

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – September 9, 2024

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

### Important Dates

<b>Sept 10</b>	First PTA Meeting of the School Year, 9:15 am, CM Multipurpose Room
<b>Sept 11</b>	Shortened Day/Early Dismissal, 12:00 pm – Professional Development
<b>Sept 16</b>	Start with Hello (Wear Green)
<b>Sept 17</b>	Open House – Kent/Belden Hill, 6:15 – 7:30 pm
<b>Sept 19</b>	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
<b>Sept 23</b>	Open House – Nod Hill/Cannondale, 6:15 – 7:30 pm
<b>Sept 23</b>	So Long to Summer (Dress in Summer attire or something from a place you visited)
<b>Sept 25</b>	School Photo Day
<b>Oct 1</b>	PTA Scott Driscoll Parent Internet Safety Presentation, 6:30 pm
<b>Oct 2</b>	Shortened Day/Early Dismissal, 12:00 pm – Professional Development
<b>Oct 3</b>	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL, Offices Closed
<b>Oct 4</b>	Super Spirit Day
<b>Oct 10</b>	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
<b>Oct 18</b>	PTA Halloween Trivia Night
<b>Oct 27</b>	Harlem Wizards vs. WPS Teachers

#### Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone has had a smooth and happy start to the school year!

Please join us for our **first PTA meeting of the year on September 10, at 9:15 am** in the Cider Mill multipurpose room and on Zoom. **Dr. Kevin Smith**, Superintendent, will be speaking at our meeting regarding the upcoming cell phone policy for the Wilton schools. A Zoom link is provided below.

Our open house nights are fast approaching, dates listed above. Please try to make it to your child's class, as it's a great way to learn about what they will be doing this year and take a peek into their school day. The PTA will be on hand selling new house color spirit wear in the lobby!

Please stay tuned for more emails and information as the year gets started. Again, we thank everyone for their support in all the PTA does. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [cathleenfareed@gmail.com](mailto: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](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/scschoolfles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/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 2024-25 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

### **Cider Mill PTA Meeting**

Our first PTA meeting of the year will take place on **Tuesday, September 10 at 9:15 am** in the multipurpose room. Dr. Kevin Smith will be speaking about the district's cell phone policies and there will be some updates from Dr. Jen Falcone, as well as PTA news. A Zoom link is provided below.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/97472198631>

Meeting ID: 974 7219 8631

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### **Cider Mill PTA Board**

**Our 2024/2025 PTA Board is here to serve:**

Melissa Reynolds – President  
Cathleen Fareed – President-Elect  
Jess Evans – Co-Treasurer  
Rebecca Perlman – Co-Treasurer  
Kelly Cerabino – Secretary  
Connie Rinaldi – Gifts and Grants  
Caroline Hoffman – Hospitality  
Marisa Rosado, Alana D'Angelica – Fundraising  
Sara Scalfani – Parent at Large  
Libbet Field – Special Education Interests

The Cider Mill PTA works hard to ensure enjoyment for its teachers and students, as well as providing funding for many enrichment programs and grants. We still have many areas where we can use some help from volunteers. Please email [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [cathleenfareed@gmail.com](mailto:cathleenfareed@gmail.com) if you're interested!

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### **Teacher Photocopying Aide 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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### **Seeking Photo Day Volunteers!**



#### **Cider Mill School Photo Day 2024**

Please help us out with photo day! It's just around the corner, and we're looking for a few extra hands to help keep things organized and running smoothly. Duties include: guiding students to and from the photo area, maintaining line ups, smiling, calming children, and fixing some wayward hair!

[www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)

If you're available to lend us a hand on **September 25**, please sign up using the above link. Your support will make this day a great success for our students!

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### **Photo Day Pre-Orders**

This year, class photos will not be provided free of charge, but don't worry—you can still get one with any photo package purchase! It's a great way to preserve these special moments with your child's classmates. Simply choose your favorite photo package using the link below to receive a class photo:

**[Picture Day is 9/25! Order Pictures at "my.lifetouch.com" with the Event Code: EVTPK4P26](https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTPK4P26)**  
 **[\(https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTPK4P26\)](https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/pictureDayId/EVTPK4P26)**

Thank you for your support in making Photo Day memorable!

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### **AtoZ Connect**

#### **PTA Membership and Directory coming soon!**

Please stay tuned to sign up for our membership platform for the 2024-25 school year. In a few weeks, you'll be able to register and 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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### ParentSquare

Wilton Schools will continue to use the Parent Square platform [www.parentsquare.com](http://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.

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### Cider Mill Spiritwear

Get into the “spirit” and snag your Cider Mill swag while supplies last!



**CIDER MILL - SPIRITWEAR**

**\*\*NEW\*\*  
TIE DYE  
\$25**

**\*\*Order online\*\*  
[www.cidermillpta.org](http://www.cidermillpta.org)**

**\*\*NEW PRICE\*\*  
CM Bee Plush  
\$10**

**HOUSE COLOR TEE SHIRTS - \$20  
Limited supplies available**

**\*NEW\* Stock  
Coming  
Soon**

### Zero Waste

#### **The CM Green Team is Back in Action!**

Your CM Green Team is here to remind all of our families of simple easy ways to reduce waste when packing school snacks and lunches!

#### **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](mailto:tammythornton1112@gmail.com) and [dee0128@gmail.com](mailto:dee0128@gmail.com).



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### **Fall After School/Enrichment Programs at CM**

**Registration is still open for Fall 2024 After School Enrichment/Activities.** Classes begin Monday, September 16 and run for 4 – 8 weeks. **Programs include:** 3D Design & Printing, Advanced Paint, Draw & More, Basketball, Books Gone Wild: Crafting & More, Chess, CLAYtastic, Coding, Debate Club, Guitar: Group Beginner, Martial Arts, Matball & P.E. Games, Running Club, Speed & Agility Training, Science Super Powers, STEM Exploration using LEGO® Materials, Tennis, Ukulele: Group Beginner, and VEX & LEGO® Robotics. Come and join the fun! Programs fill up quickly! Click [here](#) for details and to register.

**Registration is still open for Fall 2024 Girls Gymnastics.** The session began Monday, August 26 and runs through Monday, November 19. Classes are held at the Wilton High School Auxiliary Gym for all levels – Beginners, Level II, Level II/Intermediate. Click [here](#) for details and to register. Note: Registrations will now be accepted only if there is availability, and a \$25 late fee will apply per program. Contact [enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org](mailto:enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org) or [dowdene@wiltonps.org](mailto:dowdene@wiltonps.org) with questions.

**Register for music lessons with the Wilton Conservatory of Music.** Private lessons in guitar, piano, percussion, woodwinds, voice, violin/viola, cello, and even bagpipes are available after school at Cider Mill. Registration is rolling, so students may enroll for a set of 10 lessons at any time during the school year. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register. Contact [conservatory@wiltonps.org](mailto:conservatory@wiltonps.org) for more information.

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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 Volunteer Fair



The poster features a central graphic of several hands in various colors (green, blue, purple) holding green hearts. The text is arranged in a circular pattern around the hands. At the top, it says "WILTON IS WHERE YOU BELONG" in a blue, curved font. Below that, "VOLUNTEER FAIR" is written in green. The date and time "Sat, Sep 21 | 11 am - 2 pm" and the location "Wilton Library" are in blue. At the bottom, there are logos for Wilton Youth Council, Wilton Mental Health Task Force, and Wilton Library, along with the text "College Creamery & Live Music by Present Company".

Join a variety of Wilton not-for-profit groups to learn about volunteer opportunities in Wilton

WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL  
empowering youth, parents and community

WILTON MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

WILTON LIBRARY

College Creamery & Live Music by Present Company

Wilton Youth Council's Mental Health Task Force invites you to join us at a **Volunteer Fair on September 21 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Please stop by the **Brubeck Room at the Wilton Library** to explore the many volunteer opportunities that are available through organizations in Wilton for all ages. Plus, enjoy College Creamery, as well as live music by Present Company!

For contact information, please click on the following link:

<https://wilton.librarycalendar.com/event/volunteer-fair-101>

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### 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.

The WYC Mental Health Task Force is also planning a Volunteer Fair on September 21 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Wilton Library. Volunteering is shown to improve both physical and mental health and also bring a sense of belonging while building community relationships for volunteers. Further, we recognize that many adults are struggling to build community connections – volunteering is an excellent way to foster and build these relationships. Come get involved on September 21!

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

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### Wilton Cub Scouts

#### **Wilton Cub Scouts Launch New Adventures with Rocket-Powered Skills Fair!**

Cub Scout Pack 17 is thrilled to announce an out-of-this-world recruiting event designed to inspire and engage the next generation of young adventurers. Join us for an exhilarating afternoon of rocket launches, hands-on activities, and community spirit at Allen’s Meadows. The Cub Scout Skills Fair promises a high-flying and fast-moving experience that’s perfect for families and children aged 6 to 10. The event will feature:

- **Rocket Launches** – Build and launch your own rocket
- **Interactive Stations** – Engage in STEM-based challenges, craft projects, and scouting demonstrations
- **Meet the Scouts** – Current Cub Scouts, BSA Troop Members and their leaders will be on hand
- **Family Fun** – Enjoy food, games, and a variety of entertainment options



“This event is a fantastic way to introduce families to the world of Cub Scouts and showcase the incredible experiences we offer,” said Neesha Ramchandani, Cubmaster of Pack 17. “We believe that scouting helps children build confidence, learn new skills, and form lasting friendships, and we’re excited to share that with our community.”

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### 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/>



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## Woodcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for the following fall programs for Grades 3 – 5:

### **Earth Artists**

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature. Projects will often be made from natural or upcycled materials too!

*Limit of 10 students.*

**Dates: Wednesdays, September 11 – October 23**

**Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm**

**Cost: \$260 (7 classes)**

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

### **Earth Keepers**

Each week we will learn about a different sustainability inspired topics and find ways to incorporate our newfound knowledge into our own lives! Using interactive games, activities, and art projects, we will learn how to make a difference.

*Limit of 10 students.*

**Dates: Thursdays, September 12 – October 24**

**Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm**

**Cost: \$260 (7 classes)**

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

### **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 explore.

*Limited of 10 students.*

**Dates: Fridays, September 13 – October 25**

**Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm**

**Cost: \$260 (7 classes)**

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

### **One Day Only**

#### **Nighttime Wonders – Moth Madness**

In this special after dark drop-off program, we will uncover the wonderful world of moths! Many of these primarily nocturnal insect species are seldom seen and underappreciated for their strikingly beautiful patterns and interesting range of adaptations and behaviors. Educators will lead students in visiting light traps and baited trees which will attract different moth species.

*Limited of 12 students.*

**Date: Friday, September 13**

**Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm**

**Cost: \$45**

**Grades: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

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



### **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 of 12 students.*

**Date: Saturday, October 12**  
**Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**Cost: \$45**  
**Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)**

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### **Ambler Farm**

**Come have fun on the farm this fall:**

#### **Junior Apprentice Program**

This program is designed for children in Grades 3 – 5 who are interested in learning more about how the natural world and the farm come together through hands-on and engaging activities, games, and crafts. Our Junior Apprentices spend time visiting and caring for our animals every week (families have the option of allowing their children to take the bus directly to Ambler Farm after school for this program). Reach out to [kevin@amblerfarm.org](mailto:kevin@amblerfarm.org) with any questions.

**Dates: Begins September 4 and meets for 5 – 6 weeks on Mondays or Wednesdays**  
**Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm**  
**Click here to register: [Junior Apprentice Program](#)**

#### **Ambler Farm Day**

Families from Wilton and beyond descend upon the farm for our most pinnacle event of the year; a fall festival for all ages! We offer live music, food trucks, sweets and treats, as well as an array of activities to commemorate fall that the entire family will enjoy. Fan favorites include the Apple Slingshot, Haymaze, Build-Your-Own Scarecrow, Pumpkin Patch, Dunk-A-Local Celebrity and more! Check out the [amblerfarm.org](http://amblerfarm.org) website for more info. We depend on adult volunteers to help out with this fun event! Please [sign up here](#) and enjoy the day with your family at the Farm! Reach out to [laura@amblerfarm.org](mailto:laura@amblerfarm.org) or [amy@amblerfarm.org](mailto:amy@amblerfarm.org) with any questions.

**Date: Sunday, October 6**  
**Time: 12:00 – 4:00 pm**

#### **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](http://amblerfarm.org) for more information, and registration is coming mid-September. You may also reach out to [info@amblerfarm.org](mailto:info@amblerfarm.org) with any questions.

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

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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

### **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! **Signup now at: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://IvyMath.com/Boost)**

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## **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, September 9, 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](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 September 19, 2024.

The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on September 23, 2024.

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