



Calendar

FEBRUARY

2 World Read Aloud Day

11 Virtual Parent Coffee

14-17 Royle Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week

14 Valentine's Day - Wear **Red/Pink/Purple** to kick off RAK week!

18 No School - Professional Development Day

21-25 No School - Winter Break!

From Our PTO Chairs

Dear Royle,

It was great to see so many smiling faces Friday night for our magician show! What a perfect activity for a cold and snowy evening.

We want to thank Dr. Addley and Dr. Mullin for taking the time last week to hold a zoom meeting to go over the BOE budget. It was nice to have the budget broken down and explained for our Royle community. The next Board of Education meeting will be this Tuesday, February 1st.

For some exciting news, our Social and Fundraising team has been hard at work planning our Spring Fundraiser! Save the date for Saturday, April 23rd and be on the lookout for more information to come. This is always a fun and entertaining night out for us parents!

We hope everyone had some fun in the snow this weekend!

Lindsay & Monica

Lindsaykollar@gmail.com & Monicaosilverman@gmail.com

Royle Info

Royle Readers Rock!

Join millions around the world as we celebrate the power of reading with the 12th annual World Read Aloud Day on February 2! Send us a video of you and your family/friends reading aloud.

Click on the Flipgrid link to get started: <https://flipgrid.com/5e26a593>

Enter Guest Password (password is case sensitive): RoyleReads

DBT Parent Series

We are thrilled to announce a collaboration between our elementary schools and our consultants at Cognitive Behavior Consultants. Dr. Nora Gerardi will present on a variety of DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) topics and strategies, along with our elementary school

psychologists. All parents are invited to attend all sessions.

More information and Zoom links can be found here: [DBT Parent Coffee Flyer](#)

- Next session will be "Mindfulness" February 14, 2022 – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Important Reminder From the Royle Main Office

If your child will be ABSENT or TARDY, please notify the Main Office via the attendance line. You can call 203-655-0044 x4977 OR send an email to royleatt@darienps.org.

Let's Restock the Teacher's Lounge

Show your support for our amazing Royle Staff by helping to restock the Teacher Lounge with snacks, goodies and essentials! The Amazon Wish List will ship directly to Royle and remain active until the list is complete!

[Teacher's Lounge Wishlist](#)

Darien School District & Town Info

2022-2023 DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE

On January 24th, the Board of Education held a Special Meeting to discuss Open Choice and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).

[Meeting Agenda](#) and [Meeting Replay](#)

- Open Choice - discussion begins at the start of the meeting
- BYOD - discussion begins at 1:28

On January 25th, the Board of Education held a Regular Meeting which included an opportunity for Board Members to propose additions and cuts to the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

[Meeting Agenda](#) and [Meeting Replay](#)

- Follow-up Questions and Discussion regarding 2022-2023 Budget - begins at 1:51
- Modifications to Proposed Budget
 - Open Choice moving to policy discussion - 1:56:13
 - DHS (RC 1 & RC 11) - 1:58:45
 - Proposed cut - .6 FTE for Physical Education
 - Proposed cut - funds for Curriculum Supervision
 - Proposed cut - China Exchange Program
 - Proposed cut - Assistant Principal
 - Proposed cut - Campus Monitor (move to MMS)
 - Proposed cut - Department Chairs
 - Proposed addition - Student Parking Fees
 - Proposed cut - DHS Athletic Director (at 2:13:10)
 - MMS (RC 3) - 2:06:39
 - Proposed cut - Department Chair
 - Proposed cut - Genius Hour
 - Elementary Schools (RCs 5,7-10) - 2:09:12
 - Proposed cut - .2 FTE for shared Physical Education teacher
 - Maintenance (RC 12) - 2:13:19
 - Proposed cut - Groundskeeper
 - Music (RC 13) - 2:14
 - Proposed addition - uniforms for concerts at DHS
 - Technology (RC 15) - 2:15
 - Proposed addition - purchase of OpenGov
 - Proposed cut - Director of Technology
 - Proposed cut of 1.0 FTE - Technology Support
 - Administration (RC 16) - 2:16:44
 - Proposed cut - Consultant Services
 - Proposed cut - "Other Board Expenses"
 - Proposed cut - Superintendent salary
 - Proposed cut - dues and membership for Center for School Change
 - Proposed addition - Legal Services
 - Personnel (RC 18) - 2:18:20
 - Proposed cut - 1.0 FTE in Budget Control (Budget Control is used for unanticipated hiring needs)

- Curriculum (RC 19) - 2:19:39
 - Proposed cut - Consultant Services
 - Proposed cut - Professional Development
- Technology Education (RC 22) - 2:29:30
 - Question about budget implications for offering opt-in vs BYOD. Answer - none
- Early Learning Program (RC 26) - 2:23:40
 - Proposed increase of tuition by 4% instead of 3% (in budget)
- Capital Budget - 2:28:16
 - Proposed cut - new HVAC unit for Central Office

A document containing all proposed additions and cuts will be available [here](#) soon, along with all other budget materials.

The next Board of Education meeting will take place the evening of February 1st. It will be a Public Hearing (an opportunity for individuals to voice their opinions regarding the budget). Details to follow.

CDSP "DID YOU KNOW" SERIES - #6

The Council for Darien School Parents (CDSP) is the umbrella organization for all Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) in the Darien Public School (DPS) District. Each of the seven schools have representation on CDSP. The purpose of CDSP, formed over 20 years ago, is to promote communication and collaboration across all seven Darien schools, District Administration, the Board of Education (BoE) and the DPS parent community. CDSP encourages the exchange of creative ideas for things such as fun, engaging enrichment programs for our students, appreciation events for our teachers and staff, exploration of synergies to help reduce costs (such as author visits for our students), and representation of all parents' views / concerns. CDSP also coordinates district-wide efforts such as last year's "Showing Staff the Love"! If you have any great new ideas contact [school PTO Chair Names]. Follow CDSP on Instagram (@cdsp_darien) and Facebook (CDSP Darien)!

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

Questions or suggestions for DPS? Please use this Chain of Communication guide for school-related matters. [DPS Chain of Communication](#)

COMMUNITY

DARIEN ARTS CENTER

Art! Dance! Music! Camp - Preschool-1st Grade, Mon-Thurs, 10am-12:45pm.

- [Session 1: 6/6-6/9](#)
- [Session 2: 6/13-6/16](#)
- [Session 3: 6/20-6/23](#)
- [Session 4: 6/27-6/30](#)

Cartooning Camp - Grades 1-4. Mon-Fri, 9:30-11:30am, 7/18-7/22

Print Making Camp - Grades 5-8. Mon-Thurs, 3-5pm, 7/18-7/21

The Iconic Lettering Scripts of Harry Potter Camp - Grades 5-8. Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm, 7/11-7/15

Summer Dance Classes - Choose from classes for all levels, ages 3 & up, beginning in June.

Summer Martial Arts Classes - Choose from classes for all ages beginning in June.

VALENTINE'S DAY SIP & PAINT - Friday, February 11, 7-9pm. Grab your spouse, date, 'galentine' or best buddy for this fun night out! Bring your own beverages of choice and snacks and enjoy an evening of relaxation and creativity with DAC instructor and artist Stephanie Lush-Mastriano. All materials included and all levels welcome. \$50 per person. Sign up at darienarts.org.

Sign up now at darienarts.org.

The Darien Arts Center is located at 2 Renshaw Road, behind the Town Hall. For questions, please call (203) 655-8683.

DARIEN NATURE CENTER SUMMER CAMP

Are your kids ready for a summer filled with animal encounters and outdoor adventures? Do you have a budding ecologist, entomologist or ornithologist? Does your child love exploring in the forest, scooping at the pond or planting in the garden? If so, send them to the Darien Nature Center!

This summer the Nature Center is offering three, two-week sessions for children ages 4-9. The program runs June 27th - August 5th. Our Living Planet is for ages 4-6. And new this year is the Eco-Explorers program for ages 7-9. Eco-Explorers has been designed to inspire kids to explore, respect and protect nature by diving deeper into topics like Connecticut wildlife, the natural sciences, and wilderness skills.

A registration lottery for all 2022 Summer Camp programs will run February 1-8.

For full program and pricing details visit dariennaturecenter.org/summer-camp. To be added to the Nature Center's mailing list email leah@dariennaturecenter.org.

Enrollment is now open for the Darien Nature Center's after-school program, Outdoor Explorers. This is a monthly series for students in grades K - 5 that meets three times per month from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Each month has a new theme. The theme for February is Adaptations: Feathers, claws, camouflage, and more! Children will spend 90 minutes outside, exploring the different areas of Cherry Lawn Park. For more information and to register, please visit dariennaturecenter.org/after-school.

DARIEN YOUTH COMMISSION'S SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Registration begins Monday, February 14!

Registration forms will be posted on the DYC website on Thursday, 2/10; online resident registration is live Monday, 2/14. There will again be three grade-level programs taking place two sites this year: Camp Royle-1 students entering grade 1; Camp Royle-2/3 for students entering grades 2 & 3; Camp Mather (@ Holmes School) for students entering grades 4, 5 & 6. Summer camp dates are: **TUESDAY**, June 21 – July 29 (three, 2-week sessions). FAQ regarding pricing, program content and registration is currently on the Youth Commission website (in the Summer Camp Programs section) at www.darienct.gov/yc.

DARIEN YMCA SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

The Darien YMCA Summer Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to experience a wide range of activities. We offer an environment where campers will build lasting memories and friendships. The Darien YMCA Summer Camp is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We help children grow and have fun through exploration, building self-confidence and independence, learning core values, developing life skills and most importantly being active.

Our dedicated camp staff will help teach the campers new skills and facilitate learning in a safe and fun environment. Campers can choose from our Preschool Camp, School Age Traditional Camp, Gymnastics Camp, Afternoon Navigators or our Swim and Sail Camp for children with special needs.

Visit our website at www.darien-ymca.org/summercamp/ for more information or contact Suzanne Richards, Director of Youth Development and Special Needs Programs at srichards@darien-ymca.org.

Previous Issues of **The Blast** are available on the PTO website.

IMPORTANT LINKS - CONNECT WITH ROYLE

[School Dismissal Manager](#)

[Royle PTO](#)

[Darien Public Schools](#)

[Join Our Royle Blast Email Distribution](#)

[Send Your Submissions to: roylemsgboard@gmail.com](mailto:roylemsgboard@gmail.com)

