

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – February 24, 2025

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

Important Dates

Feb 27	BOE Special Meeting – Budget Vote/Approval
Feb 28	Submission deadline to participate in Community Cultural Celebration
March 6	BOE Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm in the WHS Professional Library
March 14	5 th Grade Fun Night!
March 29	Wild & Scenic on Tour Film Festival
April 2	Cider Mill World Culture Night
April 4	3 rd and 4 th Grade Fun Night!

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone had an enjoyable break this past week! Please keep an eye out for ticket purchases, volunteer sign ups, and swim time sign ups for our 5th grade fun night coming soon! Our 3rd and 4th grade fun night sign ups will be coming later in March.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenfareed@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Melissa Reynolds, President
Cathleen Fareed, President-Elect

School News

Cider Mill PTA Fun Nights

Our **annual PTA Sponsored Fun Nights** are coming up, and we can't wait to celebrate! Please mark your calendars!

5th Grade Fun Night

 **Friday, March 14**

 **Wilton YMCA**

Swimming, bounce houses, a DJ, crafts, and more!

3rd & 4th Grade Fun Night

 **Friday, April 4**

 **Cider Mill Gym**

An exciting evening full of fun activities!

What is Fun Night?

Fun Night is a drop-off event where students can enjoy a night of activities, music, and entertainment with their classmates! Each grade will have its own special night filled with games, music, and fun in a safe, supervised environment. This is a great opportunity for kids to socialize and have a blast!

More details on the times and registration will be shared soon. We hope your child can join in on the fun!

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World Culture Night

Cider Mill is excited to host our 3rd annual World Culture night!

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: Cider Mill School cafeteria

Contact Information: (203) 762-3351 or peterzona@wiltonps.org or garciaj2@wiltonps.org

During our World Culture Night, we hope to incorporate representations from the cultures and heritages that make up our Cider Mill School Community by having **a celebratory food component**, and we would love for your family to join and volunteer!

If you would like to cook a shareable food dish that represents your family/culture/heritage, please click here (you can sign up individually, with another family or with a group): [World Culture Night Food Form](#). All foods must be "small bites" or finger-foods (e.g. appetizers, desserts) that can be eaten on the go with minimal set-up. You will be given a location (table) to set up your food, where you may also choose to set out additional items that represent your country (flags, music, tablecloths, traditional and/or festive attire, etc.). While at the event you will need to delineate all ingredients to support community members with allergies.

Note: Participation is not required to attend the event and enjoy all that it has to offer!

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Cider Mill PTA Social Media

The Cider Mill PTA has a new social media presence! Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram at:



These accounts do not replace the current Cider Mill Parent Community Page and information will be available on all three pages.

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Teacher Photocopying Aides Needed!

We need your support to keep things running smoothly! We're looking for volunteers to help make copies for our teachers and staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 10:00 am. If you can spare an hour of your time, please sign up using the link below. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and makes a big difference!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49AEAF28A5FB6-51225341-cider#/>

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help our school community!

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AtoZ Connect

PTA Membership and Directory ARE LIVE!

Our Membership Portal is now live and ready to accept members for the 2024/2025 school year!

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!

Sign up now! <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/story/364235>

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Wilton SEPTA

The Wilton SEPTA's mission is to build compassionate, trusting, and collaborative relationships with all members of our schools and community. We strive to ensure that the diversity of all children receiving Special Education and related services will be supported, celebrated and socially embraced. Collectively, we will work to increase access to resources, empowering every child with the opportunity and inspiration to thrive.

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2024-2025 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. Please stay tuned!

Community News

Wilton Youth Council

WYC Wilton Welcome: It's hard enough to settle into a new community: meeting other parents in town, getting feedback and questions answered and connecting take time! We're here to help! **Wilton Welcome is a program to help forge relationships within the Wilton Community.** We match folks who are new to town or looking to grow their connection to the community with those who are already established in Wilton.

To participate, whether new to town or an established family, complete [this short form](#) to help us pair you with the right family. Answer a few questions below so we can match new-to-Wilton families with a family that's been here a bit longer.

Understanding Eating Disorders: Insights From Experts and Families

Date: Tuesday, February 25

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Format: Webinar Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Elizabeth Archibald, MPh, RDN
- Joanna Bronfman, LCSW, PsyD
- Jen Kepner, Parent
- Kate Osman, LCSW

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, an estimated 22 percent of children and adolescents show signs of disordered eating. What does this look like and when do you need to seek help? We will have three experts, Dr. Joanna Bronfman; Family Therapist Kate Osman; and Clinical Nutritionist Liz Archibald to talk us through the signs of eating disorders and how best to help your child

through this struggle. We will also have a parent of a child recovering from an eating disorder on the panel to share her lived experiences and what she wishes she had known.

Join our webinar to learn how to identify issues and seek help when needed. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/understanding-eating-disorders-insights-from-experts-and-families>

Navigating Household Anxiety

Navigating Household Anxiety
WEBINAR LUNCH AND LEARN

Join Wilton Social & Youth Services along with Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Andrea MacGilpin of Calliope Counseling, LLC, to learn about the differences between the presentation of anxiety in adults and children. Learn strategies, based on the Yale Child Study Center's SPACE (Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions) intervention, to support your child and decrease escalation. A virtual Q+A will follow. Please call or email Wilton Youth Services with questions at 203-634-6241 or Trinity.Haswell@wiltonct.org.

DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

TIME AT 12:00 - 1:30 PM

PRE-REGISTER NOW: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2cad0dfb-7973-4eed-95af-ae1d0fb5a1ef@22754b14-e7b6-474b-92cb-b103d0b09d1c>

Logos: Town of Wilton, Calliope Counseling, LLC, Wilton Youth Council, Westport Together, positive directions.

Join Wilton Social & Youth Services, along with Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Andrea MacGilpin of Calliope Counseling, LLC, on **February 26 to learn about the differences between the presentation of anxiety in adults and children.** Learn strategies, based on the Yale Child Study Center's SPACE (Supportive Parenting for Anxious Childhood Emotions) intervention, to support your child and decrease escalation. A virtual Q+A will follow. **You may pre-register via the following link:**

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2cad0dfb-7973-4eed-95af-ae1d0fb5a1ef@22754b14-e7b6-474b-92cb-b103d0b09d1c>

Please call or email Wilton Youth Services with questions at 203-634-6241 or Trinity.Haswell@wiltonct.org.

Community Cultural Celebration

COME BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL CELEBRATION

BY REPRESENTING A COUNTRY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT BY WORKING IN A GROUP TO REPRESENT A COUNTRY, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING GOOGLE FORM BY FEB 28TH

MAY 3, 2025
12-3:30 PM
RIVERBROOK REGIONAL YMCA

Program brought to you by:

Logos: PTSA, Wilton Youth Council, Riverbrook Regional YMCA.

Join us for a **Community Cultural Celebration on May 3 at the Riverbrook Regional YMCA!** This is an opportunity to unite the Wilton community, showcasing the diverse cultures that make up our town through dance, music, dress, holidays, and food from around the world. It's an opportunity to interact with and learn from each other, bringing together representatives from various cultures to showcase their unique heritage and educate the Wilton community about their traditions and culture.

If you would like to participate in this community event by collaborating with others to create a display representing your country of origin or a country with which you have a strong connection, **please fill out the following form [HERE](#) by February 28.** Our team will help connect you with others who share your interests, allowing you to work together on how your country will be represented.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org or Lara Paschalidis at Larapaschalidis28@gmail.com.

WYC is also hosting a monthly **Coffee, Community, & Conversation on Saturday, March 8 from 9:30 – 10:30 am at Tusk & Cup in Wilton.** These informal monthly gatherings offer community members a chance to discuss what's on their mind and build relationships with other Wilton residents.

If you have questions or would like to get involved in [Wilton Youth Council](#), email Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org. Please visit our website for more information about community events, parenting groups and programs on healthy families, building connections, transitions, and more!



Zero Waste

Wilton Public Schools Embrace Reusables in Our Cafeterias

If you haven't heard, things have been changing in three of our school cafeterias.

In 2018, Wilton Go Green partnered with Wilton Public Schools to embark on a journey with the Zero Waste Schools program. This journey empowering students and staff to promote environmental consciousness and reduce waste in school cafeterias.

Our students have been helping to divert tons of recyclable material and food scraps to composting, as well as rescuing food for donation ever since. As we looked at other ways we could continue to reduce our waste throughout the past few years, switching from disposable items to reusables during lunch seemed the most logical next step.

Last summer, Wilton Go Green, with the support of the WPS, launched a Sustainable CT Community Match fundraiser to help Cider Mill School install a dishwasher. These funds were also used to purchase stainless steel reusable trays, and other essential equipment to move away from single-use products in alignment with that dishwasher purchase.

In just three weeks, our Wilton community donated over \$7,500! Matched by Sustainable CT, WPS was able to make the necessary purchases to bring a reusable program to students this school year.

Cider Mill students have been using reusable stainless steel trays, forks and spoons since November - eliminating over 50,000 disposable trays and cutlery from going into the trash.

If you would like to learn more about the Zero Waste Schools program click [HERE](#).

Wild & Scenic on Tour Film Festival



Grab your ticket for the Wild & Scenic on Tour Film Festival!
Presented by ASML & Kimberly Burke at Berkshire Hathaway Services

Date: Saturday, March 29

Location: Wilton High School Little Theatre

Pricing:

- Early Bird Special: 4 tickets for \$80 (ends February 24 at 11:59 pm)
- Regular: \$25 | \$20 Seniors & K-12

Hosted by community partners: Norwalk River Valley Trail, Norwalk River Watershed Association, Pollinator Pathway, Trout Unlimited, Wilton Go Green, Wilton Land Trust, and Woodcock Nature Center. Proceeds directly benefit their shared mission to foster sustainability, conservation, and a deeper connection to the environment.

This program features 10 thought-provoking, entertaining, and informative films about the environment, wildlife, and the enduring human spirit. Film lengths vary from 3 minutes to 20 minutes.

Learn more and buy tickets at <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/wild-scenic-film-festival/>.

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Wilton Youth Sports Opportunities

Wilton Youth Field Hockey



Calling all Field Hockey players - new and old! Wilton Youth Field Hockey's Spring Registration is now OPEN!

And spring really is just around the corner!

WYFH is offering weekly Sunday clinics from April 6 - June 8 (excluding Spring Break, Mother's Day and Memorial Day Weekend). They will be held on the High School Stadium turf.

For more details and to register based on your child(ren)'s grade, click one or both of the following links:

[*Grades K through 4 Registration](#)

[*Grades 5 through 8 Registration](#)

Wilton Youth Lacrosse

WILTON YOUTH LACROSSE WANTS YOU

2025 REGISTRATION OPEN

Coaches Wanted

GROW THE GAME!

ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS WELCOME—COME BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!

INTERESTED? REACH OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WILTON LACROSSE

CALLING ALL 5TH GRADE GIRLS!

JOIN US THIS SPRING FOR TRAVEL LACROSSE!! IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO START PLAYING AND IS SO MUCH FUN!!

SEASON STARTS WEEK OF 3/17 AND ENDS 6/1

- Top-Notch Head Coaches & Varsity Player Asst. Coaches
- 3 practices/week with 1-2 games/weekend
- B teams allow for schedule flexibility
- Team Bonding/Friendships
- There is a place for EVERYONE at Wilton Lacrosse!

Practice Schedules

5 Blue (5A):
Mon, Tues & Thurs
6:15-7:45pm

5/6 White (5/6B)
Mon, Tues & Wed
6:15-7:45pm

REGISTER NOW!

WILTONLAX.COM

SPRING LACROSSE

Wilton Little League

SPRING 2025

GRADES K - 7

ALL SKILL LEVELS

Wilton LITTLE LEAGUE

Flag Football: Co-Ed or All Girls

CHECK IT OFF YOUR LIST

SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL

REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 8!

SEASON RUNS MARCH 22 - JUNE 7

CO-ED OR ALL-GIRLS

<https://www.wiltonlittleleague.org/register>

[Co-Ed Sign-Up, All Girls Sign-Up](#)

Wilton Sideline Cheerleading

Calling all K – 4th Graders!

Wilton Youth Cheer offers two seasons of sideline cheer to support our Wilton Youth Football players from K-8th.

In the Spring of each year, we offer our traditional program for Kindergarten through 4th grade. These developmental grades learn cheers, stunt basics, halftime and sideline dances as well as work on jumps, flexibility and some tumbling and cheer on the sidelines of the flag football games. They have one practice and one game per week.

Dates: March 22 – June 7
(no games played on 4/19, 4/26 and 5/24)

Email cheerwilton@gmail.com with any questions and sign up at www.wiltonyouthfootball.com.

Wilton Varsity Cheer Clinic



The poster for the WHS Varsity Cheer Clinic features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left, a circular inset shows cheerleaders in a gymnasium. Below it, another circular inset contains the text 'JUMP STUNT TUMBLE REPEAT CHEER'. To the right, the title 'WHS VARSITY CLINIC' is prominently displayed. Below the title, a call to action reads 'Calling all 5th - 8th Graders! Join WHS Varsity Cheer for a 5 week clinic and learn Stunts, Jumps, Motions, Dance and new Cheers. Parents can enjoy a final performance at the last clinic to see all the hard work put in action!'. A blue button with white text says 'SPRING 2025!'. Below this, details are listed: '5th - 8th Grade - NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED', 'WHS Field House', '4/9 - 5/14 (no 4/23)', 'Wednesday 5:00PM - 7:30PM', and '\$150'. A 'REGISTER NOW!!!' button is followed by the email 'cheerwilton@gmail.com' and the website 'www.wiltonyouthfootball.com'. A final circular inset at the bottom right shows cheerleaders performing a stunt.

Woodcock Nature Center

Registration for summer camp is now open!

Investigate nature through woodland expeditions, stream exploration, scavenger hunts, obstacle courses, wilderness games, live animals, and nature art!

When: June 16 – August 15
Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Camp weeks fill up quickly; check here for available remaining spots: [Summer Camp](#)

Fireside Tales & Trails

All ages are welcome to enjoy a free winter nature walk with an educator on our trails followed by a storytime fireside with your little one.

When: February 24 and March 10
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am

Register [HERE](#).

Navigators: Winter Series

Dive headfirst into nature and explore your fascination with the natural world! Through hiking, animal encounters, nature activities, and more, we'll enhance our understanding of nature as we appreciate and enjoy precious time spent outdoors.

When: Select Tuesdays

- February 25 – Animal Homes and Shelter Building
- March 4 – Early Signs of Spring

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Sign up for one or both remaining classes!

\$38 per child/per class. [Registration](#) required.

Registration for spring programs opens March 6!

Ambler Farm

Registration for summer camp is now open!

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

When: June 16 – August 15

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, with After Camp Care from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Click here to register: [Summer Camp](#)

Junior Apprentice Program

This unique six-month program, running from May through October, is for students currently in grades 5-12. Apprentices meet several times a week to plant, maintain and harvest the farm's educational gardens and work with Farmer Jonathan in the production gardens. They also care for our rabbits, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. Kevin Meehan, Program Director, manages the program to ensure that apprentices work collaboratively to assist in all aspects of the farm, including teaching younger children about farm activities.

Apprentices are actively involved in many farm-related tasks. The work can be challenging but incredibly rewarding—the program includes many special events such as Ambler Farm Day, a farm-to-table soup and salad experience, a bonfire and more!

Prospective apprentices and a parent need to attend one of two Open Houses offered on Saturday, March 8th or March 15th from 1:00 – 1:30 pm at the Sugar Shack.

Click [HERE](#) for more details and to register.

For more farm fun over the next several months, check out Ambler's [calendar of upcoming programs and events](#).

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/>.

Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

Wilton NAMI-CAN - Free Parent Support Group

Struggling with your kids? Want a safe space to vent about life at home? Need support? The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional and/or mental health issues. The meeting is 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 support, and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Darien, Weston, Norwalk, Westport, Wilton and other area towns. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Next meeting is on **Monday, March 3 over zoom** (cameras on) from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998029176>

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: 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 March 6, 2025. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on March 10, 2025.

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