

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – October 7, 2024

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

Important Dates

Oct 8	PTA Meeting, Multipurpose Room and Zoom, 9:15 am
Oct 10	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 11	Shortened Day / Early Release for Professional Learning
Oct 14	No School for Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day
Oct 15	No School for Professional Learning
Oct 20	Cider Mill Family Fun Night at the Bridgeport Islanders!
Oct 21-25	Zero Waste Week
Oct 24	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 27	Harlem Wizards vs. WPS Teachers
Oct 31	Halloween Parade / Walkathon
Nov 5	No School for Election Day
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Assembly / Turkey Trot
Nov 12	PTA Meeting, Multipurpose Room and Zoom, 9:15 am
Nov 21-26	Book Fair!

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope your fall is off to a great start! It was so nice to see so many familiar faces and meet new ones at Saturday night's outdoor movie. We had a blast and hope you did too!

A big, heartfelt *thank you* for your incredible support during Super Spirit Day. We were absolutely blown away by the enthusiasm—23 classes with 100% participation! Your involvement means the world to us, and we're so grateful to be part of such an amazing community.

We're also excited to announce that we're starting preparations for our annual Walkathon, which we're lucky enough to combine with Halloween this year for a special spooky twist! Get ready for plenty of surprises—we'll be sharing more details soon!

We can't wait to see you at our next PTA meeting on October 8th at 9:15 a.m. Thank you for being such a vital part of Cider Mill—we truly couldn't do it without you!

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

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/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINy/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 2024-25 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

Cider Mill PTA Meeting

Our second PTA meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, October 8 at 9:15 am in the multipurpose room. Bill Tomlinson and Bobby Martin will be speaking about the school lunch program. We will perform our membership gas card drawing and review PTA News. Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/96417232763>

Meeting ID: 964 1723 2763

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Internet Safety Presentation Recap for 4th and 5th Graders

On October 1, our 4th and 5th graders participated in an Internet Safety presentation. In the coming months, the Library Learning Commons will continue to cover these important topics during their computer sessions.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Encourage open communication with adults so kids feel comfortable asking for help in tricky situations, like when someone asks for personal information or if cyberbullying happens.
- Remind kids that followers aren't the same as friends, and to be careful about what they share online.
- Use social media to connect with people they know, but avoid talking to strangers.
- Help kids recognize identifying information in photos or usernames (such as school logos or street signs).
- Teach kids to stand up against cyberbullying by involving an adult—it's about helping the person being bullied, not punishing the bully.

For Parents:

Scott's main advice for parents was to start conversations early and talk often, so kids know how to handle these issues before they happen. Include your children in conversations about technology—many students know more than we do! Be aware of the content they are consuming online and try to avoid letting them watch YouTube or other online content alone with headphones.

Super Spirit Day Success!

Super Spirit Day was a huge hit! The kids went all out with face paint, hair spray, tutus, and more—we loved seeing all the amazing school spirit. A big thank you to all the parents for supporting your kids and helping make the day so fun for everyone!

We'll announce the winning class on Monday and plan the pizza parties in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

(Pictured – Mrs. Lewis Class in Nod Hill)



2024-25 PTA Reflections Art Contest: Accepting Imperfection

We're excited to announce this year's PTA Reflections Art Contest, with the theme "*Accepting Imperfection*." Students can submit their creative work in categories like dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts.

Key Dates:

- October 1, 2024: Contest opens
- November 12, 2024: Submission deadline
- December 6, 2024: District awards ceremony
- April 1, 2025: State winners announced
- May 14, 2025: State & national awards ceremony

New this year: the 'Accessible Artist' division, for students with disabilities, entering through SEPTA. For details and submission instructions, visit <https://www.cidermillpta.org/reflections>.

Good luck to all participants—we can't wait to see your creations!

Halloween Trivia Night Postponed

Our Halloween Trivia Night has been postponed, and a new date is to be determined. If you'd like a refund, please email Cathleen Fareed at cathleenafareed@gmail.com. Alternatively, we can apply your ticket to a future PTA event of the same value. Thank you for your understanding!

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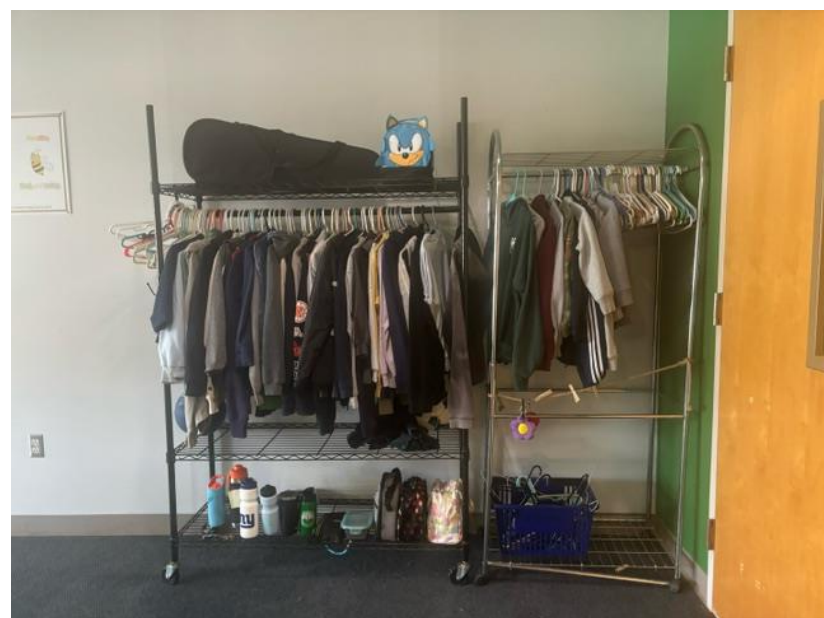
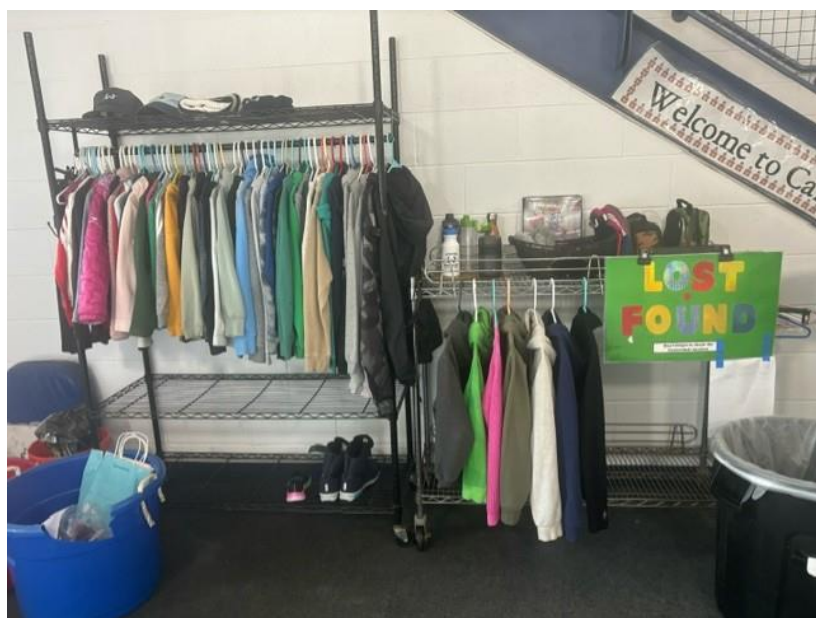
WHS Presents Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Our very own Wilton High School is proud to be selected as one of the very few first schools in the world to put on a theatrical presentation of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. And the High School students are excited to share this with Cider Mill students in hopes of showing them what exciting programs are available to them at the high school level. **Tickets went on sale October 1 and the High School wants to include Cider Mill in their celebration by having Harry Potter Day on opening day, November 8.** Students are invited to dress in Harry Potter inspired costumes (or their favorite Harry Potter house color) to school on Friday, November 8. Students are also welcome to dress up in costume if they attend the production. Tickets can be purchased from the high school here: wiltonhighschooltheatre.com/tickets



Lost and Found

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? Our lost and found is already overflowing! Please have your children look during the school day, or stop in! Our two locations are at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent.



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Middlebrook Science Fair Helper

Love science? Help make the fair amazing! We need someone to shadow the Science Fair chair this year at Middlebrook and take over next year. It's fun, the kids love it, and it's all after school and evening work. Contact Cathleen Fareed or Melissa Reynolds to learn more.

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Lunch Monitor Wanted

Help out in the cafeteria! We need a lunch monitor on full school days from 9:45 am – 1:15 pm. Pay is \$17/hour. Contact Jeremy Cross (crossj@wiltonps.org) for more info!

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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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Cider Mill Spiritwear

Get into the “spirit” and snag your Cider Mill swag! New tie dye and solid color house shirts are now available at <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>.

PROOF

September 6, 2024 • 1:45 PM

Cider Mill School - Port & Co PC54Y Short Sleeve - Image approx. 8" w



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ParentSquare

Wilton Schools will continue to use the Parent Square platform www.parentsquare.com to facilitate school communication (updates, newsletters, class info, etc.). Don't miss out on any information!

Once you join, go to notifications, and pick a preference of ways you want to receive information – what method of communication (text, email, or both), and how often (instant, daily). Emergency Alert will override all preferences (ex. Snow Day) and will alert you by text and email instantly.

Zero Waste Week Returns!

Once again, the CM Green Team will challenge our students to pack their lunches and snacks in environmentally friendly containers and pouches **during the week of October 21**. More details to come.

And did you know?

PACKING A WASTE FREE LUNCH/SNACK:

SAVES MONEY! Packing a reusable lunch and snack instead of disposables can save families over \$400 per student per school year.

BETTER FOR THE EARTH! Life cycle analyses show that reusables have significantly less environmental impacts than single-use disposables, including energy use and air pollution.

CUTS WASTE! Every year the average student tosses 67 pounds of packaging and 39 lbs of uneaten food. Lunch in reusable containers could save over 58 million pounds of trash statewide that we pay to haul and burn.

Questions? Please email Tammy and Denise at tammythornton1112@gmail.com and dee0128@gmail.com.



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

Throughout the coming year, **Wilton Youth Council will offer Parent Programs on timely and relevant topics, such as a community event on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm at the YMCA** to talk about issues facing our children and teens today. We will have a panel of speakers who work directly with our kids, talk about what they see as challenges and give parents insight on how we can best support our young people. The panel will be followed by a resource fair.

On Wednesday, October 23, WYC will partner with the Wilton Library to offer a presentation on Gambling and Addiction.

Also, don't miss the following upcoming event:

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.

Date: Friday, October 25
Time: 9:30 – 10:30 am
Location: Tusk & Cup, Wilton

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

Cider Mill Family Fun Night at the Bridgeport Islanders!

Join us at the Bridgeport Arena on Sunday, October 20 to watch the Bridgeport Islanders take on the Hartford Wolf Pack at 3PM! Cider Mill's very own 5th Grade Chorus will kick off the game by singing the National Anthem on the ice. [Click here](#) for a special link to sit in our section; all ticket proceeds support the Cider Mill music program.

For more information, please reach out to Mr. Pearson at pearsona@wiltonps.org or Mrs. Bakst at bakstb@wiltonps.org.

The Harlem Wizards are Coming to Wilton!

The Harlem Wizards will face our very own WPS teachers and staff in an epic showdown! All proceeds will benefit Wilton Public Schools through Wilton Education Foundation grants. **Tickets are currently on sale.** You won't want to miss this inaugural event!

Date: Sunday, October 27
Time: 4:00 pm
Place: WHS Zeoli Fieldhouse
Tickets Link:
<https://pretix.eu/harlemwizards/wiltonct10-27-24-04-00pm/>



Wilton Education Foundation

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help out at the Harlem Wizards game and other events! If interested, please contact Jen Carvajal Jencarv@hotmail.com or join us at our next Board Meeting on **Nov. 21!**

Wilton SEPTA's Annual Touch a Truck and Treat!



Join the Wilton Special Education PTA and Wilton's First Responders for a sensory friendly Halloween activity! Tour emergency vehicles, meet first responders, enjoy a treat bag, and engage in lots of Halloween Fun. Costumes are optional, and this is a FREE event.

Date: Friday, October 25

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

NEW Location: Our Lady of Fatima Church Parking Lot

Please RSVP by October 21 at [Touch a Truck and Treat 2024](https://www.wiltonsepta.org/touch-a-truck-and-treat-2024).

Woodcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for the following fall *one day only* programs for Grades 3 – 5:

Minecraft vs. Nature

This drop off program will be all about the massively popular game Minecraft and the environment. Join us to compare the world of Minecraft to real life nature! Students will go for a hike to learn about the biomes on our property, create a pixel art craft, and meet some resident animals that are similar to those you can find in Minecraft!

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Saturday, October 12

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$45

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

School's Out, Nature's In

School's out, but the woods are open! Campers will meet our resident animals, explore the trails, and learn what's happening in the woods and wetlands in Autumn. We go out in the drizzle and rain. Dress for the weather and pack rain gear (boots, raincoat). Pack a full change of clothes in case we get muddy or wet.

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Monday, October 14 (Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day)

Time: 9:30 – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$90

What to Bring: Nut-free snack and lunch, reusable water bottle, full change of clothes

Medication: If your child has an allergy that requires an Epi pen, inhaler, or other medication that may need to be administered at WNC, a health form and administration of medication approval form will be required

Sign-up Link: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/october-14>

Registration closes at 1:00 pm on October 10.

Shelter Builders

In this drop-off program for students in grades 3 - 5, we will learn to build shelters using materials that nature provides! We'll gather everything we need, find an ideal place, and construct a temporary shelter that provides protection from the elements. Students will be able to test the effectiveness of their work by getting inside their shelter while educators shower the roof with water!

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Saturday, November 2
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Cost: \$45
Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Ambler Farm

Junior Apprentice Program: Fall 2 Session

This 8-week program is designed for children in Grades K-5 interested in learning more about how the natural world and the farm come together through hands-on, engaging activities, games, and crafts. Our Junior Apprentices spend time visiting and caring for our animals every week.

Grades: 3-5
Dates: Mondays or Wednesdays, October 21 – December 11
Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm
Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Fright Nights

This is a drop off program for children in grades 3 – 5. Creepy sights and mysterious sounds abound when the moon rises at Ambler Farm. Join us for a not-too frightful evening of spooky stories, a haunted hayride, and some sweet treats. Choose from one of four nights! Enrollment is limited, advance registration required. Check out amblerfarm.org for more information, and registration is coming mid-September. You may also reach out to info@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Dates: Fridays, October 18 and 25, Saturdays, October 19 and 26
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

[IvyMath](#) 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. 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! **Sign up now at: IvyMath.com/Boost**

Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

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 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 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.

Website: <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Fall Meeting Dates: Mondays, October 7, November 4, and December 2

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

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

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: 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 October 17, 2024.

The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on October 21, 2024.

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