

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – November 4, 2024

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

Important Dates

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| Nov 4 | Cider Mill Students Vote! |
| Nov 4 | Max Stossel Virtual Q&A for Parents and Guardians |
| Nov 5 | No School for Election Day |
| Nov 6 | Picture Day Retakes and 5 th Grade Class Picture (Wear House Colors!) |
| Nov 8 | Helping Hands Food Drive for Hurricane Relief Deadline |
| Nov 8-10 | Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Performances |
| Nov 11 | Veteran's Day Assembly and Red, White & Blue Spirit Day |
| Nov 12 | Cider Mill Family Forum, Building Safe and Welcoming Schools Together |
| Nov 12 | PTA Reflections Art Contest Submission Deadline |
| Nov 14 | PTA Meeting, Multipurpose Room and Zoom, 9:15 am |
| Nov 15 | HRRA Billboard Recycling Contest Submission Deadline |
| Nov 18 | Turkey Trot (Wear House Colors!) |
| Nov 21-26 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Nov 21-26 | Shortened Days / Early Release for Parent-Teacher Conferences |
| Nov 22-24 | Singin' in the Rain JR. Performances |
| Nov 27-Dec 1 | Thanksgiving Recess / No School |

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

The PTA would like to extend a huge thank you for everyone's donations, support, and excitement during our **walkathon/Halloween Parade!** The event was a big success, raising just over \$18,000 and surpassing our goal! Donations can still be made until the end of Wednesday, after which the link will be closed and prizes will be drawn. Donations can be made at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/fundraising/5c94a633-6537-41e7-9c22-96658ddf66c8>.

Those students in winning **super spirit day** classrooms will be receiving pizza at lunch tomorrow! They will be given tickets by their teacher, which entitles them to one slice each. If you know your child will still be hungry, let them know they can also purchase something, or send some extra food along! Thank you to everyone for such great participation!

Information will be coming out this week about both our Turkey Trot and Scholastic Book Fair! Please keep an eye out for emails with this information.

Our next PTA meeting is **Thursday, November 14** in the multipurpose room and on Zoom at 9:15 am. We hope you can make it!

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

Important and Helpful Links

Please see the PTA website for a full list of links that provide key information related to Cider Mill and Wilton Public Schools.

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Cider Mill PTA Meeting

Our next Cider Mill PTA meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, November 14 at 9:15 am in the multipurpose room. A Zoom link will be provided closer to the meeting.

We thank everyone who attended our October meeting or joined by Zoom. We hope the discussion with Bill Tomlinson from Chartwells helped. Here's a synopsis:

We were fortunate to have Bill Tomlinson from Chartwells join us to to give an update on the school lunch program and answer questions from our parents. He provided insight into what your child's lunch looks like each day. Every meal includes a main entrée, fresh fruit or vegetables, and milk. Staff are trained to guide students in making healthy choices and ensuring appropriate portion sizes. If students are still hungry, they can request a second entrée or purchase a snack from the à la carte menu. Bill invited parents to visit and help out if they would like to see the lunch program firsthand. If you have specific questions or comments, please feel free to let us know.

We hope to see many of you in November!

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Voting Is Our Superpower!

On **Monday, November 4**, Cider Mill students will have the opportunity to participate in a fun and educational voting activity where they can cast their votes for their favorite of three song choices. When students return on Wednesday, the school day will start off with a joyful movement break with the winning song played during the morning announcements!

Families are encouraged to speak at home about the importance of voting, how every vote counts, and the role it plays in decision-making processes within a community. Big or small, your vote matters!

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Picture Day Retakes and 5th Grade Class Picture

Anyone wanting photo retakes can head to the gym on **November 6**. Simply bring your previous proofs with you. Also, **the 5th grade class picture will be taken. Don't forget to wear your house color!**

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Cider Mill Spiritwear

Get into the "spirit" and snag your Cider Mill swag! New tie dye and solid color house shirts are now available at <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>. Perfect for the 5th grade class picture!



CIDER MILL - SPIRITWEAR

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



****Order online**
www.cidermillpta.org**



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

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

***NEW* Stock
Coming
Soon**

2024-25 PTA Reflections Art Contest: Accepting Imperfection

The 2024-2025 PTA Reflections Contest is underway!



This year the PTA asks students to infuse our world with optimism through their art with the theme “Accepting Imperfection...!” It leaves ample room for individual, personal expression.” Students can submit their creative work in one of the following categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts.

Key Dates:

- October 1, 2024: Contest opens
- **November 12, 2024: Submission deadline (10:00 pm)**
- December 6, 2024: District awards ceremony
- April 1, 2025: State winners announced
- May 14, 2025: State & national awards ceremony

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

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

Helping Hands Food Drive to Help Hurricane Victims



We are extending the deadline to donate food pantry items for families affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton to **Friday, November 8**. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause! Collection boxes are outside the front office. Unexpired and non-perishable items only, please. We appreciate your support!

Building Safe and Welcoming Schools Together

BUILDING SAFE AND WELCOMING SCHOOLS TOGETHER

Let's help our children develop healthy habits with technology use

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION

- Cider Mill Teachers
- Susan Bauerfeld, Clinician
- Wilton Police
- Director of Technology
- LLC Staff
- Cider Mill Mental Health Staff

**November 12th
6:30-8:00 pm**

Wilton High School
Little Theater

[Click Here To Register](#)
Submit questions by Nov. 4th

At Cider Mill we're always working to make our schools a place where every student feels safe, supported, and ready to learn and have fun. Please join us as we host a forum titled "*Building Safe and Welcoming Schools Together*":

Date: November 12

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: WHS Little Theater

Registration Link: [Building Safe and Welcoming Schools Together](#)

WHS Presents Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

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

J.K. ROWLING'S
Harry Potter
AND THE
CURSED CHILD
HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
COMING IN NOVEMBER

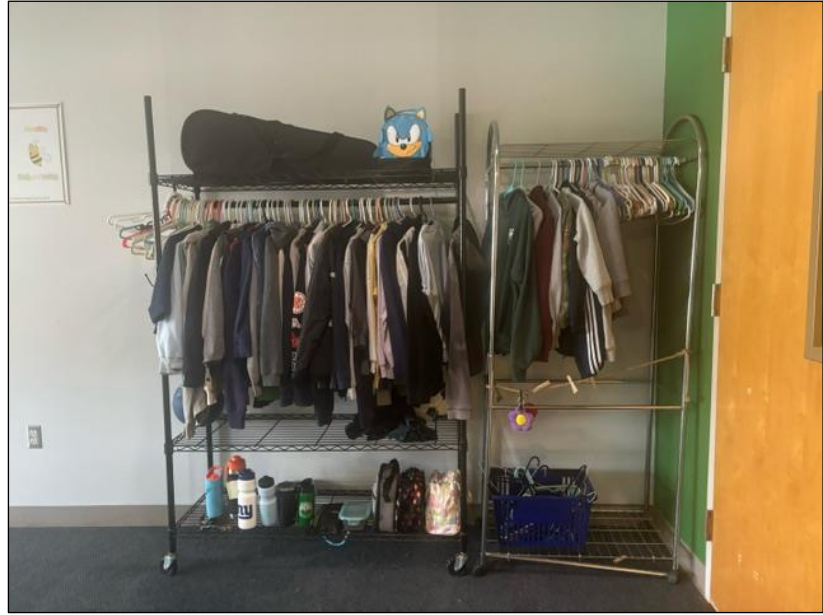
**Performance Dates: Friday,
November 8 – Sunday, November 10**

Location: Clune Center for the Arts

Purchase Tickets Here:
wiltonhighschooltheatre.com/tickets

The Lost and Found is Overflowing!

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



Middlebrook Science Fair Helper

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



Lunch Monitor Wanted

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



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 Singin' in the Rain JR.

Tap your toes and sing along to the Wilton Children's Theater (WCT) adaptation of one of the greatest movie musicals of all time. This student production of Singin' in the Rain JR., featuring 40 students in grades 4 - 8, is ideal for families and friends of all ages.

WCT will present Singin' in the Rain JR. at the Middlebrook School Auditorium, 131 School Road, Wilton, CT. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors and are available online and at the door (if not sold out). Ticket sales open to the public on November 8. For more information, please visit www.wiltonchildrenstheater.org.

Show dates and times are as follows:

- **Friday, November 22 at 7:00 pm**
- **Saturday, November 23 at 4:00 pm**
- **Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 pm**

Secure your seat, join the fun, and let your heart sing along with the catchy tunes of this delightful musical. This is set to be a great time for audience and performers alike!

Coming Soon: Marché Wilton!

Marché Wilton is a local, unique shopping experience blending together the work of 25 Fairfield County artisans, makers, bakers, growers and non-profit organizations. **This first-ever, pop-up holiday market will support Small Business Saturday.** Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, November 30

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: WEPCO Complex/ St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 36 New Canaan Rd, Wilton

Instagram Link: [Marché Wilton Shopping Event](#)

Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 per person for adults 18+, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Wilton Social Services.

Happy shopping!

Wilton Youth Council

Coffee, Community, and Conversation: Join WYC board members for an informal conversation. This is a great time to connect with and meet members of the Wilton community! Come meet us at Tusk & Cup in Wilton Center on **Saturday, November 30 from 9:30 – 10:30 am.**

Social Media: The Inside Scoop with Max Stossel: Max spoke to WPS students in grades 6-11 on Wednesday, October 16, sharing his experience as a former media strategist with a background in social media development who speaks on the impact of social media. Register for a virtual Q&A for parents and guardians at <https://www.socialawakening.org/join-the-awake-kin>.

This event is brought to you by a partnership between Middlebrook PTA, SPED*NET, Wilton High School PTSA, Wilton Public Schools and Wilton Youth Council, and will take place on **Monday, November 4 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.**



It's a Parent-Child Painting Party!

Wilton Youth Council has launched a new series of family fun events designed for families with Miller-Driscoll and Cider Mill aged kids. **The first one will take place on Saturday, November 9**, where you'll do side-by-side painting with your child(ren) and take home fall-themed canvases.

Location: Georgetown School of the Arts

Register here: [Wilton Youth Council Painting Party](#)

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

2025 HRRR Annual Billboard Recycling Contest

The theme for the 2025 HRRR Annual Billboard Recycling Contest is “Batteries Can Cause Fires.” Entrants will create a billboard ad to teach residents of their community that batteries don't belong in the trash or household recycling, and promote how to properly dispose of batteries.

Students can submit their finished artwork in the collection box by the front door at Cider Mill, and the winning contestant will have their artwork displayed on the back of HART buses in the spring of 2025.

Submission deadline: November 15

Click [HERE](#) to download a template.

Click [HERE](#) to read the Contest Rules.

For complete contest details, please visit <https://hrrr.org/annual-billboard-contest/>.

Woodcock Nature Center

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

School's Out, Nature's In!

School's out for Election Day, but the woods are open! Campers will explore the trails, meet our resident animals, and even vote for Animal President of the Nature Center. We go out in the drizzle and rain, so dress for the weather. If rain is in the forecast, pack rain gear (boots, raincoat), and pack a change of clothes in case we get muddy or wet.

Limited to 12 students. Registration required.

Date: Tuesday, November 5, Election Day

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$90

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

Yoga Retreat

Enjoy a morning of yoga among the trees! You'll start off with a refreshing warm-up hike through the trails with Woodcock staff member, Kelly Donahoe. Then, enjoy a 1-hour hatha yoga class with instructor **Molly McLaughlin**. You'll finish the morning off with a light brunch and mimosas in the pond side pavilion!

Age 21+ only. Registration required.

Date: Sunday, November 10

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: \$65

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

Wreath Festival

This popular annual event pairs decorating a 24" balsam wreath using unique materials, while relaxing by a roaring fire among friends. Wreath festival welcomes nearly 800 guests and raises over \$90,000 for the nature center's programs in environmental education. **Thank you for your support!**

Now available to purchase are **individual tickets** in our picturesque pondside tent (21+ only), **Family Day tickets** which include the opportunity to make a wreath with all ages, and a limited number of **to-go decorating kits**.

Group Requests in our pavilion (minimum of 15 and up to 18) can now only be made by [emailing us](#). Limited dates are available.

New this year: Commemorative ornaments can be added to any order during checkout and "**kid friendly**" materials can be added to to-go kits!

Please read all details closely before purchasing.

21+ only except Family Day. No refunds or exchanges.

Advance purchase required. All attendees must have a ticket.

Single Ticket Dates: December 2-13 ([Register Here](#))

Family Dates: December 14-15 ([Register Here](#))

Ambler Farm

Junior Apprentice Program: Fall 2 Session

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

Grades: 3-5

Dates: Mondays or Wednesdays, October 21 – December 11

Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm

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

The Great Pumpkin Drop-off

Drop off your pumpkins, jack-o-lanterns and gourds to feed our local farm animals (no paint, glitter, candles or googly eyes allowed).

Dates: Now through Tuesday, November 5

Time: Dawn to Dusk

Greens Sale

The Ambler Farm Greens Sale is a beloved holiday event for so many families. Begin your holiday season by meeting your neighbors, and leave the farm with new friends and freshly cut trees. Enjoy hot cider and sweet treats while you shop. The fire awaits you, and the holiday spirit will be burning brightly. Get your holiday shopping done by visiting the Ambler Shop where you can purchase merchandise, syrup and more! Please contact Laura Guzewicz with any questions: laura@amblerfarm.org.

Pre-order your trees and wreaths online now and get first pick! This allows you to choose your greens before we open to the public.

Pre-Ordering Dates: Now through Sunday, November 17

Pre-Order Pick-up Date and Time: Saturday, November 30 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Shopping Link: <https://amblerfarm.org/shop/>

The Turnover Shop

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at <https://turnovershopwilton.org/>.

IvyMath

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

[IvyMath](https://www.ivymath.com/) is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level.

IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year.

The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Sign up now at: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://www.ivymath.com/Boost)**

Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional and mental health issues. The meeting is free, confidential, safe and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely, find resources and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton and towns in the surrounding area.

Website: <https://namisouthwestct.org>

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

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

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

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: Contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR
Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

Submit News to Hot Cider

Danielle Michalisin at micdch72@gmail.com

Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is November 14, 2024.

The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on November 18, 2024.

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