

# Royle Blast

## Calendar

### September

**26 No School** - Rosh Hashanah

**30** Royle Walk-a-thon and Royle Blue and White Spirit Day

### October

**5 No School** - Yom Kippur

**13** Special Education Parent Coffee

**29** Family Photo Day Fundraiser

**31** Kindergarten Parents - Kindergarten Halloween Share

## From Our PTO Chairs

Dear Royle Knights,

Fall is in full swing! It was wonderful seeing so many of you last weekend at the Back to School Picnic. Thank you to our Fundraising and Events team for organizing such a fun first event. It's also the **FINAL** week to collect pledges for the **Walk-a-Thon on Friday**, so submit yours ASAP! Get ready to cheer on your kids as they walk for Royle!

Just a reminder that there is no school on Monday. Happy Rosh Hashanah!

Sincerely,

[Amy Reid](#) and [Dawn MacDonald](#)

PTO Co-Chairs

## Royle Info

**Darien After School @ Royle**

Welcome Back to School and Fall Enrichment with **Darien After School @ Royle** - where students can be anything they want to be and make new friends!

Fall classes **start this week** and are offered Monday-Friday; starting 9/27 through 12/22. Rolling Registration Open Throughout the Session

Classes include Sports, Music, Art, Science, Theater and MORE...  
Schedule, Program Details & Registration  
[@https://www.darienafterschool.com/Royle.html](https://www.darienafterschool.com/Royle.html)

Welcome Kindergarteners and New Families too! Please Click [HERE for information on how our program works](#), or reach out to us anytime!

Contact: [info@darienafterschool.com](mailto:info@darienafterschool.com) / 888.212.3837

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## Royle Merchandise

Did you know that Royle has awesome new merchandise beyond tees and hoodies? Trucker hats, cooler bags, water bottles, coozies, car magnets, and lots more are here and ready to use for all of your fall activities.



**The next event to pick up some merchandise will be September 30th at the Walk-a-thon!**

Supporting our school never looked so good!  
If you have any questions please contact [Kelly Phelps](#)

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## Second Annual Royle Walk-A-Thon

**Friday, September 30th**

Please join us on **Friday, September 30th** for our Second Annual Royle Walk-a-Thon! Thank you to all families who have sent in pledges and donations, your support is greatly appreciated!

There is still time to make pledges and donations! Please share the Royle Walk-A-Thon website link with family and friends. Your child's team is their classroom teacher.

Also, if you'd like to purchase a sign for the day of the Walk-A-Thon, each sign is \$25 - return with your form by September 27th!

Thanks for all your help to make the Royle Walk-A-Thon a huge success!

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# 2022-23 Royle School Directory

Purchase by Friday, September 30th



**\*\*ALL NEW AND RETURNING FAMILIES SHOULD VERIFY THEIR FAMILY/STUDENT INFORMATION IN THE DIRECTORY\*\***

<https://roylepto.membershiptoolkit.com>

## **RETURNING STUDENTS:**

If you have a student returning to Royle, then you can simply go to

<https://roylepto.membershiptoolkit.com>.

2. Go to Register/Login.
3. Click on "Your Family Information" and "Directory Publish Preferences." Update information accordingly.
4. Click on "Buy the Royle Directory" on the left-hand side and select one of three options.

## **NEW STUDENTS**

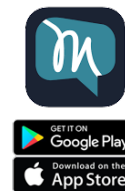
1. Go to <https://roylepto.membershiptoolkit.com>.
2. Go to Register/Login.
3. Click "Create Account" under NEW USER.
4. Fill out the form and click "Verify My Email."
5. Enter the password and click "Create Account."
6. Under "Parent and Student Information" click on "Your Family Information" and "Directory Publish Preferences." Update information accordingly.
7. Click on "Buy the Royle Directory" on the left-hand side and select one of three options.

**PRINTED DIRECTORIES WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM SOMETIME IN OCTOBER TO BRING HOME!**

Please contact Kendra Lee with any questions [kendracallahan@gmail.com](mailto:kendracallahan@gmail.com).

## **Download the Free App!**

Search for Membership Toolkit in the Apple App Store or Google Play. After you register on the website, use the same username and password you chose in the app to access our directory, manage your family information, and make purchases — all from your mobile device.



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**The Depot 5th Grade  
Ice Cream Social**

**Thursday, October 13th, 4-5:30pm**

Don't miss the 5th Grade Ice Cream Social at The Depot on Thursday, October 13 from 4-5:30pm. Kick off the school year with this fun annual party featuring Mr. Softee, DJ, games and more. \$20 admission



[Click Here to Register.](#) Space is limited.

If you have any questions, contact [Elizabeth Hole](#)

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## Fall Family Photos

**Saturday, October 29th**

Holiday family photos - check! Fall mini sessions with Royle family-favorite photographer Karen Morneau at Mead Park will be on October 29th.

Register [HERE](#) to reserve a time slot and pay for your session [HERE](#). If payment is not received, the time slot will be forfeited. Karen will send you all your images after the photo shoot, and you can pay her directly for the images you choose. Enjoy!

See the [flyer](#) for more info.

If you have any questions please contact [Monica Silverman](#)

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## Royle Chorus - calling all 4th and 5th graders!

Dear parents!

We still welcome any other 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who would like to sing with us this year! Royle Chorus meets every Thursday morning from 7:35-8:15am in the Common Room. We will sing a variety of music from many traditions and styles. We will also be incorporating some drumming, percussion, dancing and other instruments into the chorus pieces this year. We will be playing some theatre and acting games along the way, as well, and might even have some fun karaoke days, as well. It'll be an exciting program in the upcoming months and I hope that your child will consider participating. Complete information about Chorus can be found [HERE](#).

Please note that students may participate in chorus AND an instrumental group (band OR orchestra). We hope that many 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in chorus AND band or orchestra.

To register your child for CHORUS, fill out the following GoogleForm [HERE](#).

Thank you! Have a wonderful week!

Regards, [Ms. Kathleen Theisen](#)

For information about signing up for BAND, please contact [Mr. Colin Walters](#)  
For information about signing up for ORCHESTRA, please contact [Ms. Jane Minnis](#)

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## Royle School Weed Beach Clean Up

Join us for the Royle School Weed Beach Clean Up on **Tuesday, November 8th at 10am** (It's Election Day - No School). The Royle Cares Community Outreach Committee will provide plastic bags and gloves for the kids, and whoever collects the most garbage will win a prize! We will be stationed near the playground, so people can stay and play afterwards. Doughnuts and coffee will be served. All students K-5 are welcome. This is not a drop-off event: caregivers should stay. Please email Betsy Champy at [elizabeth.champy@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.champy@gmail.com) if you have questions. Sign up using the link below. Hope to see you all there!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094BA4AB2EA7FD0-weed>

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## The Royle Garden Needs Your Help!

A green thumb is not necessary. A love for the outdoors and a desire to give your students and staff a beautiful and green outdoor space is all that is required. The garden needs some cleaning up and removal of weeds. And soon it will be time to plant some spring bulbs!

If you would like to help take care of the Royle Garden, please reach out to Dawn MacDonald [dawn.matthews3@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.matthews3@gmail.com)

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## Update Your Child's Lunch Account!

The Darien school lunch program has switched to **MySchoolBucks** for online lunch payments and will no longer be using K12PaymentCenter. For information on balance transfers and signups, please click [HERE](#).

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## Bus Route Sign-Up & Updates

If you have not learned about FirstView, please take a moment to do so at: [FirstView App at Darien Public Schools - Darien Public Schools \(darienps.org\)](#)  
Updated bus schedules are posted here: [2022-23 School Bus Routes - Darien Public Schools \(darienps.org\)](#)  
Any questions or concerns, please reach out to [kbarbieri@darienps.org](mailto:kbarbieri@darienps.org)

## Royle PTO Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

We welcome you to **subscribe** to Royle PTO's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion newsletter and visit the **PTO website** for more DEI resources and previous newsletter editions.

### Darien School District

#### Upcoming Board Of Education Meetings

Held at 35 Leroy Ave and available to view via Zoom and YouTube. The BOE usually posts links on their website on the day of the meetings.

Tuesday, September 27 @ 7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 11 @ 7:30 PM

#### Chain Of Communication

Questions or suggestions for DPS? Please use this Chain of Communication guide for school-related matters. **DPS Chain of Communication**

### Community

#### Discover Darien Cub Scouts!

Cub Scouts Family Fun Day will be held TODAY **9/25 from 1-3 pm** at Weed Beach Meadow. Drop by for interactive games, skill building opportunities, and yummy treats. Learn about Darien Cub Scouts, with programs for boys and girls grades K-5. Scouts develop leadership skills, have amazing outdoor adventures, and provide valuable community service while making lifelong friends. Visit [www.darienscouts.org](http://www.darienscouts.org) or email [darienscouts@gmail.com](mailto:darienscouts@gmail.com) for more information.



#### Free Movie Night at Highland Farm

The Darien Parks & Recreation Department and Darien Youth Commission invite you to an outdoor movie under the stars. Taking place on **Friday, September 30** at Highland Farm, the feature presentation is *ENCANTO!* Noted for its fun music and tremendous messaging (not to mention overall great entertainment!), this is the perfect film for the whole family. Start time is approximately 6:45; running time is 1h 49 m. This is a free event (there will be limited concessions for sale). Rain date is Saturday, October 1.

In an effort to anticipate attendance and parking we'd appreciate if you would RSVP for this event. That said, walk-ins are welcome! (Parking is on a first-come, first-serve basis.) Following is the link for online registration (please only register one person per family). [Movie at Highland Farm](#)

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## Youth Commission and P2P Drive-Through Food Drive

The Darien Youth Commission and P2P are proud to partner on another Drive-through Food Drive (our fifth in less than two years!). The time is right!...while September is "Hunger Action Month," the need doesn't diminish just because we've changed the calendar. Our current economic situation is creating real difficulties for our friends and neighbors who are really struggling. Hunger and food insecurity continue to be a reality for many local families. Darien has proven in the past to be extraordinarily generous in supporting these drives. (At the April 2022 food drive alone, it was estimated that P2P received over 3000 pounds of food from this three hour drive!) We hope that we can count on you again. Taking place on **Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Darien Train Station Parking Lot (Koons Lot, across West Ave. from Tilley Pond Park)**, volunteers will remove donations directly from donors' cars. Visit the DYC website for additional details and a list of most needed items: [www.darienct.gov/yc](http://www.darienct.gov/yc).

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## Outdoor Explorers at the Darien Nature Center

Head to the Darien Nature Center for an afternoon exploring the great outdoors! Each class of this 3-part series will be full of educational fun in nature. Our October theme is Birds! Through hikes, games, exploration, science experiments, and more, students will learn all about birds -- what makes them special and what they are doing this time of year. The session will include bird watching, identification of common birds in CT, and learning about bird migration! To register: [dariennaturecenter.org/after-school](http://dariennaturecenter.org/after-school). Age requirements, dates and times as follows:

### **Grades 2 - 5**

Tuesdays (October 4, 11, 18)  
3:30 - 5:00 PM

### **Grades PreK - 1**

(children must be at least 5 years old)  
Wednesdays (October 12, 19, 26)  
3:30 - 5:00 PM

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## Skyhunters in Flight:

### **Birds of Prey Demonstration Returns to the DCA!**

Come on your own or as a family for an up-close look at live owls, hawks, and falcons from around the world, with Master Falconer Brian Bradley. You will see some of these trained athletes in flight, so join us for an informative, entertaining and action-oriented program for both adults and children (age 3 and up).

The event will take place on the DCA's expansive front lawn, so bring a blanket!

Sunday, October 2, 2022  
2:00-3:00pm

#### Admission

Individual ticket: DCA member \$15, public \$20

One adult with children: \$25

Family: \$40



Purchase tickets online at [dariendca.org](http://dariendca.org) by noon on Friday, September 30.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.

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## MPA and YWCA Parent Awareness

**Middlesex Parent Association and YWCA Parent Awareness present CONNECTING WITH YOUR TWEEN WHILE THEY ARE STILL LISTENING on Wednesday, October 12th at 7:30PM.** Event will feature Darien's own, Dr. Amanda Craig, Marriage and Family Therapist who is the author of "Who Are You & What Have You Done With My Kid?"

Join us for an interactive and engaging workshop where you learn about the unique tween age group and gain tips and tricks to stay connected with your child while also starting to learn to let go. Click [here](#) for more information.

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## Weekend Meal Program

Darien Human Services participates in a partnership with Filling in the Blanks weekend meal program. Filling in the Blanks is a local non-profit organization that provides food on the weekends to school aged children ([www.fillingintheblanks.org](http://www.fillingintheblanks.org)). Each packet consists of a variety of nonperishable food items such as oatmeal, granola bars, fruit cups, mac and cheese, canned food, tuna and chips. Meal packets are distributed bi-weekly at Town Hall during designated times to families who struggle with food insecurity.

If you have questions or would like to find out if your family meets eligibility requirements, please contact Darien Human Services 203-656-7328.

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## The Town of Darien Mental Health Task Force UPDATE

The Town of Darien Mental Health Task Force is hard at work developing programs and resources for our community. The group includes town employees and officials, Darien School District administration, community organizations, religious leaders and mental health professionals. The group has two subcommittees: Behavioral Health Programming and Mental Health Needs Assessment.

Here is an update on some of the programs and resources:

- Out of the Darkness Fairfield County Walk for Suicide Prevention will take place on October 22nd in Westport (Jessup Green). Visit [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention \(AFSP\)](http://AmericanFoundationforSuicidePrevention.org) for more details, including on how to join the walk.
- [International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day](#) is November 19th, and the Town of Darien is developing a program for survivors which will take place at Noroton Presbyterian Church.
- The Behavioral Health Programming subcommittee is developing Resiliency Training programs for teens and their parents, as well as for parents of younger children.
- Ali Ramsteck, Director of Darien Human Services, is working with [The Hub](#) to provide QPR training for the wider Darien community. The Hub has already delivered this training to all school staff.
- The Mental Health Needs Assessment Subcommittee is researching how to complete a community wide mental health needs assessment survey.



Please visit the Town of Darien's [website](#) for a list of current available mental health resources.

# TOGETHER TO Fight SUICIDE

Fairfield County Walk

10:00am - 1:00pm  
Jesup Green, Westport  
Saturday, October 22nd

Register at [www.afsp.org/Fairfieldcounty](http://www.afsp.org/Fairfieldcounty)



Previous **Community Announcements** are posted on the PTO website.

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

## Royle Partners

Mabel's Labels

Royalty Rewards

Minted

## Connect with us!

**Join our Royle Blast email distribution**

**Send your submissions to: [roylemsgboard@gmail.com](mailto:roylemsgboard@gmail.com)**



Royle School Blast | 133 Mansfield Ave, Darien, CT 06820

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