed to shock the crowd by capturing the snitch to end game three. While the snitch might not be an actual magical ball with wings (the IQA substituted college track athletes in gold spandex) the cuts and bruises incurred are real. The Darien players competed with honor, always showed respect for their competitors and exhibited a joy of play that should make DHS proud.



*Continued from p. 1*



**Richard Sadlon**, the Director of Music in Darien stated, "These students have consistently worked and studied over several years to have been chosen as among the finest high school musicians in Western Connecticut and we are all extremely proud of their musical accomplishments. These students are to be commended for doing a fine job of representing Darien High School and our town at this prestigious regional event."

All of the students who participated in the Connecticut Western Region Festival will be eligible to audition for the Connecticut All-State Festival. Congratulations to all!

## Class of 2012 Community Scholarship Information

The following scholarship materials will be available in the Guidance Department the last week in February.

- **DHS Scholarship Information** fact sheet which details how to apply for the community based scholarships that are available.
- **Scholarship Application** for local, community based scholarships
- Application for the **Kiwanis Henry Keil Grant** for the study of Nursing and Allied Health Services

The scholarship information and forms will also be available on the DHS website.

All applications are to be completed and returned to Mrs. Schoknecht in the main office no later than **Thursday, March 29, 2012**.

**Students who wish to apply for the Darien Education Association (DEA) Scholarship** should note that priority will be given to applicants entering the field of education. If you are interested in this scholarship, please submit an essay of 150 words or less on the following topic: What persuaded you to enter the field of education? This essay should be written on a separate piece of paper and submitted with the general scholarship application form.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schoknecht at 655-3981, extension 2353 or [pschoknecht@darienps.org](mailto:pschoknecht@darienps.org)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS:  
Thursday, March 29th**

## Darien Board of Education Book Award

Applications for the **Darien Board of Education Book Award**, which is presented to a current **junior** interested in the field of education, are available in Guidance on the table where the Scholarship applications are located. The application will also be available on the DHS website. Deadline for submission is March 29th.

## News from the Art Department

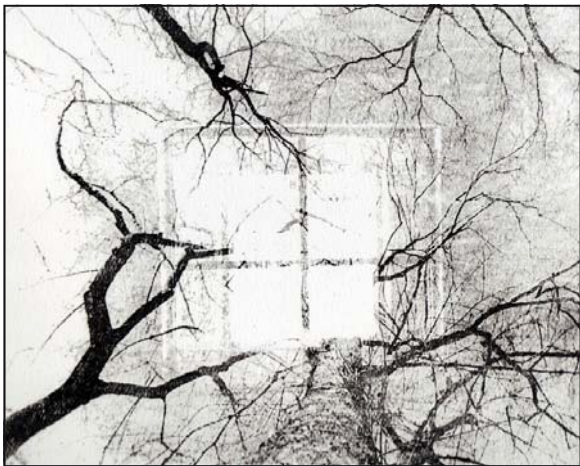
### *CT Regional Scholastics Art Awards Exhibition*

This January, The Darien High School Art Department had 16 students enter work into the Connecticut Regional Scholastics Art Awards Exhibition. The goal of this exhibit is “Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Connecticut Youth” and is aimed at offering recognition and encouragement to the many talented students across the state. More than 1,500 students from more than 130 participating schools in Connecticut entered work into the competition within a variety of media categories. Of the 1500 entries, 655 works will be on display at the University of Hartford, all of which received a Gold Key Award, a Silver Key Award, or an Honorable Mention Award. Out of the 655 entries, 229 received the Top Gold Key (including 98 Gold Portfolios), 157 earned Silver Keys, and 267 earned Honorable Mention awards.

The DHS Art Department is extremely proud this year to recognize 6 students who received a Scholastic Art Award! Junior, **Katie Ferguson**, received a Silver Key for her ceramic submission. In the area of photography, Senior **Kathleen Burke** received a Silver Key for her piece and Junior **Ellen Zamsky** received an Honorable Mention. In the area of painting, Sophomore **Hannah Nilsson** received a Gold Key for her piece, and Junior **Joe Haddad** received an Honorable Mention for his. Finally, in the Art Portfolio category in which students had to submit 8 pieces to be considered, Senior **Soyoung Lee** received a Gold Key for her entire portfolio. Congratulations DHS Art Students! The DHS Art Department is very proud of you!

The student’s works will be on display in the Silpe Gallery, at University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School daily from 9-4, and weekends from 12-5, through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Connecticut Student Awards Presentation will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Lincoln Theater at the University of Hartford.

Congratulations to these 6 students for their exciting achievements and to all of our students who submitted work to the Scholastics Art Awards this year!



**Ellen Zamsky, The Window, Photography**



**Kate Ferguson, Namaste, Ceramics**

*Continued on p. 9*

# Principal's Newsletter

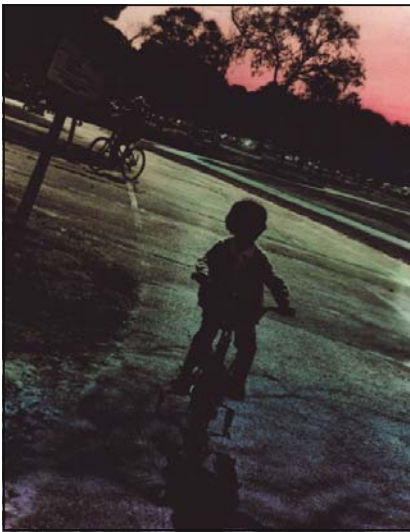
*Continued from p. 8*



**Soyoung Lee, Dream, Chalk Pastel**



**Hannah Nilsson, Breakfast, Acrylic**



**Kathleen Burke, Boy on Bike,  
Photography**



**Joe Haddad, Dusk on the Countryside, Acrylic**

## ***Technology Education and Ceramics Collaborate***

**Tech Ed teacher, Rich Reynolds,** and ceramics teacher, **Michelle Currier** collaborated to help students create ceramic tile mosaic tables. Each unique table was designed and hand built by the students. Students rolled out slabs of clay to create their tiles, then ventured to the woodworking classroom to learn the skills needed to build a table. Students were able to expand their

*Continued on p. 10*

Continued from p. 9



knowledge of the arts while both departments benefited greatly from this student centered interdisciplinary project. The tables will be entered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Fairfield County Student Woodworking Competition held at Darien High School this spring.



## *Garden Club and Ceramics Classes Combine Forces for Forgotten Heroes*

Over the past few weeks students in **Michelle Currier's** and **Doreen Bosler's** ceramics classes have been creating flowerpots. These will be filled with plants grown by the DHS Garden Club and donated to Forgotten Heroes, a safe transitional housing facility for female veterans. The home is located in Bridgeport, CT and is currently housing fifteen female veterans who are homeless. The Forgotten Heroes program will provide these women with support and skills training.



## Upcoming Events

### USAF Falconaires Jazz Ensemble to Perform at Darien High School



The United States Air Force Academy Falconaires Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Darien High School auditorium on Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. The Falconaires Jazz Ensemble is one of two premiere big bands of the United States Air Force that tour throughout the United States and abroad performing public concerts and shows. The Falconaires are icons of the Air Force Space Command and the USAF Academy at Peterson AFB in Colorado.

Our own Darien HS Jazz Ensemble under the direction of **Jonathan Grauer** will open the program for the Falconaires and will also be involved in a special workshop with members of the Falconaires on the afternoon of the concert.

There is no admission charge, but a ticket will be required for admission. Tickets may be requested by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Falconaires Tickets, Darien High School, 80 High School Lane, Darien, CT. Darien Public School employees may send a request via interoffice mail. There is a limit of 4 tickets per request. This event is being sponsored by the Darien Music Department, The Darien Music for Youth organization, the Darien Times and Cousins Uniform and Tux.

For further information please call the Music Department at 203-655-2981 ext. 2250

---

*To order tickets, send this form with a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope to:*

***FALCONAIRES TICKETS***

Darien High School  
80 High School Lane  
Darien, CT 06820

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

## ASR Competition



Thirty-seven Authentic Science Research students will be competing in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair on Saturday, February 4, at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge. The guest speaker will be **Dr. Daniel Riskin**, evolutionary biologist. The public is invited to view the entries, as well as to hear Dr. Riskin speak. Please contact either **David Lewis** at [dlewis@darienps.org](mailto:dlewis@darienps.org), or **Christine Leventhal** at [cleventhal@darienps.org](mailto:cleventhal@darienps.org), or go to the official website, <http://scisef.org/> for more information.

## Ski and Snowboard Trips

The Ski and Snowboard Club will be taking their final two trips to Vermont on February 4<sup>th</sup> (to Mt. Snow) and March 2-4 (to Stratton). **Permission slips and information can be found on Mr. Buckley's website** as well as in the History office or the Tech Ed room with **Mr. Nelson**. Permission slips for Mt. Snow should be in no later than January 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Darien Young Composers Concert—Applications Due March 8th



The Music Department of the Darien Public Schools would like to announce the Twelfth Annual Darien Young Composers Concert. This special concert program will be held on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Darien High School auditorium and will feature the works of student composers in the Darien Public Schools from the Elementary, Middle School, and High School levels. All compositions for performance consideration must be recorded on a CD or DVD and submitted

along with the application form to one of the school music teachers or the District Music Office no later than March 8, 2012. Students whose compositions are chosen to be included in the concert performance will be notified by March 16. The student composers selected to perform will also have the opportunity to have their compositions reviewed by a professional guest composer and will also meet with the composer in a special workshop to discuss the creative process of music composition and opportunities for professional composers. During the course of each school year, the music teachers in the Darien Public Schools engage their students in composition lessons and activities as part of their curriculum and encourage participation in this unique opportunity. Guidelines, application forms and other information are available from all school music teachers in the Darien Public Schools, on our website at: [www.darienps.org/dpsmusic](http://www.darienps.org/dpsmusic) or by calling the Music Office at: 655-3981 ext: 2250.

# Principal's Newsletter

## Theatre 308 Presents *West Side Story*

In December, Theatre 308 held a Musical Workshop for students interested in auditioning for this Spring's production of *West Side Story*. During this 2-day workshop, at least 50 students worked on singing, acting and dancing with the help of **Mr. Chris Andrade, Ms. Nancy Herman, Ms. Lauren DiStefano** and **Ms. Katie Mulcahy**. The workshop allowed students to learn the choreography and songs to better prepare them for the audition process which was held in January. Over 80 talented students auditioned for a cast of only 37 roles. Senior **Kristina Lew** will be returning as Stage Manager for this production, along with two assistant stage managers, sophomores **Mac McDonough** and **Caroline Wetterauw**. Senior **Amanda Hutter** is acting as Dramaturge and Assistant to the Director. Set design by seniors **Juli Flynn** and **Brooke Davis**.

If your child would like to be involved behind the scenes, meetings are held Tuesdays after school in the Little Theater. *West Side Story* will take place March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit <http://dhstheatre308.wordpress.com/> for information about previous productions and ways to support this program.



### Cast Members:

#### THE JETS

Riff..... Addison Thalhamer  
Tony..... Kevin Koenitzer  
Action..... Reed Morgan  
A-Rab..... Charlie Baird  
Baby John..... Kincade Webster  
Snowboy..... Dylan Gabriel  
Big Deal..... Peter Traver  
Diesel..... Max Kenyon  
Gee-Tar..... Florian Eenkema van Dijk  
Mouthpiece..... Edward Edwards  
Tiger..... Grayson Horan  
Graziella..... Abby Leinroth  
Velma..... McKinley Stauffer  
Anybodys..... Melanie Turner  
Jet Girl..... Jessica Cambell  
Jet Girl..... Abby Washer  
Jet Girl..... Francesca Cara  
Jet Girl..... Mary Elliott

#### THE SHARKS

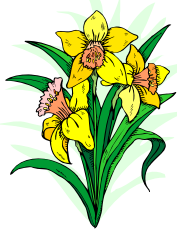
Bernardo..... Doug Phipps  
Maria..... Nicole Gutierrez  
Anita..... Hannah Caldwell  
Chino..... Sam Bryant  
Pepe..... Mike Stovall  
Indio..... Cal Kevorkian  
Anxious..... Drew Hardin  
Nibbles..... Christopher Perkowski  
Juano..... Andrew Eddie  
Toro..... John Jonker  
Moose..... Matt Hayes  
Rosalia..... Kristen Mithopoulos  
Consuelo..... Christina Noujaim  
Francisca..... Lily Saffa  
Shark Girl..... Laura Powis  
Shark Girl..... Hannah Dehlin  
Shark Girl..... Jackie Wunsch  
Shark Girl..... Katy Murphy  
Shark Girl..... Emily Elliott

Thank You DHSPA!

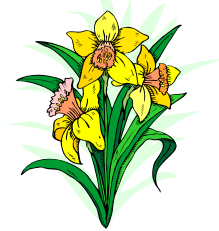
The administration, faculty, and staff of DHS would like to thank the DHSPA for the Holiday Luncheon they hosted on December 16th.

In particular, thanks go to Laurie Anderson and her committee, Pasqualina Berkowitz, Kathy Gunn and Jane Pelley, for organizing the event.

Thank you to all the parents who provided the delicious desserts. It was a wonderful luncheon, appreciated by all.



**Darien Public Schools**  
**21<sup>th</sup> Annual Daffodil Drive**  
for  
**The American Cancer Society**  
**\$10 per bunch**



**Support cancer research—buy daffodils!**

Since 1991 Darien Public Schools have raised almost \$500,000 for cancer research. If you would like to preorder daffodils, please complete this form, attach a check made out to **The American Cancer Society**, and return the form and check to Patti Schoknecht at DHS. **Preorders must be turned in by Thursday, March 1.** You will be notified by email when the flowers are available for pick-up (sometime the **week of March 19-23**). Thank you for your continued support.

## ORDER FORM

-----  
**Please print clearly.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bunches \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10/bunch Total \_\_\_\_\_

## News From Guidance

### Course Request Process

The course request process for next school year will begin in February. The following is an outline of the course request steps:

- **February 7<sup>th</sup>:** Students will consult with each of their teachers during the school day and obtain their course recommendations for next year in each subject area. The student and teacher will complete a course request form, and the student will add their elective choices, including three alternatives. The completed form will be handed in to Guidance at the end of the day. This is the initial request form, and does not finalize the process.
- **February 8<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:** The initial requests from the course request forms are entered into our scheduling system.
- **February 27<sup>th</sup>-March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Students must meet with their counselor during this time to review their course requests. Appointments are encouraged, but not necessary. Each counselor will be meeting with over 150 students during this time, so students may need to be both patient and persistent. Any changes to teacher recommendations or elective requests should be discussed at this time. Students who do not meet with their counselor risk not having a schedule created for next year. Students will leave this meeting with a request confirmation form listing all requested courses; this form must be signed by their parents. If a parent has a question or concern, it should be noted on the form. This will complete the course request process and students are expected to adhere to their requests for next year.
- **March-June:** The schedule for next year is created, based on the course requests. Level changes to courses are made based on 2<sup>nd</sup> semester student performance and placement testing. Students are also contacted by their counselor if there are any conflicts with their requests.
- **End of June:** A final confirmation of courses for the following year is mailed home. This will not include teacher names or class periods, only a list of courses for which students are now registered. During exams and for a few days after graduation, counselors will be available to help with any scheduling errors. Students receive their actual schedules on the first day of school in homeroom.

### Junior Planning Meetings

Individual Junior planning meetings begin on February 1st. Each Junior, along with his or her parents, has the opportunity to meet with their counselor to develop a plan for meeting their post-secondary goals. These meetings should be scheduled by the student during a free period. Students should submit their Junior Packet to the counselor at least five days before the scheduled meeting. The completion of this packet is essential to a productive meeting; not submitting the packet could cause delays in processing materials for colleges senior year. The Junior Packets (one for students, one for parents) can be found at [Junior Packet](#) and [Parent Packet](#) or on the Guidance website under Forms. Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

*Continued on p. 16*

*Continued from p. 15*

## Senior Transcripts

First semester transcripts will automatically be sent to any school for which a student has previously requested a transcript; students do not need to make the request again, nor do they need to submit any additional paperwork. Please keep in mind that due to the time it takes to process grades and literally thousands of transcripts, they will not be sent to schools until the second week of February. Please let any school that contacts you for your first semester grades know they should expect them sometime after the second week in February. Also, if you see an error in your report card, please let the teacher know immediately, so that it can be corrected before the transcript is sent. Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

## CAPT Testing

The annual state mandated CAPT testing will take place March 5-9. This test is mandatory for all Sophomores and any Junior who has not met the district performance standard. Juniors who have not met this standard will be notified of their need to retake the test. It is extremely important for students to attend their scheduled testing time. Make-up testing will take place March 12-16. The CAPT schedule can be found on p. 18 of this Newsletter and will be posted on the DHS website. Please contact your counselor if you have any questions.

## ACT/SAT Testing

Please keep in mind the upcoming registration and test dates for the ACT and SAT. If you are not sure which date you should register, please see your counselor. Students who are in need of accommodations should see their counselor prior to registering.

| SAT       |                       | ACT       |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Test Date | Registration Deadline | Test Date | Registration Deadline |
| 3/10/12   | 2/10/12               | 4/4/12    | 3/9/12                |
| 5/5/12    | 4/6/12                | 6/9/12    | 5/4/12                |
| 6/2/12    | 5/8/12                |           |                       |

## NAEP Testing

A group of Seniors will be randomly selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which takes place Tuesday, April 3rd. NAEP is administered by the federal Department of Education and is used to determine the progress of American students. These results are released in a report known as the *Nation's Report Card*. The results are confidential and are only used as part of total state and national results. Students will not be penalized for missing class on the day of testing and are not expected to study for the test. For further questions please feel free to contact Paul Ribeiro.

## GAP Year Fair

The Guidance Department is hosting a Gap Year fair on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The fair is designed to showcase the various options available to students after high school should they be uncertain about starting college. Several organizations will be represented at the fair. Please contact your counselor if you have any questions.

*Continued on p. 17*

# Principal's Newsletter

*Continued from p. 16*

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade PLC Counselor Meetings

On February 10th the freshmen class is being asked to report to the high school during the delayed opening time to meet with their counselor. Counselors will be discussing transition, goal setting, and reflection with the students in a group setting. Highlighted in this discussion will be a review of resources in the school as well as the opportunities and benefits of getting involved as it may relate to their short and long term academic, personal, career and social goals. Room assignments will be posted on the DHS website. We look forward to seeing the freshmen during these sessions.

## CAPT Test Schedule

March 5-9, 2012

|                                  |                | TIME                | EVENT   |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br><b>5-Mar</b>    | CAPT           | 7:40 - 10:25        | <b>Math I</b> 90 minutes (including instructions)<br>10 minute break<br><b>Science I</b> 65 minutes (incl. instr.)                      |
| <b>A Day</b>                     | <b>CLASSES</b> | <b>10:35 - 2:20</b> | <b>Periods 2,6,3,8 meet</b>   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br><b>6-Mar</b>   | CAPT           | 7:40 - 10:10        | <b>Interdisciplinary Writing I</b> 80 minutes (incl. instr.)<br>10 minute break<br><b>Reading for Information</b> 60 min (incl. instr.) |
| <b>B Day</b>                     | <b>CLASSES</b> | <b>10:20 - 2:20</b> | <b>Periods 4,7,3,5 meet</b>   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br><b>7-Mar</b> | CAPT           | 7:40 - 10:25        | <b>Response to Literature</b> 80 minutes (incl. instr.)<br>5 minute break<br><b>Response to Literature II</b> 80 minutes                |
| <b>C Day</b>                     | <b>CLASSES</b> | <b>10:35 - 2:20</b> | <b>Periods 1,8,4,6 meet</b>   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><b>8-Mar</b>  | CAPT           | 7:40 - 9:45         | <b>Interdisciplinary Writing II</b> 80 minutes (incl. instr.)<br>10 minute break<br><b>Editing &amp; Revising</b> 35 min (incl. instr.) |
| <b>D Day</b>                     | <b>CLASSES</b> | <b>9:55 - 2:20</b>  | <b>Periods 2,3,5,6,7 meet</b>   |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>9-Mar</b>    | CAPT           | 7:40 - 10:25        | <b>Math II</b> 90 minutes (incl. instr.)<br>10 minute break<br><b>Science II</b> 65 minutes (incl. instr.)                              |
| <b>E Day</b>                     | <b>CLASSES</b> | <b>10:35 - 2:20</b> | <b>Periods 2,1,4,8 meet</b>   |

## From the DHSPA

We made it through midterms this year with no snow days or delayed starts! Again this year the town library generously increased its hours to accommodate our studying children. Thank you to those parent volunteers who spent time at the library to help with the influx of DHS students.

Thank you also to our Holiday Luncheon Committee, led by **Laurie Anderson**, with members **Pasqualina Berkowitz, Kathy Gunn** and **Jane Pelley**, for hosting a very special staff luncheon just before the winter recess. It was a nice opportunity for all members of the DHS staff to come enjoy each-other's company with a festive meal. Thank you also to all the parents who delivered a beautiful and delicious assortment of desserts for the big event.

How can we close 2011 without mentioning our Student Wear Committee?! **Jo-Ann Sawitsky** and her committee have wowed us with another successful holiday season! For the third year in a row they managed to come up with great gift options (blue and black jackets embroidered with DHS) and made all their wares available just in time for the Holidays. Thank you, **Jo-Ann, Valli Baker, Maria Farren, Keri Glick, Katey Minion, Sally Lovegrove** and all who support Student Wear! All the proceeds go directly to DHSPA. Please be on the lookout for the new student wear cart (temporarily housed in the College and Career office) which will be full of fun, small items for students to buy on pre-designated sale days.

The primary focus from January-March is the Board of Education's Budget Planning Meetings for the 2012/2013 school year. Our budget reps, **Brianna Schneider** and **Amy Howe**, have been busy following the budget process over many evening meetings. They will be speaking in support of the DHS proposed budget at the Public Hearing on Feb. 7th, 7pm at the Town Hall Auditorium. Please come for this very important meeting to offer support to our budget reps and our DHS budget, which includes a proposed additional teacher to meet our projected enrollment increase of 34 students and an increase of \$15,000 for clubs and councils to support all the new clubs that have successfully gotten off the ground in the past few years. The DHSPA wishes to thank Brianna and Amy for all their time and effort to advocate for the DHS administration's proposed budget!

The nominating process for the DHSPA 2012-213 is well underway, but there are still a few openings. If you would like to join a DHSPA committee, please contact Nominating Chairs **Dawn Edgar**, [dedgar@optonline.net](mailto:dedgar@optonline.net), and **Laurie Orem**, [oremj@aol.com](mailto:oremj@aol.com). They'll help you decide what job best suits your interests and schedule. Job descriptions are posted on the DHS website in the "Parent" Section or [www.darienps.org/dhspa](http://www.darienps.org/dhspa). Thank you Dawn, Laurie and your very hard-working committee!

### Coming Attractions:

Please mark your calendar for **Tues, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:15am** to come to our next DHSPA meeting in the Auditorium. Coffee served at 9:00 a.m.

*Continued on p. 19*

# Principal's Newsletter

---

*Continued from p. 18*

The Class Parent Coffees with administration have been scheduled. The Freshman Parent Coffee with administration took place on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The other Coffees are as follows:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Sophomore Parent Coffee: | April 25th, 9:30am |
| Junior Parent Coffee:    | May 4th, 9:30am    |
| Senior Parent Coffee:    | May 9th, 9:30am    |

Mark your calendar and watch for meeting locations in the DPN and come and hear from **Principal Haron** and our Guidance Director, **Paul Ribeiro**, with information relating to your child's class.

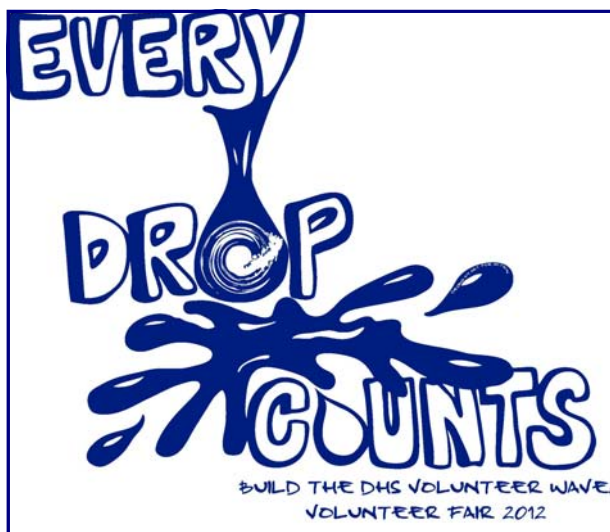
The NEASC (accreditation visit) will take place April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our hospitality chair **Mary Flynn** will be sending out requests for food donations as we get closer to the event. Thank you to Mary and the whole NEASC hospitality committee.

As part of the NEASC preparations, the NEASC marketing committee has arranged for the printing and framing of multiple copies of seven posters, created by Senior **Alex Pear** and the Art for Action Committee, which illustrate seven of our core values and beliefs. The \$2,000 printing and framing is a gift to the school from the DHSPA. Thank you to all parents for the generous gift, and please keep your eyes out for the beautiful posters throughout the school.

Please remember that the College and Career Center is open 11-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help you with your college search and, if you're looking for a part-time job, don't forget the DHS Jobs office under the student tab on the DHS website.

Sincerely,

**Wanda Forlivio and Tammy Sload**  
DHSPA Co-Chairs



Thank you to Kiki Karpen and Lisa Stout of the Darien Community Fund; Assistant Principal Ellen Spark; and parents: Laurie Orem, Emily D'Andrea, Susan Lattimer Alexia Duker, Noreen Benz, Susie Swirbul, Irene Trautmann, and Amy Wright as well as all the volunteers and organizations that made the 2012 DHS Volunteer Fair such a success.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Darien High School

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| January 31         | 8th Grade Program—6:30 PM—Auditorium                            |
| February 3         | Jazz & Pasta Fest—6:00 PM—MMS                                   |
| February 7         | DHSPA Meeting—9:00 AM Coffee/9:15 AM Meeting—Auditorium         |
| February 9         | Gap Year Fair—6:3-9:00 PM—Auditorium/Cafeteria Hallway          |
| February 10        | 90 Minute Delayed Opening—PLC Meetings                          |
| February 11        | ACT @ DHS   |
| February 20-24     | President's Day & February Recess—NO SCHOOL                     |
| February 29        | All-Town Band Festival—6:30 & 8:30 PM—Main Gym                  |
| March 5-9          | CAPT Testing  |
| March 10           | SAT   |
| March 15           | DHSPA Executive Board Meeting—9:00 AM—A105                      |
| March 22, 23, & 24 | Theatre 308 Musical, <i>West Side Story</i> —8:00 PM—Auditorium |
| March 27           | DHSPA Meeting—9:00 AM Coffee/9:15 AM Meeting—Auditorium         |
| March 28           | End 3rd Quarter   |
| March 29           | Begin 4th Quarter   |
| April 3            | Darien Young Composer's Concert—7:30 PM—Auditorium              |
| April 6            | Good Friday—NO SCHOOL   |
| April 9            | Staff Development—NO SCHOOL for Students                        |
| April 11           | Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival—7:30 PM—Auditorium            |
| April 14           | ACT @ DHS   |
| April 16-20        | April Recess—NO SCHOOL  |
| April 24           | 90 Minute Delayed Opening—PLC Meetings                          |
| April 26           | DHSPA Executive Board Meeting—9:00 AM—A105                      |
| April 26           | Dancing with the Teachers Season II                             |
| April 27           | Energy Symposium  |

### DARIEN SUMMER SCHOOL

*June 25, 2012 thru July 27, 2012*

Affordable programs for preschool to 12th grade students

*Academics, arts, sports and more...*

**OPEN to residents & non-residents**

Visit [www.dariensummerschool.com](http://www.dariensummerschool.com) to REGISTER TODAY

Or call 203.656.7467 to request a catalog