HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION - February 5, 2024

Cider Mill School is a Community of Learners, ALL committed to being the best we can be.

Important Dates

Feb 5 100th Day of School Spirit Day (Please Wear House Colors!)

Feb 5-9 Helping Hands Food Drive Feb 5-19 Reading Rocks! Reading Period Feb 7 Reading Rocks! Read Aloud Day

Feb 8 BOE/BOF Joint Meeting, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, WHS Library

Feb 19-23 Winter Recess

Feb 29 BOE Special Meeting for Budget Approval, 7:00 pm

Mar 6 World Culture NightMar 15 5th Grade Fun Night!

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope that everyone is enjoying the appearance of the sun after a grey few weeks!

A reminder that today is the last day for **Reading Rocks!** pledges before the reading period begins. Every pledge and donation count! Please follow the link here to pledge or donate: https://wiltoneducationfoundation.org/events-programs/reading-rocks.

Calling all 5th grade parents! Sign up and tickets are now available for **5**th **Grade Fun Night**! Held on March 15, all info can be found here: <u>5th Grade Fun Night | cidermillpta</u>. The PTA needs many volunteers to make this night a success, so please consider helping out!

Our next PTA meeting will be held on February 13, 9:15 am, in the cafeteria and on Zoom.

Our nominating committee will soon be looking for new board members for next year. If interested, please do not hesitate to reach out!

As always, we thank you for your support. We can always be reached at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or carolinehavlin@hotmail.com

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman Cider Mill PTA Co-Presidents

Helpful Links

Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

CM Attendance: (203) 834-4950 or cmattend@wiltonps.org

CM House

List: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4g9dolNY/edit

CM Community Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-

23_school_opening.pdf

WPS Back to School Website: https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2

CM Interactive Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/576928 3

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: https://wiltonps.org/338734_2

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3

Wilton PowerSchool Login: https://wilton.powerschool.com/public/

ParentSquare Information: https://wiltonps.org/595543_3

Schoology Information: https://wiltonps.org/576129 3

Special Bus Assignments: https://wiltonps.org/579910 3

MySchoolBucks: https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/getmain?requestAction=home

School Lunch Menus: https://wilton.nutrislice.com/menu/menus-eula

Join Wilton SEPTA: https://www.wiltonsepta.org/

School News

The School Store is Open for Business!

The Cider Mill School Store is now available to grades 3rd – 5th, rotating each grade each Wednesday. The store is brought to the cafeteria where students can shop for a variety of small items, including pencils and erasers.

If you're interested in running the store for a session, please sign up here (Cider Mill School Store Schedule 2024): <u>SignUpGenius</u>

Reading Rocks!

We are in the final days of our Reading Rocks! Fundraiser! We know some of you have had to face some technical issues and we truly appreciate your patience! Because of these issues, and in order to allow students a little extra time to set up their pages and regain momentum, we have decided to extend the deadline to this Sunday, February 4.

Our goal is **100% participation** and we still have a ways to go to achieve it! **One \$5 donation** towards a student's reading goal counts as participation and it enters them into the lottery to win a Kindle, iPAD, or fun prizes for their classrooms.

Even \$5 makes a HUGE IMPACT!!!!

You can set up a campaign page here: https://wiltoneducationfoundation.org/even.../reading-rocks/

DONATIONS:

Families can opt to make a donation in lieu of setting up a fundraising page by clicking on this link: https://wiltoneducationfoundation.org/reading-rocks-donation/. Thank you for your support!

Reading goals should still be set regardless of campaign page or one time donation.

*Please list your child's name and teacher so they will qualify for the drawings. Please consider sending in a donation before the end of the day on Sunday, February 4th, to make your pledge count towards a chance for your child(ren) to be part of the drawing for a Kindle Fire or the grand prize of an iPAD! Other prizes will be awarded to houses and classrooms with the highest participation percentages, too.

**If you have any questions or additional technical difficulties, please reach out to the members of the Reading Rocks! Team: Liz Brown at eliz.wise@gmail.com, Caroline Hoffman at carolinehavlin@hotmail.com, or Sarah Rondeau sarah.rondeau@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Fifth Grade Fun Night!

5th Grade Fun Night is coming soon!! 5th grade students are invited to a night of fun featuring a DJ, Photo Booth, Arts and Crafts, Swimming, Bounce Course, Games, Raffles, Snacks and More!

Location: Wilton YMCA

Date: Friday, March 15 from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Snow Date is Saturday, March 16)

Details: Drop Off begins at 7:30 pm and REGISTRATION is required

Cost: \$25 per student

We need volunteers!

The annual 5th grade fun night is NOT possible unless we have the help of many volunteers. PLEASE consider signing up as a volunteer. There are many areas that the YMCA requires support including the locker rooms and pool area in order to ensure students behave appropriately.

Registration ends March 1

The registration page provides links to the required YMCA waiver, registration, volunteer sign-up and optional sign up for a 35-minute swim time.

More details will be provided to registered students prior to the event.

Register HERE

Thank you so much, 5th Grade Fun Night Chairs

Tammy Thornton: tammythornton1112@gmail.com

Nicole Stacy: nicole.s.stacy@gmail.com

Fifth Grade Yearbooks

Submitting photos just got easier! Simply email photos of your fifth graders to cidermillyearbook2024@gmail.com and help preserve Cider Mill memories for your students! We are collecting various photos of fifth graders from the 2023-24 school year, including:

First Day of School
Halloween
Brain Challenge
Walkathon
Turkey Trot
Veterans Day
Rock Star Day
Snow Ball Dance Party
Field Trips
Around Town/Friends
Band/Choir/Music
Classroom/School Photos
Sports

Please submit photos with the students' names, the activities featured, and if possible, their teacher/house. Thank you for helping to make their yearbook something they will treasure!
Helping Hands Food Drive
The Helping Hands club will be running a food drive to support Wilton families in need. The fundraiser will be Superbowl themed! Items can be placed outside the main office in either the San Francisco 49ers or Kansas City Chiefs boxes. Non-perishable items will be collected beginning Monday , February 5 – Friday , February 9 .
Please check all expiration dates as the Food Pantry cannot accept items that are out of date.
We truly appreciate your support!

SAVE THE DATE: Cider Mill's Second Annual World Culture Night!



Our 2nd annual World Culture Night will take place on **Wednesday**, **March 6 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Cider Mill School**.

Just like last year, we hope to incorporate representation from the cultures and heritages from students, families and teachers that make up our Cider Mill School Community!

To do this, we will have a celebratory food component at this special event and we need volunteers. Save the date if you are interested in cooking/representing your culture and/or volunteering at this fabulous event! All foods will be served as small bites (e.g. appetizers, desserts, drinks) that can be eaten on the go with minimal set-up.

Please use this link to sign up for a booth to represent your culture at this event!

Even if you do not want to set up a booth to represent your culture, we hope you can join us to learn about other cultures!

Contact us at (203) 762-3351 and ask for Alyssa Peterson Petersona@wiltonps.org or Jon Garcia garciaj2@wiltonps.org.

Cider Mill Reflections Winners

We are very proud of our Cider Mill artists for their work in response to the theme, "I am Hopeful Because..." All participants and winners were honored by Dr. Kevin Smith at last Friday's District wide Reflections ceremony at the Zellner Gallery, where work was showcased and enjoyed by families.

Our 1st place winners are now competing at the Connecticut State level, and we wish them the best of luck! State and National Awards will be given on May 29 at Fairfield Warde High School. Read more about our District Reflections Ceremony in Good Morning Wilton!

CIDER MILL REFLECTIONS 2024 WINNERS (Intermediate Division: Grades 3 – 5)

PHOTOGRAPHY

3rd place: Parker Bailey, "American Sports" 2nd place: Nick Pamnani, "Steel City Factory" 1st place: Disha Avadhani, "Smarty Robins"

VISUAL ARTS

3rd place: Rose Mack, "My Family"

2nd place: Myra Jaiswal, "Knowledge Is Power"

1st place: Sofiia Mykhailenko, "The World Stands For Me"

LITERATURE

Honorable Mention: Disha Avadhani, "I Am Hopeful About Cricket"

Honorable Mention: Claire Mack, "I Am Hopeful Because..." Honorable Mention: Poorvi Muppalla, "Global Warming"

Honorable Mention: Sally Price, "I Hope..."

Honorable Mention: Madeleine Valassis, "My Waves and the Lavenders of Dawn"

3rd Place: Emerson Kannry, "I Am Hopeful Because..." 2nd Place: Sahana Kaushik, "I Am Hopeful Because..."

1st Place: Sloka Attaluri, "Small Steps"

MUSIC COMPOSITION

2nd Place: Penelope Calo, "Winter Bird"
1st Place: Ellie Wong, "Shadows Into Light"

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

2nd Place: Mason Alleva, "2024-2050 Celebration" 1st Place: Charlotte Gimmel, "You Can Do It"



And a big thank you to Anastasia Valassis for taking on the Reflections competition and organizing a fantastic awards ceremony for the winners!

ESY Summer Camp Program

Come join us for some summer fun at Miller-Driscoll taught by Wilton's Finest...our WPS teachers. Try it out for a week or four! Students who have completed 3rd through 5th grade are welcome to join in the fun!

Please see attached ESY camp registration form. If you have any questions, please direct them to Patty Terranova at terranovap@wiltonps.org.

3-5 Summer Fun Registration 2024.docx

AtoZ Connect

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to <u>Cider Mill PTA - Home Page</u> (<u>membershiptoolkit.com</u>). You can register here and then join the PTA by clicking on Join The PTA.

A Single Membership gives you directory access and one vote when voting on PTA issues. A Family Membership gives you directory access and two votes.

Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. All revenue goes to pay dues to the CTPTA and to support school events, grants, gifts, and more!

Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!

If you didn't grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? A headband, a hat, or a fidget? If any of your child's belongings haven't made their way home, he or she can check the Lost and Found to try to recover them. Tables are usually located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent. However, **on Wednesday, February 7, all items will be on display during lunch**. Then next week they will be sorted again and anything with a name on it will be returned. All unclaimed items will then be donated.

A great way to help out is by labelling your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels, where a percentage goes back to the PTA. Here is the link: https://www.cidermillpta.org/mabel-s-labels

Wilton SEPTA

Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!

Like our <u>Facebook</u> page and visit our <u>website</u> to join for the 2023-2024 school year, for meeting dates, for volunteer and officer opportunities, and to stay updated with the latest news and information. In preparation for the upcoming PPT, annual meeting, and transition meeting season, we will be sharing planning and organizing tips with families on collaborating with school teams.

- We invite teachers to take advantage of our gifts and grants program
- Membership, Board, and Committee positions are open it's not too late to join!
- We are seeking interested parents to help on our Community and Family Events Committee, including help for our April 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign

Zoom link for all 2024 meetings:

https://wiltonps.zoom.us/s/91771706236

Community News

Board of Education / Board of Finance Joint Meeting

The BOE/BOF Joint Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 pm. It is slated to take place in the WHS Zellner Gallery, but we're awaiting confirmation on the location. The meeting will be

livestreamed on YouTube, and a Zoom link will be provided to open up a remote option for public comments.

All Budget Question documents will be posted to the agenda on Board Docs.

Here is the Zoom link for the meeting that will be posted to the agenda: https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/92714995219

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Woodcock Nature Center

School's Out, Nature's In: Winter Break

Camp Dates and Time: February 19 – 23, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ages: 3rd - 5th grade

Registration Closes: 1:00 pm on Thursday, February 15, and space is limited

Come discover the winter woodlands and frozen wetlands! Children will learn about the frosty world around them through outdoor exploration, animal presentations, games, hikes, and nature crafts. Join us for one day or all five!

This program is outdoors. Each group will have a sheltered home base space with patio heaters and a fire. Time will also be spent inside our building for animal lessons or craft projects.

Click here for more details: https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/winter-break-enrichment

Summer Camp Registration Information

Camp Dates and Time: June 17 – August 16, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Ages: 3rd – 4th grade (Rangers), 5th – 6th grade (Explorers) Registration Opens: Wednesday, February 7 at 10:00 am

Have fun and make friends while exploring our 150-acre preserve, as experienced environmental educators teach conservation and awareness of our natural environment through animal encounters, nature crafts, hiking, kayaking on our pond, wilderness skills and so much more. Experienced and enthusiastic summer camp counselors (ages 18+) facilitate fun and ensure learning all summer long!

Read our Registration Tips!:

Spaces will fill very quickly. Reading our <u>registration tips here</u> will help you to be ready for registration day. We highly recommend you read them thoroughly. Please <u>email us</u> well in advance with any questions.

A few key things to keep in mind:

- *Most important*: Log on to our system well before February 7 and get your basic account information set up. Details on how to do this are on our tips page.
- Medical documents and camp forms are not required as part of the initial registration process, but will be required to attend camp. Once you are registered you will have until the Wednesday before your camp week to submit medical forms.
- Registration is now limited to 3 weeks per camper.
- If a group becomes full please join our wait list (schedules do change before the start of camp!).
- We have made adjustments to the registration parameters: your child's camp group corresponds to the grade they will be entering in the fall of 2024 and is not related to their birth date in our system.
- Pre-K campers must be 4 years old by the start of their camp week.
- Remember to read all our registration tips and refund policies before February 7!

Nature is for everyone!

Scholarships are available for campers as well as the CIT program. Please learn more on our **scholarship info page**.

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Camp Gordyland

Summer Camp at the YMCA!

Join us this summer at the Riverbrook YMCA Camp Gordyland! Available for campers ages 3 – 15. Register for the weeks that fit your schedule and lock in your spot today! Spend the summer exploring our 22 acres, including archery, swim lessons, fishing, arts & crafts, sports and more.

Traditional Day Camp runs 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, with additional before and after care hours available.

To set up a tour or for questions, contact our <u>Camp Directors Here</u>. For more Information about Camp Gordyland, <u>visit our Website</u>.

Register Here to sign up for one or more weeks of summer fun!

Ambler Farm Summer Camp

Join us for your choice of weeks or for the whole summer!

Ages: 1st - 8th grade

Camp Dates and Time: June 17 - August 5, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

(After Camp Care from 1:00 - 3:00 pm)

Registration: Now open for members; opens on February 15 for nonmembers

Campers attending our summer camp will have an amazing time experiencing farm life through handson activities, spending time with our farm animals, getting their hands dirty in our educational gardens, and working around the farm.

Every week is sure to include:

- Spending time with our baby goats, sheep, chickens, baby rabbits and holding our baby chicks, turkeys, and geese
- Woodworking
- Hayrides
- Harvesting
- Cooking with recipes that are inspired by what is growing in our gardens

Depending on the week, campers will:

- Harvest berries, peas, cucumbers, garlic scapes, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes and more
- Check our nesting boxes for eggs

Campers are divided by grade levels for appropriate activities.

Click here to register: https://amblerfarm.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login_m.php

Wilton Youth Council

Wilton Youth Council is excited to offer two upcoming programs on the Importance of Play in February:

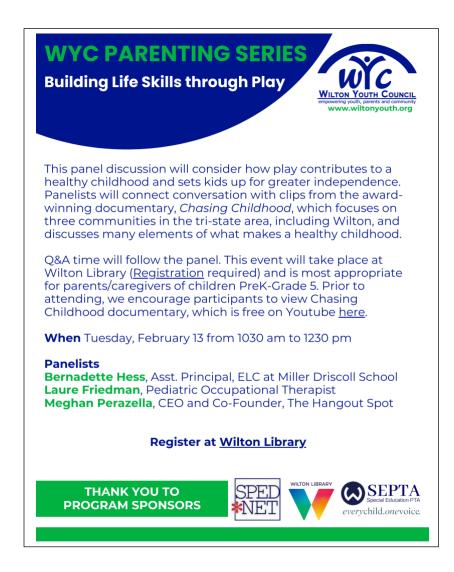
- Recharging Required: Rest, Recreation and Raising Healthier Teens on Tuesday, February 6 from 7:00 8:30 pm at the Wilton Library. This program is intended for parents of students in grades 5 12.
- Building Life Skills Through Play on Tuesday, February 13 from 10:30 am 12:30 pm at the Wilton Library. This program is intended for parents of students in PreK 5th grade.

Both of these panels bring together experts to consider the role of unstructured free time. We'll discuss clips from the award-winning documentary *Chasing Childhood*, which focuses on tri-state communities, including Wilton, and considers many elements of what makes a childhood healthy.

Prior to attending, we encourage participants to view <u>Chasing Childhood</u>. Registration for both panels can be done **HERE**.









Coffee – Community – Conversation:

Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

Dates and Times: Friday, February 9 and Wednesday, March 13 from 9:30 – 10:30 am Locations: TBD

SPED*NET Todd Kellogg Presentation: Picky Eaters

In partnership with Wilton Library, Wilton Public Schools and Newtown Sped PTA, SPED*NET presents:

Do You Live with a Picky Eater? How to Set Your Child on Track to Become a Better Eater

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 7 from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm

Please see the flyer below for more information:



Do You Live with a Picky Eater? How to Set Your Child on Track to Become a Better Eater



Wilton Library 137 Old Ridgefield Road Wilton

Wednesday February 7, 2024 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. A picky eater is someone who eats a narrow and inadequate selection of food. Selective eating is a common challenge in children and, to a degree, in adults, as well. The good news is that there is a wealth of evidence-based research providing practical behavior strategies on how to gradually increase the variety of foods your child will eat.

In this presentation, **Todd Kellogg, LMFT, BCBA**, will explain selective eating/food refusal/picky eating and will offer strategies to promote healthy eating habits at home.

Presented by SPED*NET in partnership with Wilton Library, Wilton Public Schools and Newtown Sped PTA

Register at wiltonlibrary.org

The Turnover Shop

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at https://turnovershopwilton.org/.

IvyMath

<u>IvyMath</u> is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level.

IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math for the rest of the year. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year.

The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Signup now at:** lvyMath.com/Boost

NAMI-CAN WILTON

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues.

The meetings are free, confidential, safe, and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely, find resources and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and towns in the surrounding area. https://namisouthwestct.org

Our winter meetings will be held on the following Monday mornings over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am: February 5 and March 4, 2024. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936
Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

In the meantime, for password and more information please contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

Submit News to Hot Cider

Danielle Michalisin at micdch72@gmail.com
Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is February 15, 2024. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on February 19, 2024.

Content may be edited at the discretion of editors. To keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice.