#### **HOT CIDER**

#### CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION - January 6, 2025

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

# **Important Dates**

Jan /	PTA Meeting, Multipurpose Room and Zoom, 9:15 am
Jan 10	Submission deadline to participate in Community Cultural Celebration
Jan 16	Visiting Author, Stuart Gibbs
Jan 17	Dress Like a Rock Star/Wizard Day
Jan 17	Start of 2-Week Reading Rocks! Pledge Period
Jan 21	World Culture Night Information Session
Jan 24	Snow Ball! 5:30 - 7:00 pm grades 3 and 4, 7:45 - 9:15 pm grades 4 and 5
Feb 1-15	Reading Rocks! Reading Period
Feb 4	4th Grade Chorus/Orchestra Concert South, 6:30 pm
Feb 5	4th Grade Chorus/Orchestra Concert North, 6:30 pm
Feb 5	World Read Aloud Day
Feb 6	BOE Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm in the WHS Professional Library

# **Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,**

Happy New Year! We hope you had a joyful and relaxing holiday break with your loved ones. As we settle back into our routines, we're excited to kick off the new year with plenty of opportunities to connect, volunteer, and support our school community.

One of our biggest events of the season is just around the corner—the Snow Ball on Friday, January 24th! We can't wait to roll out the red carpet for our students. See below to find out how to purchase tickets and more!

We're also looking forward to seeing you at our first PTA Meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 7th at 9:15. Join us to hear about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can stay involved in our school community. Your input and participation make a huge difference!

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We're excited for all that 2025 has in store for our school—and we couldn't do it without you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to <a href="mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com">giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:cathleenfareed@gmail.com">cathleenfareed@gmail.com</a>.

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

#### **School News**

#### **Cider Mill PTA Meeting**

Please join us for the first PTA meeting of 2025! The meeting will take place on **Tuesday**, **January 7 at 9:15 am in the Multipurpose Room and via Zoom**. Dr. Kevin Smith will be speaking.

#### **Zoom Link:**

Topic: Cider Mill PTA meeting

Time: 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/98095304455

Meeting ID: 980 9530 4455

# **Visiting Author Day!**

As a precursor to Reading Rocks!, children's book author Stuart Gibbs will visit Cider Mill on Thursday, January 16. Stuart Gibbs is the author of five bestselling series: *Spy School, FunJungle, Charlie Thorne, Moon Base Alpha* and *The Last Musketeer*. He also writes for TV and film. Gibbs will meet with each grade to speak with and read to the kids!

# Reading Rocks!

The Wilton Education Foundation (WEF) is excited to announce its 14th Annual Reading Rocks! Fundraiser. All students in grades PreK - 5 are invited to participate. Building on the success of the Harlem Wizards visit and the sold-out *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* performances this fall, we've chosen "Reading is Magic" as our theme this year. The event will officially kick off on January 17 with Dress Like a Rockstar/Wizard Day. In addition to dressing like a rockstar, students can also choose to wear their favorite wizard attire, whether it's a Harry Potter cloak, a Harlem Wizards jersey, or a magical creation of their own.

Pledge collection for Reading Rocks! is both print and digital this year. Participants can either turn in their pledge forms in-person, or 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://wiltoneducationfoundation.org/events-programs/reading-rocks



If you have questions, please email Elizabeth Brown at <a href="mailto:eliz.wise@gmail.com">eliz.wise@gmail.com</a>, Caroline Hoffman at <a href="mailto:carolinehavlin@hotmail.com">carolinehavlin@hotmail.com</a>, or Sarah Rondeau at <a href="mailto:sarah.rondeau@gmail.com">sarah.rondeau@gmail.com</a>.

#### **Important dates:**

January 17: Dress Like a Rockstar/Wizard Day and kick-off of two-week pledge collection

February 5: World Read Aloud Day

February 1 - 15: Reading Rocks! Reading Period

# Winter After School Enrichment/Activities at Cider Mill

Last call to register for Winter 2025 After School Enrichment/Activities at CM. Classes begin Monday, January 6 and run for 6 - 8 weeks. Programs include Advanced Paint, Draw & More, Basketball, Books Gone Wild: Crafting & More, Chess, CLAYtastic, Coding, Debate Club, Guitar: Group Beginner, Martial Arts, Mosaics: Intro, Tennis, Winter Wonderland Challenge using LEGO® Materials. Come and join the fun! Click <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a> for details and to register.

Also: Register now for Winter Girls Gymnastics. The session runs Thursday, January 2 – Tuesday, March 3. 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.

Contact <u>enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org</u> with questions.

# Save the Date for the Cider Mill Snow Ball!



Get Ready for a Star-Studded Snow Ball! We're rolling out the red carpet for this year's **Snow** Ball Dance Party, happening on Friday, January 24 in the Cider Mill Gym! We're excited about our new theme, as it's sure to be a night of glitz, glam, and fun!

#### **Event Details:**

 3rd & 4th Grade: 5:30 – 7:00 pm • 4th & 5th Grade: 7:45 – 9:15 pm

To ensure everyone has a safe, respectful, and memorable experience, we're asking families to complete a Student/Parent Event Agreement Form before purchasing tickets. Once this form is submitted, you'll be given the option to click the link to purchase tickets for your chosen time slot. Please click here to complete the form and then purchase tickets. Each student must have an agreement on file to be permitted into the Snow Ball.

Important: Please do not exit out of the form after submitting it! You will need to click the ticket link provided on the confirmation screen to complete your purchase.

We'll also be sending out a Chaperone Sign-Up in the coming week. Chaperones are key to making this event a success, so we'd love to have you join us in making it a fun night for everyone!

We're excited to welcome students to a star-studded night on the Snow Ball red carpet! 🔭



#### Come Enjoy our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concerts!



The Cider Mill Music Directors are excited to invite you to the upcoming 4th Grade Winter Concerts this February! Every 4th grade student at Cider Mill performs as members of 4th Grade Chorus, as well as those who are in 4th Grade Orchestra. Please do not hesitate to contact them with any questions or concerns:

- For strings matters, please email Mr. Hayashi at <a href="mailto:hayashik@wiltonps.org">hayashik@wiltonps.org</a>
- For all singing matters or general concert questions, please email Mrs. Bakst at bakstb@wiltonps.org

Houses Date/Time

Belden Hill & Kent Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 pm Cannondale & Nod Hill Wednesday, February 5 at 6:30 pm

#### For participants' families:

All strings students should arrive at 6:10 pm and report to Mr. Hayashi in the large ensemble room downstairs with music and instruments. All singers not in strings should arrive at 6:20 pm and sit in their assigned seat on the bleachers in the main gym. Students should dress to impress, which means:

ON TOP: A dress, a collared or button-down shirt, or nice blouse ON BOTTOM: A skirt or nice pants, and clean but comfortable shoes Please avoid jeans, athletic wear, large logos, and shoes that are tricky for stairs

The students have all worked very hard to prepare this performance, which is an important part of the Wilton K-12 music curriculum. Everyone is needed, and attendance is expected. Please plan accordingly!

# **World Culture Night**

Cider Mill is excited to host our 3rd annual World Culture Food night on April 2nd!

Date: Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

Time: 5:30-7:00 pm

**Location: Cider Mill School cafeteria** 

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

During our World Culture Night, we hope to incorporate representation 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.

For more information, or if interested in helping organize the event, our DEI committee will be hosting a meeting on January 21 at 2:35 pm at the school's Low Tech Makerspace to discuss logistics. More details will then be shared during the months leading up to the event.

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

#### **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.

#### **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!

#### **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! <a href="https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/story/364235">https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/story/364235</a>

# 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 <u>Facebook</u> page and visit our <u>website</u> 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 Conservatory of Music

Give the gift of music this holiday season! Still trying to figure out the perfect holiday gift for your student, spouse, someone special, or yourself? Music lessons are the gift that keeps on giving! Registration continues for music lessons with the Wilton Conservatory of Music. Private lessons are available in guitar, piano, percussion, woodwinds, voice, violin/viola, and even bagpipes! Students of all ages and abilities are welcome & do not need to be enrolled in Wilton Public Schools or be Wilton residents to participate. Lessons are held from between 2:45 pm and 8:00 pm and we have openings Monday-Friday for most instruments. Don't miss out! Click <a href="here">here</a> to learn more or contact <a href="mailto:conservatory@wiltonps.org">conservatory@wiltonps.org</a> for availability and to register!

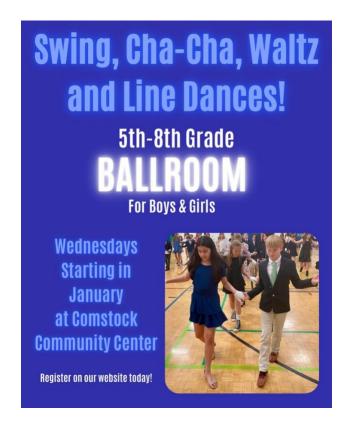
# Wilton Children's Library

The Wilton Children's Library maintains a steady stream of learning activities to engage both children and parents alike. Click on the link below to check out what's in store during the month of January and beyond. Upcoming events include:

- Family Fort Night on January 6 beginning at 4:00 pm
- Board Games (grades 4-7) on January 8 from 1:30 3:00 pm
- Team STEAM Presents Engineering Fun on January 9 from 4:15 5:00 pm

https://wilton.librarycalendar.com/events/month?age\_groups%5B99%5D=99

# Get into the Swing of Things with Ballroom Dancing!



# There's still room in the 5th and 6th Grade Beginner Ballroom Class!

This co-educational ballroom class is designed to introduce boys and girls to the basics of social dance and etiquette. Students will learn ballroom steps to current and traditional social dances, such as swing, cha-cha, waltz and line dances. There will be theme nights, a cash raffle and more!

Classes meet on Wednesdays at Comstock for 10 lessons beginning January 8, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

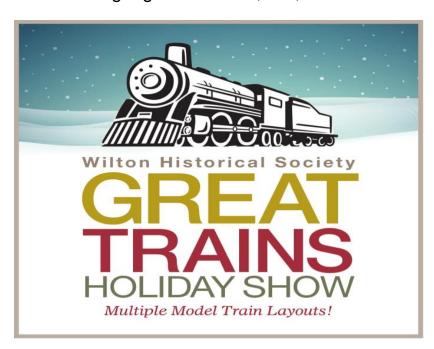
Register today! <a href="https://www.encoredancect.com">https://www.encoredancect.com</a>

# **Wilton Historical Society**

#### The Great Trains Holiday Show Returns!

Model trains, holiday cheer, and family fun returns with one of Wilton's favorite holiday traditions, the Great Trains Holiday Show! Explore the Wilton Historical Society's 18th and 19th century historic buildings – charmingly decorated for the holiday season – to find multiple layouts of model trains that wind their way through miniature winter landscapes, vibrant towns, and mountain tunnels, and some familiar landmarks. The interactive displays and model holiday village are perfect holiday fun for all ages. Whether a model train builder or collector, young wannabe train conductors, or a family looking for a delightful seasonal experience, the Great Trains Holiday Show has something for everyone.

Model train gauges include G, HO, and O.



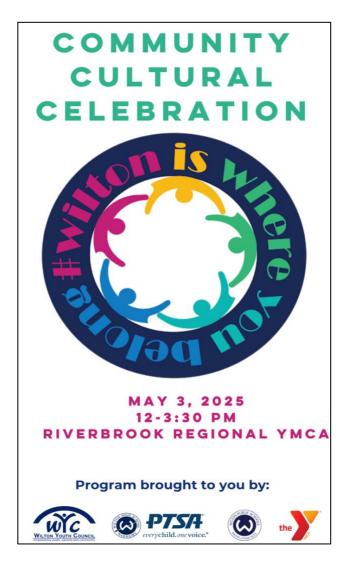
The Great Trains Holiday Show will run from Friday, November 29 – Monday, January 20, 2025. Wednesday to Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Free for members of Wilton Historical; \$5 per nonmember child and \$10 for non-member adults. Special holiday programming most weekends in December.

While you are visiting the Train Show, don't miss the Betts Store Museum Shop for one stop holiday shopping. Visit <u>wiltonhistorical.org</u> for more information about the show and additional holiday programming.

Great Trains Holiday Show is generously supported by Ellen M. Essman CPA & Associates, Lynne Murphy Realtor at Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices, and RVNAhealth.

Address: Wilton Historical Society, 224 Danbury Road.

# **Community Cultural Celebration**



On May 3rd, community organizers are planning our first Community Cultural Celebration at the YMCA from 12:00 – 3:30 pm. This event aims to honor cultural heritage and diversity by showcasing dance, music, traditional clothing, holidays, and food from around the world. It provides a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange and learning, bringing together representatives from various cultures to share their unique heritage and educate the Wilton community about their traditions.

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 <a href="here">here</a> by January 10th. 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 <a href="mailto:cring@wiltonyouth.org">cring@wiltonyouth.org</a> or Lara Paschalidis at <a href="mailto:Larapaschalidis28@gmail.com">Larapaschalidis28@gmail.com</a>.

#### Wilton Youth Field Hockey



Calling all field hockey players or those looking to try a new sport! WYFH is offering winter clinics on Sunday nights again this year. We will offer 9 sessions that will run from Jan through mid-March (1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/23, 3/2 and 3/9). K-4th will run from 4:30 – 5:30 pm and 5th-8th will run from 4:30 – 6:00 pm each Sunday. Sign up on our website is required. We hope to see you there!

Link: <a href="https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/">https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/</a>

#### **Wilton Lacrosse**



### **Wilton Youth Council**



Are you tired of repeating the same suggestions and requests with no change in results? Do you want to increase cooperation and reduce yelling and back talk?

This Workshop, based on the book by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, and led by Susan Bauerfeld, PhD, gives you the know-how you need to be more effective.

This series will take place over four Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Comstock Community Center:

January 7, 14, 21 and 28

This workshop series is intended for parents of elementary age children.

# Wilton Youth Council also presents Cocoa & Card Games!

Join families of elementary age students at Cocoa & Card Games on Wednesday, January 22 from 5:00 – 7:30 pm at Comstock Community Center. Stay awhile or for the whole time. Register here! https://www.zeffv.com/ticketing/wyc-family-fun-cards-and-cocoa

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

# **Woodcock Nature Center**

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

#### School's Out, Nature's In: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

School's out for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but the woods are open! Campers will explore the trails, meet our resident animals, and learn about an important part of Dr. King's legacy: to raise awareness of how all life on earth is connected. This program is outdoors. Please dress your child accordingly. 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.

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Monday, January 20 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: <a href="https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/mlk-day">https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/mlk-day</a>

Registration closes at 1:00 pm on January 17.

#### 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 in the winter! Learning will be guided by our observations as we explore. Pick and choose which classes to sign up for: one, multiple, or all!

Limited to 10 students.

Dates: Tuesdays Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$38 per child/per class

January 28: Birds in Winter February 4: Winter Adaptations

February 11: Tracking, Traces, and Trees

February 25: Animal Homes and Shelter Building

March 4: Early Signs of Spring

Sign-up Link: Register Here

#### **Earth Artists**

Do you love nature and art? Join the 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!

Limited to 10 students.

Dates: Wednesdays, January 22 – March 12

Time: 4:15 – 6:00 pm Cost: \$280 (7 classes) Sign-up Link: Register Here

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#### **Ambler Farm**

#### **Junior Apprentice Program**

Dates: Mondays and/or Wednesdays, February 3 - March 26\*

Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm

\*No session week of February 17 due to winter break

Registration is now open! During our Winter Session, we will be focusing on maple sugaring or as we like to call it, winter farming! This **7-week session** runs on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. You may register for one or both days! Students may take the bus from Cider Mill School to Ambler Farm. Please log into the **Parent Dashboard** to register. We look forward to seeing your family at the farm!

# Maple Sugaring Tap-a-Tree Date: Saturday, February 1

Time: 11:00 am or 1:00 pm

Cost: \$70 per non-member family / \$65 per member family

Learn the science and history of maple sugaring by being a hands-on part of the process. There will be two informal orientation sessions offered; only ONE session is required. On that day, **February 1st** (11:00 am or 1:00 pm) we invite your family out to Ambler Farm to choose your maple tree and hang your sap collection bucket. We will send regular updates on the sap progress, so you know when to collect it. Sap is boiled down in our sugar shack and each family receives their very own bottle of Ambler Farm maple syrup. The season runs from early February to mid-March. Maple syrup production is winter farming and, therefore, weather dependent. A typical season is five weeks long. If you are traveling during February or March, our Apprentices will collect sap for you. Enrollment is limited to 100 families. This program has sold out quickly in previous years, so please do not wait to sign up! The number of trees at the Farm is limited, so we are unable to accommodate late requests or wait lists. Click here to learn more and register here

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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 <a href="https://turnovershopwilton.org/">https://turnovershopwilton.org/</a>.

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# Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

Struggling with your kids? Want a safe space to vent about life at home? The holidays can put additional and significant stress on a family! 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 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.

Website: <a href="https://namisouthwestct.org">https://namisouthwestct.org</a>

Winter Meeting Dates: Mondays, January 6 and February 3

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 am

Zoom Link (cameras on): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998029176

**Meeting ID:** 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: Contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or <a href="mailto:beth44es@gmail.com">beth44es@gmail.com</a> OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or <a href="mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com">eliasvanessa5@gmail.com</a>.

#### **Submit News to Hot Cider**

Danielle Michalisin at <a href="micdch72@gmail.com">micdch72@gmail.com</a>
Melissa Reynolds at <a href="micdch72@gmail.com">giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com</a>

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is January 16, 2025. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on January 20, 2025.

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