

# The Scholar

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 22

NO 2

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## STUDENTS

Alexus Mitchell (2020)  
 Hassana Arbubakrr (2020)  
 Anyergui Jimenez (2019)  
 E'Sachi Smalls (2019)  
 Jenelsy Lopez (2018)

## HOST FAMILIES

Dawn and Patrick Edgar  
 Jennifer and Graham Hill  
 Karen and Brad Elders  
 Kristin and Ed Kosnik  
 Bob and Minina Johnston

## E'SACHI'S VISIT TO CHINA!

Three weeks in China with a host family (who may not speak English), tasting dishes like noodles with soybean paste, is not for the faint of heart. But sophomore E'Sachi Smalls wouldn't have missed it for the world.

E'Sachi is the second ABC scholar to participate in the DHS China Exchange program, with stays in Qingdao, Xian and Beijing. E'Sachi's travel group, which included a dozen other students and two teacher advisors, formed an incredibly tight bond. Among her favorite moments:

"Visiting the Wild Goose Pagoda, a lesser known Buddhist temple, showed me that I prefer spiritual places under most people's radar, versus typical tourist attractions."



"When we first arrived, the ancient city wall in Xian was just another wall—until I spent several hours biking around the whole thing. It was amazing!"

"The Summer Palace in Beijing, with its incredible beautifully-painted art along the long corridor, was mind-blowing."



"One of the hardest, yet most memorable, parts of the trip was saying goodbye to the Qingdao students. It made me realize how much of an impression they made on me."

Her advice to anyone considering a similar adventure? Keep an open mind and immerse yourself in the culture. E'Sachi will cherish her trip to China. Until her next adventure, it's back to the more mundane finals prep!



## OUR VESPA RAFFLE IS BACK!

## ABC NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for 2 new host families for next year's incoming freshmen.

Host families welcome their ABC "daughter" into their homes approximately one weekend per month during the school year; it is a rewarding and enriching experience for families and students alike. For more information please contact Yvette Eenkema van Dijk at [veenkema@gmail.com](mailto:veenkema@gmail.com) or by phone at 203-253-9640.



**GRAND PRIZE:**  
**BRAND NEW 2017 VESPA**

**2ND PRIZE:**  
**\$250 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR PALMER'S MARKET**

**3RD PRIZE:**  
**\$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR NIELSEN'S FLORIST**

Drawing on Memorial Day, May 29 at 1pm  
 Post 53 Food Fair at Tilley Pond, Darien CT  
 \$20 per ticket - All proceeds benefit the ABC Program!  
**To purchase tickets call Nancy Stein at 203-482-2526**





DARIEN

# A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1981.

Post Office Box 3204  
Darien, CT 06820



The 2017 ABC Scholars from left to right: Jenelsy Lopez, Alexis Mitchell, Hassana Arbubakrr, E'Sachi Smalls and Anyergui Jimenez



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## ABC MOMENTS IN TIME

Dana Tyler, CBS news anchor, recently joined our scholars for a luncheon. The girls were captivated by her candid comments and inspirational advice, and truly appreciate her continued support of our program. ▼



▲ Jenelsy being inducted into the National Honor Society



▲ Happy Sweet 16 Angie!

Alexis skiing with her host family, Bob, Minina and Lily Johnston ▶



## ABC IN DARIEN FACTS

**MISSION:** To provide scholarships to academically talented girls of color from underserved communities allowing them to realize their academic and social potential while living in Darien and attending DHS.

**ENROLLMENT:** Five girls currently from New York and New Jersey.

**HISTORY:** Thirty-five years in Darien; 47 girls have graduated from the program.

**WHERE DO THEY GO?** Graduates have entered colleges such as Columbia, Amherst, George Washington, Syracuse and MIT.

**STAFF:** Two Resident Directors, Executive Director and Tutors.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Twenty local residents.

**HOST FAMILIES:** Five families host the girls one weekend and one Sunday each month.

**RESIDENCE:** 103 Tokeneke Road in Darien.

**THE BUDGET:** \$170,000 per year, covering staff, food, utilities, house maintenance, enrichment expenses & supplies.

**HOW TO GIVE:** If you would like to contribute to ABC in Darien, send donations to P.O. Box 3204, Darien, CT 06820 or donate online at [www.abcdarien.org](http://www.abcdarien.org)

Learn more at  
[ABCdarien.org](http://ABCdarien.org)