Schools to Close Early Because of Expected Snow, No After-School Activities [Continual Updates]

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School's out early in Darien on an early dismissal schedule, the school district announced, and no after-school activities will take place today, Tuesday. Snow is expected after 1 p.m., according to the National Weather Service.

Editorial

HERE'S WHY THIS ARTICLE ONLY CAME OUT AT 8:06 A.M., WELL AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED:

The school district doesn't announce its school closures or early dismissals to news organizations. It only announces them to parents, on its website and to one or two news

organizations in the state that maintain lists of weather closures and early dismissals.

It could easily put news media email addresses and other contact information on its parent notification lists and thereby help ensure that the wider public is notified.

BUT IT WON'T.

It's an example of your tax dollars at work. Tell your Board of Education members that you want better service in this regard from the school district your tax dollars pay for. As of this moment (8:20 a.m.), we see NO other articles in Darien news websites about this early dismissal. There's something wrong with that, but apparently not from the perspective of our school district officials or the Board of Education.

Here's the announcement:

"Based on the most recent weather report, which indicates the heaviest snow will begin during our normal dismissal times, the Darien Public Schools will run an afternoon early dismissal schedule for Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017. Additionally, all after-school activities are cancelled."

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Updates 0n the weather will be added to this article as more information comes in.

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Here's the Darien-specific forecast from the National Weather Service:

Today

Snow, mainly after 1pm. High near 33. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 9 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Tonight

Snow likely, mainly before 8pm. Cloudy, with a steady temperature around 33. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 9 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Wednesday

Partly sunny, with a high near 44. Wind chill values between 20 and 30. West wind 13 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

Update 8:40 a.m. — These other schools and school districts beyond Darien also have early dismissals today, according to the list of school closures and early dismissals on the WFSB-TV website: Norwalk Public Schools, Stamford Public Schools, New Canaan Public Schools, J.M. Wright Technical High School, Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford, Stamford Academy

Update 8:48 a.m. — Some afternoon Darien YMCA programs for children are cancelled today. Here's the announcement on the Y's home page:

> 1/31/17: Holly Pond School afternoon classes, Holly Care afternoon care, and Kids Club are cancelled for today due to the early dismissal of Darien Public Schools.

Update 8:54 a.m. — Darien Nature Center has not announced any schedule change as a result of the early schools dismissal. YWCA of Darien/Norwalk has announced on its website home page that its Toddler Time program is operating on a normal schedule today.