

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – January 22, 2024

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

### Important Dates

<b>Jan 24</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus/Orchestra South, 9:15 – 10:15 am and 6:30 – 7:30 pm
<b>Jan 25</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus/Orchestra North, 9:15 – 10:15 am and 6:30 – 7:30 pm
<b>Jan 25</b>	BOE Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Budget Deliberations, WHS Library
<b>Jan 31</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra/Advanced Strings 6:30 to 7:30 pm
<b>Feb 1</b>	BOE Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Budget Deliberations, WHS Library
<b>Feb 3-16</b>	Reading Rocks! Reading Period
<b>Feb 7</b>	Read Aloud Day
<b>Feb 8</b>	BOE/BOF Joint Meeting, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, WHS Library
<b>Feb 19-23</b>	Winter Recess

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone is keeping warm this weekend!

Our Snow Ball Dance Party was a huge success! We saw hundreds of Cider Mill children dancing, winning prizes, posing in the photo booth and more! A big thank you to everyone who attended and to all of our volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you! There were several items left behind and will be available in the lost and found.

It is budget season again and those interested are invited to attend a community conversation about the 2024/2025 Board of Education budget. The discussion will be held on Thursday, January 25, 10:00 am, in the Wilton High School Zellner Gallery.

A reminder that all fun nights are approaching! Third and Fourth grade fun nights will be held on March 21, more details to come! Fifth grade fun night will be held on March 15 at the Wilton YMCA, and tickets will go on sale soon. Keep your eyes out for the email to purchase, and sign up to help out that night!

We are still open to those interested in serving on our PTA board next year. Please reach out with any questions!

As always, we thank you for your support. We can always be reached at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [carolinehavlin@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2)

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342735\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2)

CM Interactive Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/576928\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3)

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: [https://wiltonps.org/338734\\_2](https://wiltonps.org/338734_2)

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: [https://www.wiltonps.org/575955\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3)

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

ParentSquare Information: [https://wiltonps.org/595543\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/595543_3)

Schoology Information: [https://wiltonps.org/576129\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/576129_3)

Special Bus Assignments: [https://wiltonps.org/579910\\_3](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 Now Open!**

The Cider Mill School Store opened on Wednesday January 10, and is now available to grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 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): [SignUpGenius](#)

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### **Turnover Shop Donation**

Again, the Wilton Turnover Shop was very generous towards all of the Wilton PTA's this year. Cider Mill received a donation of \$18,000 dollars which will go towards gifts and grants as well as other requests. We thank the Turnover Shop for thinking of us! Please remember it is a great resource to relieve yourself of unneeded clothing and goods, or to pick up something. The Turnover Shop is located just under the Village Market.

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## **Reading Rocks!**

The Wilton Education Foundation (WEF) is excited to announce our Annual Reading Rocks! Fundraiser. All students in grades PreK-5 are invited to participate. **The Pledge period will run from January 19 – February 2, and all donations must be submitted online NO LATER than February 2. Participants will then have from February 3 – 17 to complete their reading goals. Additionally, we will celebrate World Read Aloud Day during the Reading Rocks! pledge period, on February 7.** On this day, guest readers within our community will visit each classroom in both schools for a special in-person reading. Each classroom will get to keep the read-aloud book to add to their classroom library!

Pledge collection for Reading Rocks! is once again fully digital this year, where participants create online campaign pages to share their reading goals with friends and family who wish to donate to support them. Please visit the following website to learn more about the program or to make an online pledge donation:

<https://wiltoneeducationfoundation.org/events-programs/reading-rocks>

If you have any questions, please email Elizabeth Brown at [eliz.wise@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.wise@gmail.com), Caroline Hoffman at [carolinehavlin@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinehavlin@hotmail.com), or Sarah Rondeau at [sarah.rondeau@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.rondeau@gmail.com).



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## **Fifth Grade Yearbooks**

**Submitting photos just got easier!** Simply email photos of your fifth graders to [cidermillyearbook2024@gmail.com](mailto: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!

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

Our World Culture Night will take place on **Wednesday, March 6 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm**. Just like last year, we hope to incorporate representation from the cultures and heritages 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 "small bites" or finger-foods (e.g. appetizers, desserts, drinks) that can be eaten on the go with minimal set-up. You will also need to delineate all ingredients to support community members with allergies. Families are also welcome to represent their culture in any way such as artifacts, music, crafts, traditional apparel, etc....Please be on the lookout for a sign up if you are interested in either participating or volunteering to help to make this a successful event!

Thank you,  
The Cider Mill DEI Committee

**Event Date: Wednesday, March 6**  
**Tentative Event Time: 5:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Event Location: Cider Mill School**  
**Contact: (203) 762-3351 and ask for Alyssa Peterson or [Petersona@wiltonps.org](mailto:Petersona@wiltonps.org)**

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**AtoZ Connect**

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](https://membershiptoolkit.com). 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!

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**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>

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**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 located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent.

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>

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## Wilton SEPTA

### Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) 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/j/91771706236>

## Community News

### Dialectical Parent Therapy Program

Please join Tanya Leonard in a four-part wellness series learning about the evidence-based curriculum that introduces and dives deeper into four specific Modules: Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance, Emotion Regulation, and Interpersonal Effectiveness.

**Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)** skills *in schools* help everyone improve and regulate their emotions, allow for more tolerance of distress and negative emotion, help students to be mindful and present within the moment, improving communication, and an ability to interact more effectively with others.

- **4 Sessions: January 22, January 29, February 5, February 12;** attendees are asked to attend all sessions either in-person or live via Zoom (*no recording/replay, and there is a limit of 25 participants for Zoom*)
- **7:00 – 8:30 pm, Q&A 8:30 – 9:00 pm**
- **Location: Middlebrook School**, 131 School Road, Wilton, CT (Room 156, across from the Guidance Office and attached to the LLC) or via Zoom

Thank you to the PTA's and WEF grant funding to make this program available to Wilton caregivers for free! [Click here to register](#).



WILTON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS  
395 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut  
06897



Please join us for a  
**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**  
about the 2024 – 2025  
**Wilton Board of Education Budget**

**Thursday, January 25, 2024**  
**10:00 am**  
**Wilton High School, Zellner Gallery**

All interested members of the Wilton community are invited to attend and participate in a community conversation about the education budget. Members of the community will have the opportunity to meet with Superintendent Kevin Smith to share their thoughts about the current proposed budget.



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## Woodcock Nature Center

### **Afterschool and Winter Break Programs:**

#### **Navigators**

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! Learning will be guided by our observations as we play and explore.

**Tuesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm, January 23 – March 12, 2024**

#### **Earth Artists**

Do you love nature and art? Join the Earth Artists!

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature (and sometimes made from nature too!). **Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm, January 24 – March 13, 2024**

Register here: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/3-5afterschool>

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

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. **Registration opens on January 23 at 10:00 am, and space is limited.**

**Grades K – 5**

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm, February 19 – 23, 2024**

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

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## Wilton Historical Society

### **The Kiwanis Citrus and Chocolate Sale Returns in 2024!**

Back by popular demand, **the Kiwanis Citrus and Chocolate Valentine's Day Fundraiser will run through January 30**, with a portion of all proceeds directly benefiting the Wilton Historical Society. To order online, please click here: <https://k03637.site.kiwanis.org/WHS/> (note: online order form works best on Google Chrome)

Or print out an order form by clicking [HERE](#), and mail it to:

Wilton Kiwanis Foundation  
15 Hubbard Road  
#204  
Wilton, CT 06897

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## Wilton Youth Council

### **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.

**Friday, February 9 from 9:30 – 10:30 am**

Location: TBD

Wednesday, March 13 from 9:30 – 10:30 am  
Location: TBD

**WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL  
&  
CLASSICALLY CATE**



Available now at Classically Cate, 77 Old Ridgefield Rd

- ★ exclusive **YOU MATTER** and **YOU GOT THIS** designs
- ★ special gift packaging
- ★ your choice from 8 different custom cards
- ★ local delivery available

*A portion of the proceeds benefits*  **WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL**  
empowering youth, parents and community

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### 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/>.

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### IvyMath

[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 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: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://IvyMath.com/Boost)**

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## **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](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com).

**Submit News to Hot Cider**

Danielle Michalisin at [micdch72@gmail.com](mailto:micdch72@gmail.com)

Melissa Reynolds at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com)

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is February 1, 2024.  
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on February 5, 2024.

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