

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – March 10, 2025

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

Important Dates

March 11	PTA Meeting at 9:15 am in the multipurpose room and via Zoom
March 14	5 th Grade Fun Night!
March 20	Wilton BOE Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
March 21-23	WCT Presents Descendants the Musical
March 25	Family Trivia 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!
April 5	Wilton's Annual Townwide Cleanup Day
April 26	Wilton SEPTA-Sponsored Yankee Game

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Spring is here and as the year begins to wind down a bit the PTA still has a lot to come! We have 3rd and 4th grade fun nights with sign ups coming this week, 5th grade fun night tickets are still available, Earth Day planting, spring book fair, teacher appreciation week, and our spring Scholastic Book Fair!

The PTA is already prepping for the next school year and we have some board vacancies that need to be filled. More information can be found below, and please reach out with any questions or interest!

Our March PTA meeting is coming up, this Tuesday, March 11 at 9:15 am in the multipurpose room and on Zoom. We have some grants to vote on and Matt Raimondi will be speaking and taking some questions on the budget process. The Zoom link can be found below in the newsletter.

We again thank everyone for their enthusiasm and support and enjoy the great weather this week!

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 Meeting, March 11 at 9:15 am

Please join us for our March PTA meeting this Tuesday at 9:15 am in the multipurpose room or via Zoom. Matt Raimondi will be speaking and taking some questions on the budget process.

Topic: PTA General Meeting

Time: Mar 11, 2025 09:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/94978415612>

Meeting ID: 949 7841 5612

The PTA is looking ahead to next year! We have the following positions open:

President Elect	Parent at Large
Gifts & Grants	Membership Chair
Special Education Chair	Secretary

If you are interested, please contact giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenafareed@gmail.com by April 1st. All positions will be voted on at our end-of-year meeting in May.

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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

We are excited to announce our PTA Hosted **5th Grade Fun Night**, taking place on **Friday, March 14 from 7:00 – 9:30 pm** at the **Riverbrook Regional (Wilton) YMCA**. This is a **drop-off event** for 5th-grade students filled with:

- 🏊 **Swim & Splash** in the pool
 - 🎵 **DJ & Dancing**
 - 🎈 **Bounce Houses**
 - 📷 **Photo Booth**
 - 🍪 **Crafts**
 - 🍷 **Snacks**
- ...and more exciting surprises!

HOW TO SIGN UP YOUR STUDENT

1. Complete the Event Agreement

Fill out the [Google Form here](#).

Sign and submit YMCA Waiver at the bottom of the google form: [Link to waiver](#). This waiver is required for all students and chaperones by the YMCA.

The **Ticket link** will appear on the confirmation page once you've submitted the form.

2. Purchase a Ticket

Tickets are on sale now for \$25/student to support the cost of the planned activities. But act fast...we have a limited number of tickets still available!

[Click here to purchase tickets](#). Link will also be in the Google Form above.

STEPS 1 & 2 MUST BE COMPLETED TO GAIN ACCESS. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

3. Sign Up for a Swim Time

Choose a swimming session so your child can be in the pool with their friends! Sign up [here](#).

Students are not required to swim - this is optional. If your child chooses not to swim simply skip this step.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER AS A CHAPERONE

We need chaperones to help make this event a success! If we do not get more volunteers, it will not be able to take place, due to child safety.

1. Complete the Chaperone Agreement & YMCA Waiver

Fill out the [Google Form here](#).

Sign and submit YMCA Waiver at the bottom of the Google Form: [Link to waiver](#).

⚠️ **Important: DO NOT exit out of the form after submitting it!**

The **Sign-Up Genius link** to choose your chaperone spot will appear on the confirmation page once you've submitted the form.

2. Sign Up for a Chaperone Slot

Chaperones will be contacted 2-3 days before the event with details.

Your support as a chaperone ensures a safe and exciting night for our 5th graders. Thank you for considering!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or Cathleen Fareed at cathleenafareed@gmail.com. We look forward to a fantastic evening of fun and memories!

3rd & 4th Grade Fun Night

📅 **Friday, April 4**

📍 **Cider Mill Gym**

An exciting evening full of fun activities! 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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PTA Family Trivia Night



Think fast, laugh lots, and put your knowledge to the test in this exciting family-friendly event on Friday, March 28! Gather your crew and compete for fun prizes while enjoying a great evening with our school community.

Click on the image to the left to register!



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 peterona@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!

Wilton SEPTA's Second Annual Yankee Game!



Open to all! Yankee Tickets on sale now! \$95 includes \$15 food and drink voucher and a cool Yankee backpack! Limited seats in Main Level Sections 208 & 209.

Date: Saturday, April 26
Time: 1:05 pm

Pre-order your tickets here:

<https://www.wiltonsepta.org/event-details/wilton-septa-sponsored-day-at-yankee-stadium-2025>

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Spring After School Enrichment/Activities

Registration is now open for Spring After School Enrichment/Activities. Classes begin Monday, March 31 and run for 6 – 8 weeks. Programs include 3D Design & Printing, Advanced Paint, Draw & More, Basketball, Books Gone Wild: Crafting & More, Chess, Clay Creations: Handbuilding & Sculptures at WHS, Coding, Debate Club, Flag Football, Guitar: Group Beginner, Imagination Engineering, Martial Arts, Matball & P.E. Games, Mosaics: An Intro at WHS, Running Club, Speed & Agility Training, Street Art, Tennis, The Science Around Us, and Transportation Master Engineering using LEGO® Materials. **April Break** offers “Be A Good Sport” with Mr. Giaimo at MD, Monday - Thursday, April 21 - 24 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Come and join the fun! Programs fill up quickly! Click [here](#) for details and to register.

Registration is also open for **Spring Girls Gymnastics**. The Spring session runs Monday, March 10 – June 9. 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 enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org with questions.

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Wilton Continuing Education Summer Programs and Music Lessons

Registration is now open!

Welcome to the [Summer Program](#) for elementary students! Select from a variety of weeklong activities designed for fun, learning or playing. Full-day and half-day classes are offered in STEM, sports & games, fine arts, and special interests for students entering grades 4 – 6 in Fall 2025. Contact enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org with questions.

[Summer Lessons with the Wilton Conservatory of Music](#) are held at Cider Mill School on T, W, or Th between 1:00 and 6:00 pm. We welcome ages K – adult and all experience levels. The 7-week session begins June 17 (skipping the week of July 1). Camp and vacation schedules can be accommodated with a shorter, pro-rated session – some lessons are better than no lessons! Contact conservatory@wiltonps.org before registering if you need a pro-rated session.

Cello lessons are back! Emily Mutlu has joined our program and is teaching cello, guitar, piano, and drums on Mondays beginning this Spring and continuing into Summer. Register now before her schedule fills up!

Extended Day Childcare for 2025-26

Mark your calendars...**on Wednesday, May 14 at 10:00 am**, online registration opens for the 2025-26 Extended Day Childcare Program at Cider Mill (entering grades 3-5)!

Time: After school from 2:15 – 6:30 pm

Prior to registration, click [here](#) to create and/or update your parent and student account with Wilton Continuing Education. Keep your username and password handy to expedite your registration. Then go directly to wiltoncontinuinged.org and click on Childcare to register on May 14.

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

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

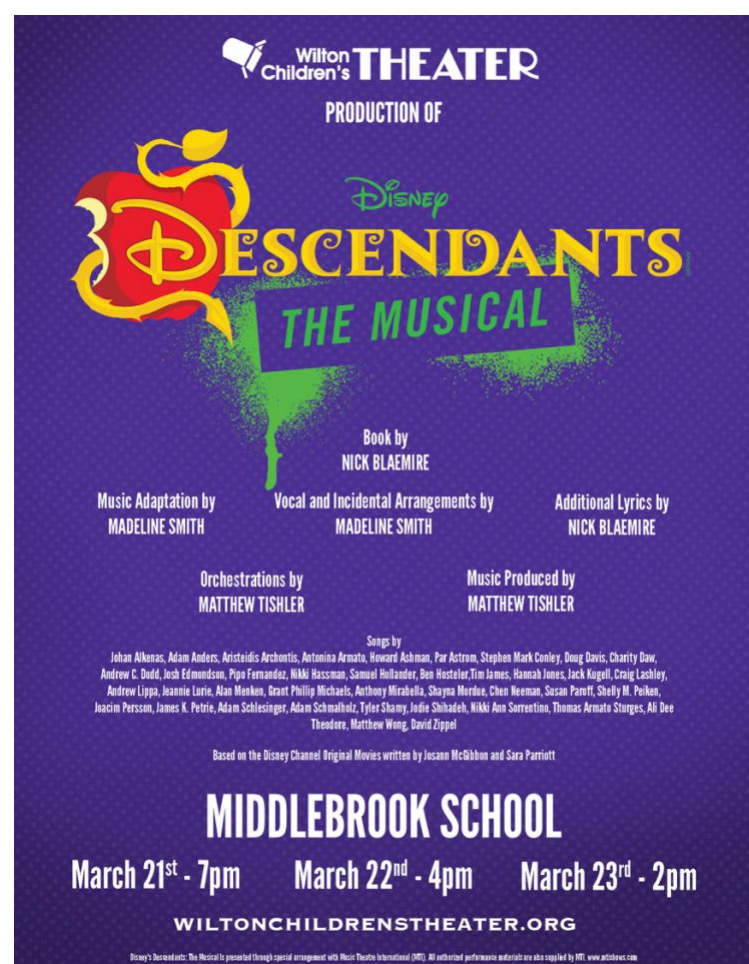
Wilton Children's Theater Presents Descendants the Musical!

Disney's Descendants: The Musical
Presented by Wilton Children's Theater

Dates: Friday, March 21 – Sunday, March 23

Place: Middlebrook Auditorium

Tickets can be purchased
at wiltonchildrenstheater.org:
\$15 for students, \$20 for adults



Wilton's Annual Townwide Cleanup Day is Almost Here!

The Wilton Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to join the 2025 Townwide Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 5th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Town Green. Every year hard working volunteers of all ages join together to pick up litter along Wilton's roadways and the banks of the Norwalk River. Work gloves, garbage bags and dumpsters will be provided by the Wilton Conservation Commission and will be made available at the gazebo starting at 9:00 am.

This year's event has several generous donors who will be providing raffle prizes for some lucky participants! To be eligible to enter the raffle volunteers must collect a full garbage bag of litter and bring it the Town Green for disposal. The raffle will be drawn promptly at noon on April 5th, and you must be present to win. Pinocchio Pizza will be providing each volunteer with a coupon for one free slice of cheese pizza for their help.

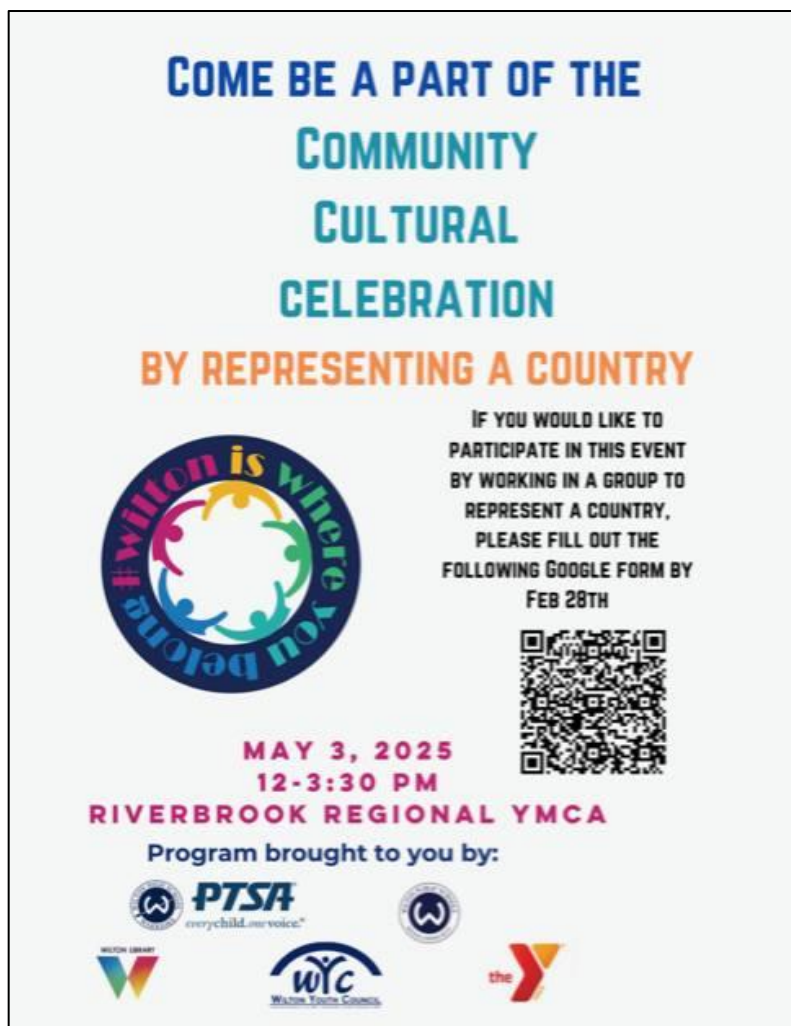
This is a rain or shine event.

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.

Community Cultural Celebration



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.

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 Lacrosse

Flag Football: Co-Ed or All Girls

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

Sports Equipment Swap

Donation Dates: Week of March 17 – 21

Wilton Sideline Cheerleading K-4th

Calling all K – 4th Graders!

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

In the Spring of each year, we offer our traditional program for K-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 5th-8th



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, a circular graphic 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 says 'SPRING 2025!'. Below that, 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 contact information: 'cheerwilton@gmail.com' and 'www.wiltonyouthfootball.com'. A bottom right circular inset 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](#)

School's Out, Nature's In: Spring Break

School's out, but the woods are open! Children will explore vernal pools, search for amphibians, stomp in the mud, and scoop in the swamp! Each day will include exploration, hands-on activities, animal presentations, and nature crafts.

When: Tuesday, April 22 – Friday, April 25
Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

\$95 per child/per day. **Registration opens on March 11 at 10:00 am.**

Navigators: Spring 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. Learning will be guided by our observations as we explore.

When: Tuesdays, April 1 – May 27 (no class April 15 or 22)
Time: 4:15 – 6:00 pm

\$280 per child. [Registration](#) required.

Earth Artists: Spring Series

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!). Projects will often be made from natural or upcycled materials!

When: Wednesdays, April 2 – May 28 (no class April 16 or 23)
Time: 4:15 – 6:00 pm

\$280 per child. [Registration](#) required.

To explore more of the Nature Center's upcoming programs, click [HERE](#).

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 Apprenticeship Program: Spring Session

Registration is now open! This 7-week session runs on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. Register for one or both days! This program is designed for children in Grades K-5 who are 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. Students may take the bus from Cider Mill directly to Ambler Farm.

When: Mondays and/or Wednesdays, April 7 – June 2

Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Maple Sugaring Open House

Come experience a New England tradition: turning sap into syrup! Kids and families will have an opportunity to tap a tree, take the maple syrup taste test, learn about Native American, colonial, and modern methods of making syrup + taste Ambler Farm's very own maple syrup over vanilla ice cream. Bottles of Ambler Farm maple syrup and merchandise will be available for sale. **Free and open to the public.** No registration required.

When: Saturday, March 15

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

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, April 7 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 20, 2025. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on March 24, 2025.

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