
DHHS Newsletter

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March, 2007

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Principal's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we approach the end of the school year, I am appealing to parents/guardians to engage in meaningful conversation with your son or daughter regarding the importance of making healthy choices and avoiding participating in underage drinking. In the school community, we emphasize this important message by reminding students that the choices they make today determine the choices they will have tomorrow. Recognizing the role "peer pressure" plays in a student's decision-making process, we are collectively challenged, as parents and educators, to *stay on message* and provide students ongoing and consistent guidance to help them avoid putting their health, safety, and welfare in jeopardy as a result of underage drinking.

The results of the American Drug and Alcohol Survey, which was administered to our students this past fall, indicated that alcohol is the most prevalent substance used/tried by our students (69%). Ninety-one percent of the students surveyed felt that alcohol was easy to acquire. They indicated that drinking was most often done at parties with friends in the home. Between 16% and 17% of the students indicated that they had used drugs or alcohol at or prior to a school event.

The safety and well being of our students are our primary concerns. It is our responsibility, as a school, to provide opportunities for students to engage in activities that will help them in developing the skills necessary to be successful citizens of our community. As well, it is our goal to provide them with social opportunities that promote healthy relationships and a sense of school spirit. To assure this, we will continue to monitor student behavior at all school events and will continue to publish reminders of our behavioral standards. Also, it is our expectation that students have read *The Student Parent Handbook*, paying close attention to the consequences of inappropriate behavior.

We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to be a part of a community that is extremely supportive. I ask that you join us in stressing to our students/children the importance of being responsible for their own

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Principal's Letter

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behavior and remaining true to their own sense of what is right and wrong. We ask for your support in helping our students to remain substance free by encouraging their participation in extracurricular activities, by engaging them in conversations about the dangers of underage drinking and illegal drug use, by getting to know their friends, by monitoring their attendance at parties and sleep-overs, and by establishing realistic curfews.

We have just completed another successful trimester, and once again students have proven themselves successful in the arts, athletics, and other activities. In addition, the Connecticut Academic Performance Test was successfully administered during the beginning of March, and students completed their final exams. We are definitely ready for warm weather and all the excitement that the third trimester brings!

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Britton
Principal

As members of the Daniel Hand High School community, our primary purpose is to graduate successful life-long learners who are responsible citizens of the global community. We believe all students can learn, discover, develop, and realize their talents. We can best accomplish our mission in an environment that is supportive, structured, challenging and secure. With the collaborative efforts of students, educators, parents, and the Madison community, Daniel Hand High School students will mature as motivated, self-reliant, and ethical individuals who respect learning and appreciate differences in others.

Spring Sports

Spring sports schedules are available on the internet at www.danielhand.org
Go to Athletics and then to Schedules

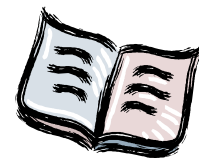
For daily updates on fields and times of sporting events . . . simply dial into our voice mail system 245-6475 then dial the mail box # 6367



LMC Update

The Library Media Center continues to focus on encouraging a love of reading in our students this year. The book recommendations and story times (with blankets!) mentioned in the previous newsletter have been successful. We are currently soliciting titles for inclusion on the summer reading list. There will be a "Most Popular Last Summer" list included with the regular titles and local authors will be featured, too. We hope your child will add his or her favorite books to the chart in the LMC. In addition, we are also planning activities to celebrate Teen Literature Day on April 19. Since it lands on a vacation day, we will celebrate it during the week prior to vacation. There will be a trivia contest (with prizes), displays, and story time, of course!

The town of Madison kicked off the One Book One Town Program on March 1. Several teachers and students from DHHS attended the event. Roya Hakakian, the author of this year's selection, *Journey from the Land of No*, gave an excellent talk and reading about her book and her life in Iran. She has graciously agreed to speak to students who have read the book. Her visit to DHHS is planned for this spring. The library volunteers put together a beautiful display for the case outside of the library with items loaned to us by the Karimi family. This display showcases items from Iran and information about the book and the author. In addition, Scranton Library is sponsoring several events from March through June as part of this program. We encourage you and your children to participate!



DHHS Salutes . . .

Seniors **David Clyde** and **Emily Savoca** for being named National Merit Scholarship Finalists in the 2007 Competition for Merit Scholarship Awards.

Senior **Matt Seaton** for qualifying as a Finalist in the 2007 Competition for Achievement Scholarship Awards given by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Seniors **Shirin Karimi** and **Chris Frink** for being selected as DHHS Scholar-Leaders. They will be honored at the Southern Connecticut Conference Scholar Leader Dinner at Anthony's Ocean View this month.

New Student Council Officers: President **Mike Makara** '08, Vice President **Rachel Niemiec** '08, Secretary **Chase Bastian** '09, and Treasurer **Rachel Berman** '08 on their new positions.

Sophomores **Matt August**, **Allie Bernardo**, **Mike Callaghan**, **Jack Callaghan**, **Tom Eckenrode**, **David Hjerpe**, **Brendan Richards**, **Max Schwartz**, **Brynn Tobin**, **Paige Vickerman**, and **Travis Wysmuler** for participating in a service project by helping to prepare meals, set tables, serve meals, and clean up afterwards at the Community Dining Room in Branford.

Tim de Ocejo '08 for being selected to the All Southern Connecticut Conference Boys' Swimming Team, for finishing second in the 100 yard breaststroke in the Class M State Finals, and for qualifying for the State Open.

The Academic WorldQuest team made up of seniors **Max Calfo**, **John Zhang**, **Alex Taubes**, and **Nick Gonsalves** and advisor, **Mrs. Laura Bomke**, for winning the World Quest Competition sponsored by the Stamford World Affairs Forum. WorldQuest is an academic quiz game which tests

student knowledge on a wide variety of world issues and current events. The team will travel to Washington, DC for the national competition at the end of March.

The Varsity Math Team and their advisor, **Mrs. Maureen Brown**, for earning first place in the 2006-07 competition with eleven area schools. **David Clyde** took First Place Senior and First Place Overall, **Alicia Johnson** achieved Second Place Senior, **Marcus Shak** placed Third Place Junior, **Amanda Rawstern** took Seventh Place Junior, and **Joe Liang** placed Third for Underclassmen. Other team members include **Ben Johnson** '08, **Alan Zhao** '11, **Eddie Tian** '10, and **Andrew Li** '10. The state contest is scheduled for April 12 at E.O. Smith High School in Storrs, CT.

Briana Whaley '09 for winning the Second Annual Shoreline Idol Competition at Haddam-Killingworth High School and **Ashley Mirando** '07 for placing third. The competition raised \$18,000 for the Tommy Fund.

Members of the DHHS High School Bowl Team and their advisor, **Ms. Paula Chabot**, for finishing in second place against thirty-five teams in an all-day tournament at Yale in November. Members of the team included **Nick Gonsalves** '07, **Alex Taubes** '07, **Marcus Shak** '08, and **Max Lecar** '09. In March three of the same with **Ethan Langevin** '07 replacing Alex Taubes, competed in another Yale-sponsored tournament with approximately forty teams. At the end of a rigorous round robin the DHHS team was in sixth place. They won the next round 265-90, but lost in the quarter finals. Special thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Lecar** who assisted and supported the team.

Seniors **David Clyde** and **John Roth** who have both qualified to take the American Invitational Exam (AIME). This is the second step in the qualifica-

tion process to become a member of the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad Team.

The Show Choir and choral teacher, **Mr. Ron Soja**, for competing in the Nutmeg Show Choir Festival in March and winning their fifth consecutive gold medal. Also, Mr. Soja's **ENCORE**, acapella group for winning the State Championship Festival in February at Cheshire High School. They have been invited to compete in the National Championship in Orlando, FL in May.

Tess Coffey '08 for being selected to participate in the All Eastern Band in Hartford.

The following students for being selected to All State Band: **Tess Coffey** '08, **Katie Trainer** '08, **Jackie Strawbridge** '08, and **David Dorfman** '10. **Leandra Mosca** '07 for being selected to All State Orchestra and **Izzy Santone** '07 for being selected to All State Chorus.

Our art students for winning awards at Future Choices Art Awards (Old Lyme College of Art): **Ben Aron** '08 Catalog Cover Artwork, **Chloe Cornell** '07 Wall St. Gallery Award, **Emily Lubanko** '07 2nd Place Self-Portrait Painting, 3rd Place Painting, **Clio Newton** '07 won Best in Show for each of her three paintings. **Ali Stackpole** '07 2nd Place Self Portrait in Pastels. And the following art students for their achievements at the Scholastic Art Awards (University of Hartford), **Emily Lubanko** '07 Gold in Portfolio, **Jack Butler** '09 Silver in Painting, **Joe Brink** '07 Honorable Mention in Photo, **Laura Santry** '10 Honorable Mention in Mixed Media, **Maggie Stewart** '08 Honorable Mention in Printmaking.

Seniors **Emily Savoca** and **Mike Bagnoli** for being selected CAS/CIAC Scholar Athletes of the Year. They will be honored at the Aqua Turf in May.

Nite-In-Hand

Help make Nite-in-Hand a memorable celebration!!

Nite-in-Hand is a fun, safe, substance free night of celebration for graduating seniors. Plans are already underway, but many of the committees need your help! We invite everyone to join in to help make this a very special, safe, and memorable night.

Please contact our volunteer coordinators to see how you can lend a hand: Lynelle Abel, erff3@comcast.net or Jill Disston, disstonjjs@comcast.net

Need Nite-in-Hand information? Check out the new Nite-in-Hand Webpage! <http://www.danielhand.org/nih/index.html>

The Senior Auction

Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 PM
DHHS Dining and Assembly Hall

Save the date for The Senior Auction! Seniors auction their time and talent during this fun-filled evening. The Senior Auction is one of the major fundraisers for Nite-in-Hand. Bring your checkbooks, and get ready for a terrific event! For additional information contact: Andrea Sikes 421-4794 or Dave Johnston 421-5100.

Nite-In-Hand Raffle

The Nite-In-Hand Raffle Committee needs your help.

Raffle prizes are needed! Nite-In-Hand is funded entirely by parents and the Madison/Shoreline communities. Would you, or do you know someone, who would donate items for our graduating class? Do you, or someone you know, work for a business that has items or can make a contribution? We are grateful for your help in prior years, and ask your continued support in 2007. Suggestions: gift cards to stores, restaurants, spa services; sports equipment; computers, printers; ipods and accessories; microwaves; refrigerators; TV's; pair of tickets to sporting events, and other special events. Please contact Nancy Gerson @ 421-8446 or nkg72257@aol.com.

APTS Update

The last APTS meeting for the 2006-07 will be **May 7th in the Library Media Center at 7:00 pm**. Thanks to all for attending and being such a wonderful force of parent/ school communications. We are in need of a president for next year. Please consider this position and speak to either Barbara Britton or Nancy Gerson.

Dress Code

As the warm weather approaches, we face another challenge and that is the dress code. We continually battle the fashion designers and marketers. I ask for your assistance in assuring that student dress is appropriate for a learning environment.



Summer Courses

The **World Language** Department will be offering three language preparatory courses this summer through the Madison Schools Summer Program. Courses will include "Preparing for High School Spanish 2", "Getting Ready for High School French", and "Essential Skills for Spanish 3". These four-day courses will provide an opportunity for students to refine their language skills before entering the next language level in the fall. An **SAT Prep Course**, including practice test-taking skills, will also be offered. Complete course descriptions and dates can be accessed soon at www.madison.k12.ct.us.

Mark Your Calendar

March

20	First Day Trimester 3	
20	Board of Education, Town Campus	7:00 p.m.
27	Distribution of Report Cards	
28	Budget Hearing, Polson Auditorium	7:30 p.m.
28	College Knowledge for Students with Special Needs, LMC	7:00 p.m.
29-31	Spring Musical, <i>High School Musical</i> , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.

April

3	Blood Drive	
3	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
4	K-12 Art Show Reception, Scranton Library	7:30-8:30 p.m.
4	Financial Aid Night , D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
6	Good Friday - No School	
10	Senior Auction, D&A Hall	7:00 p.m.
10	Honors Breakfast, Students Only	Period 2
16-20	Spring Recess - No School	
24	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
25	Town of Madison Budget/Public Hearing	7:30 p.m.
26	College Fair , D&A Hall and Gym	6:00-8:00 p.m.
27	Showboat , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.

May

1	Third Trimester Interims	
5	SAT Testing	
7	APTS Meeting, LMC	7:00 p.m.
8	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:30 p.m.
9	Art Show Reception	7:00 p.m.
9	Symphonic Band Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
12	Junior Prom, D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
17	Choral Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.
22	Board of Education Meeting, Town Campus	7:00 p.m.
22	Budget Referendum (Tentative)	
29	Memorial Day-No School	
31	Orchestra Concert , D&A Hall	7:30 p.m.

Prom Planning . . .

We have been reminded by the State Department of Transportation that in order to legally do business in Connecticut, limousine operators and their vehicles must be inspected and registered at the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.

Please be certain if your student will be traveling by limousine to a prom, that they hire only operators who are properly registered. To check on the status of any limousine company, please contact the Regulatory and Compliance Unit at (860) 594-2868.

Nurse's Notes

Attention Parents of Sophomores:

Madison Board of Education policy and Connecticut State law, Section 10-206-C, **require a physical examination for all students in Grade 10.** Examinations must be completed between June 1, 2006 and the remainder of the tenth grade 2006/07 school year and submitted on the state issued blue Health Assessment Record (HAR-3) to the school nurse. The blue Health Assessment Record can be obtained from the school nurse's office and must be received by the school nurse in order for the student to enter grade 11 in school year 2007/2008. If the assessment is not forwarded to the school before the following school year begins in August, 2007, the student will not be permitted to enter the eleventh grade.

Attention Parents of Athletes:

Students enrolled in school sports are required to have **yearly physical examinations.** The student must submit the completed Seasonal Sports Participation Health Record/Consent (**a new consent with each new sport**) to the school nurse prior to participation. The health forms can be obtained from the school nurse's office and online at www.madison.k12.ct.us. (Click on Health Services under Department tab, then Forms).

Save the Date

Photography students are planning a **Student Film Night on Tuesday, June 12, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** in the Dining and Assembly Hall to showcase student films from art and video courses.

The **K-12 Art Show** will be at Scranton Library from April 4-22. The reception will take place on **Wednesday, April 4** from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Guidance Notes

The following is happening in the DHHS School Counseling and Guidance Program: (Be sure to check the DHHS Guidance website for more information)

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Making the College Match and Meeting the Challenge

A workshop presented by Suzanne Tucker, Coordinator of the Disability Resource Center at Southern Connecticut State University, Pam Rottier, Coordinator of Special Education at Daniel Hand High School, and Jean Baker, Director of School Counseling and Guidance at Daniel Hand High School. The workshop will discuss ideas and strategies needed for college-bound students with special needs and Section 504 issues.

Wednesday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Daniel Hand High School Library Media Center. Parents, students, and professionals are welcomed!

EARLY INFORMATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

A workshop presented by the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation will provide families with information on how to pay for the high cost of post-secondary education.

Wednesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Daniel Hand High School Dining and Assembly Hall

COLLEGE/CAREER FAIR coming to Daniel Hand on **Thursday, April 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the Dining and Assembly Hall and Gym Area.

Over 100 colleges and post-secondary schools will be featured. Detailed information will be mailed home and available on our website.

REMINDER TO ALL ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS

The school counselors visited all of the AP classes this past week to discuss the AP testing schedule. The fee for each test is \$83 and is due on **Friday, March 23**. The testing schedule is enclosed in this newsletter or you may visit the DHHS guidance website for more information.

COLLEGE AND ATHLETIC RECRUITING

The DHHS Guidance Department and the Department of Athletics will be co-sponsoring a seminar entitled "College Athletic Recruiting" on **Tuesday June 5, in the Dining/Assembly Hall at 7:00 PM**. Mr. Wayne Mazzoni a highly regarded specialist in the topic of athletics and college, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Mazzoni is also the author of *The Athletic Recruiting & Scholarship Guide*.

Newsy Notes

The **Science Department** is receiving a gift of \$1000 from the Madison Land and Conservation Trust which will be used to purchase much-needed equipment for two courses, *Marine Science & Technology* and *Principles of Ecology*. Presentation of the award will be made at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 20. We wish to thank the MLCT for their generous gift. Deserving of special recognition are **Mr. Joe Oslander**, who was instrumental in initiating this annual award, and **Mr. David Skelly**, who played a key role as liaison between science teachers and the MLCT Board of Directors.

Four **sophomore biology classes** will visit the Mystic Aquarium on April 4. They will be visiting the exhibits, animal feedings, and attending a class on comparative evolution.

The **Chinese language class** recently celebrated the Chinese New Year by eating Chinese food together and doing Chinese paintings to learn Chinese words in color. They have also been learning about the Lantern Festival which takes place on the 15th day of the first month of the Lunar Year and marks the end of the Chinese New Year festivities.

The **TSA** (Technology Student Association) is building a UH-10 model hovercraft to compete in a statewide rally. Last year the club raised money to buy materials by holding a raffle. The prizes were a club-built Adirondack chair, a complete car care package done by the students during one club meeting, and a pizza gift certificate to a local restaurant. They are trying to complete the deck and hope to have it ready by May.