

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – November 20, 2023

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

Important Dates

Nov 20-21	Scholastic Book Fair
Nov 20-21	Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal, Lost and Found on display
Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28-Dec 1	3 rd Grade Field Trips to New Pond Farm
Nov 30	BOE Meeting at 7:00 pm
Nov 30	Wild Child Sip & Shop
Dec 9	SONO Ice Skating
Dec 11-15	Penguin Patch Holiday Shopping
Dec 12-15	Winter MAP Testing (Makeups on 12/18-19)
Dec 22	Early Dismissal, School Spirit Day, Winter Singalong
Dec 25-Jan1	Holiday Recess

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

I am sure everyone is looking forward to the Thanksgiving break, enjoying good food and connecting with family and friends! We have been busy here at the Cider Mill PTA. Our **Scholastic Book Fair** has been a big success so far, with many happy faces and, I am sure, a lot of reading going on! We have two more days, so plenty of time to still shop! Parents and caregivers are welcome to stop in when in for teacher conferences.

Please check out our **Lost and Found** display when you enter the school. We have a very big collection of clothing, bottles, lunch bags, and more and would love to see them go home. After the holidays the clothing will be donated to The Turnover Shop and the bottles and lunch bags will be thrown out. Anything that was labelled was taken to the office and sent to the owner.

We have many exciting things coming up after the break! Please see below for news on **new spirit wear, our poinsettia sale, Penguin Patch gift shopping, Wild Child Sip & Shop, and more!**

A last reminder that Monday and Tuesday are early dismissal days, with no school on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Classes resume on Monday, November 27. Again, we thank everyone who has supported the PTA in our endeavors this fall and we wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Please see the links below for info that will be helpful this school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or carolinehavlin@hotmail.com.

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman
Cider Mill PTA Co-Presidents

Helpful Links

Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

CM Attendance: (203) 834-4950 or cmattend@wiltonps.org

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINy/edit>

CM Community Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/>

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf

WPS Back to School Website: https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2

CM Interactive Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: https://wiltonps.org/338734_2

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3

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

ParentSquare Information: https://wiltonps.org/595543_3

Schoology Information: https://wiltonps.org/576129_3

Special Bus Assignments: 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

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair has two more days! E-wallets can still be set up [HERE](#). We also accept cash, credit card, and Apple Pay.

There are still some time slots where we need your help. If you can do a shift or two, please sign up [HERE](#). **Help is needed in packing up on Tuesday and for a shift from 1:00 – 3:00 pm tomorrow; otherwise the fair will need to close at 2:00 pm.**

Several children have asked about the book **Backcountry**. It has been ordered and several copies will be coming in tomorrow.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped out and will be helping out!

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Class of 2031 Yearbook Cover Contest!

Calling all 5th grade artists! Please see below to submit your artwork for cover consideration. We look forward to seeing all of your entries!

CLASS OF 2031 YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST!

DUE DECEMBER 20TH

**CALLING ALL 5TH GRADE
STUDENTS TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY
FOR THE FRONT COVER OF YOUR
YEARBOOK!**

*HOW WILL YOU REPRESENT WHAT CIDER
MILL MEANT TO YOUR CLASS?*

SUBMISSIONS MUST:

- BE IN "PORTRAIT" LAYOUT ON LETTER SIZE {8.5'11'} WHITE PAPER
- IN MARKER, GRAPHIC DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHS - WHATEVER YOU WANT!
- HAVE "CIDER MILL 2023-24 YEARBOOK" INCLUDED OR SPACE FOR IT
- ONE SUBMISSION PER STUDENT
- NAME & TEACHER IN PENCIL ON THE BACK

**SUBMIT ENTRIES IN THE MAIN OFFICE TO
THE PTA'S TREASURER BOX**

Holiday Poinsettias Available for Purchase!

In partnership with Glendale Farms in Milford, CT, the Cider Mill PTA is offering Holiday Poinsettias for purchase. Orders must be placed by Thursday, November 30, with pick up at Cider Mill on Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9. Any plants not picked up will be donated to Cider Mill School.

Please place your order here: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/special-events>

4" Pot	1 Plant	3-4 Blooms	\$10
6.5" Pot	1 Plant	4-6 Blooms	\$12
7" Pot	2 Plants	6-10 Blooms	\$15
8" Pot	3 Plants	10+ Blooms	\$25
10" Pot	4 Plants	15+ Blooms	\$30



Helping Hands Toy Drive

Helping Hands is in need of additional members! We meet on Monday afternoons from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. If you would like to register your child, please contact the front office. The purpose and mission of Helping Hands is to support the Cider Mill community, as well as our local community. Recently, students worked on cards welcoming new staff to our school. **Helping Hands is also supporting a Toy Drive that will benefit families working with the Center for Empowerment and Education. Unwrapped toys will be collected from November 28 through December 8.** Donation boxes will soon be available at the front office.

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SONO Ice Skating

Tickets have gone on sale for a night of Cider Mill skating at the SONO Ice House. **Please join us on December 9 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm!** There are a limited number of tickets due to ice capacity. Tickets include ice time and skate rentals. Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#) and drinks can be added at the time of purchase. We hope to see many hitting the ice!

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Snowflakes & Songs!

Come see the Cider Mill 5th Grade Chorus perform at *Snowflakes & Songs*, a winter concert presented by the Wilton Singers, a local community choir here in Wilton, along with singers from Middlebrook! The concert will be a festive celebration of winter and a fun way to make music with the Wilton community. All are welcome to attend! Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family, and all donations go directly to a scholarship fund for graduating Wilton High School Singers! For more information, please reach out to Mrs. Bakst (bakstb@wiltonps.org.)

Sunday, December 10 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm at the Middlebrook Auditorium

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PJ Day for Kids to Support Kids with Cancer

We have organized our Cider Mill School team and hope to raise money for this important cause. Students and families are encouraged to donate \$1 (or more!) to **wear their PJs (and a crazy hat!) to school on Friday, December 22 to show their school spirit.** Our PTA will also treat our students to some hot cocoa and peppermint sticks. [Please go to this link to donate.](#)

There will also be a **Winter Singalong** the kids won't want to miss!

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Penguin Patch Holiday Shopping!

From **December 11 – 15** Cider Mill students will have the opportunity to shop for their families for the holidays with Penguin Patch <https://penguinpatch.com/>. Stay tuned for more information on when your child will shop and opportunities to help out!

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AtoZ Connect

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](#). You can register here and then join the PTA by clicking on Join The PTA.

A Single Membership gives you directory access and one vote when voting on PTA issues. A Family

Membership gives you directory access and two votes.

Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. All revenue goes to pay dues to the CTPTA and to support school events, grants, gifts, and more!

Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!

If you didn't grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>. Also, **stay tuned for a separate email with a link to purchase NEW items: Hoodies, track pants, and buzzyby plush bees are on sale starting Monday, November 20.** All items range from youth medium to adult XL.



Kids \$35, Adult \$40



Kids \$25 Adult \$30

Lost and Found

Lost and Found will be on display in the front lobby during the Scholastic Book Fair! Please stop in if you're missing anything. At the end of the day on Tuesday, November 21, it will be cleared out and all unclaimed items will be donated to the Turnover Shop (with the exception of lunch bags and water bottles, which will be tossed out).

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? A headband, a hat, or a fidget? If any of your child's belongings haven't made their way home, he or she can check the Lost and Found to try to recover them (normally they're located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent).

A great way to help out is by labelling your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels, where a percentage goes back to the PTA. Here is the link: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/mabel-s-labels>

Wilton SEPTA

Join us for a festive gathering at our upcoming Wilton SEPTA November Meeting and Social:



NOVEMBER MEETING & SOCIAL

JOIN SEPTA WITH OUR CO-HOSTS FROM THE
WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GENESIS PROGRAM.

We will hold a brief meeting followed by appetizers and refreshments. Meet and mingle with parents and staff members and learn more about SEPTA and the Genesis program.

**WEDNESDAY NOV. 29TH
6:30PM-8:30PM**

Please RSVP by November 28 by registering through the following link:

<https://www.wiltonsepta.org/event-details/fall-meeting-social>

And...Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2023-2024 school year, for meeting dates, for volunteer and officer opportunities, and to stay updated with the latest news and information. In preparation for the upcoming PPT, annual meeting, and transition meeting season, we will be sharing planning and organizing tips with families on collaborating with school teams.

- We invite teachers to take advantage of our [gifts and grants](#) program
- Membership, Board, and Committee positions are open - it's not too late to join!
- We are seeking interested parents to help on our Community and Family Events Committee, including help for our April 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign

Zoom link for all 2023-2024 meetings:

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/s/91771706236>

Community News

Wild Child Sip & Shop!

Join us for a Sip & Shop night at Wild Child* and get your holiday shopping off to a fun start!

**10% of purchases will benefit the Cider Mill PTA*

Thursday, November 30 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Woodcock Nature Center

Wreath Festival Fundraiser 2023! November 27 – December 10

This popular annual event pairs decorating a 24" balsam wreath using unique materials with relaxing by a roaring fire among friends. The festival welcomes nearly 600 guests and raises over \$80,000 for the nature center's programs in environmental education.

This year, you'll have the option to choose from group tickets in our pavilion or pondside tent and individual tickets in our pond side tent. **We will also be offering a limited number of to-go**

decorating kits and two days to celebrate as a family. Please visit the following website for date and time options: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/wreathfestivalinfo>

Wreath Festival Family Days!
December 9 and 10 between 10 am - 5 pm

Enjoy festive wreath decorating with the whole family in support of your favorite nature center! You choose your 24" balsam wreath and we'll provide some sweet treats, kid-friendly decorating materials, music, a warm fire and of course, a festive atmosphere. Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck will be onsite for all your beverage needs throughout the day. And stay tuned for some additional outdoor activities to enjoy if the weather permits! Purchase a ticket for your desired date and arrive anytime between 10 am - 4:30 pm. \$75 per wreath (max of 4 family members per wreath). Tickets for adult-only decorating times are also still available! More info at [woodcocknaturecenter.org/wreath-fest-familyday](https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/wreath-fest-familyday)

Winter Waterfowl and Birding at Shadow Lake
Saturday, December 16 from 9:30 - 11:00 am

This program is being run in partnership with the Ridgefield Conservation Commission.

Ever heard of a Hooded Merganser? Or a Bufflehead? The winter months are a great time to look for and learn about waterfowl species that may not live here year-round! If you tend to assume every duck you see is a Mallard, this walk will change that! Binoculars are recommended, as well as supportive shoes – the trail passes through some rocky areas alongside the pond. This program is geared towards adults, although kids are still welcome. This event is free, but registration is required (registration is coming soon, so be sure to visit our website in the coming weeks to sign up).

Wilton Historical Society

Model trains, holiday cheer, and family fun return with one of Wilton's favorite winter 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 snowy landscapes, vibrant towns, and mountain tunnels, as well as some unexpected characters! 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.

The Great Trains Holiday Show will run from November 24, 2023 through January 15, 2024. Wilton Historical Society Hours during this event are Wednesdays – Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Sundays, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Admission is free for members, \$5 per non-member child and \$10 per non-member adults.

Special holiday programming occurs on select Saturdays in December, including a singalong with Music on the Hill on December 2 and a visit from Santa Claus on December 9! While you are visiting the Train Show, don't miss shopping at the Betts Store Museum Shop for holiday treats and treasures!

[Our website](#) has more details, including scheduling for holiday programming throughout December.

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 Youth Council

Wilton Youth Council presents the following upcoming event:

Coffee - Community - Conversation

Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

Wednesday, December 6 from 9:30 – 10:30 am

Tusk & Cup, Wilton

Wilton Youth Field Hockey

Wilton Youth Field Hockey is offering Winter Clinics to new and returning players in the WHS Field House. Registration and complete details can be found at

https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/?fbclid=IwAR1aLK7O-cnvgzrKMMzI4hcaJBDYzBOyy0OUI_eV1bYpgQeeNLTggSU-U4



WILTON YOUTH FIELD HOCKEY
WINTER CLINICS

Sundays
starting 12/3

Grades K-4
5-6 pm

Grades 5-8
5-7 pm

No experience
necessary

Held in WHS
Field House

Register today!
<https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/>

**WILTON YOUTH
FIELD HOCKEY**

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow text. It includes the Wilton Youth Field Hockey logo, which is a circular emblem with a hockey stick and puck. The bottom of the poster shows a grassy field with a hockey stick and puck.

Improve Your Academics

All Wilton School District students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are fellow Wilton High School students.

Please fill out this [FORM](#) if you need help in any subject. For more information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#). Tutoring available in person and virtually for grades 6+, virtually only for 3rd-5th graders.

IvyMath

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

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

NAMI-CAN WILTON

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. **The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN)** is a Support Group for parents of children with behavioral, emotional, and mental health issues.

The meetings are free, confidential, safe, and led by trained volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns. Our meetings are a place to speak freely, find resources and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and towns in the surrounding area. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Stay tuned for the possible addition of future meeting dates.

In the meantime, for 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 November 30, 2023. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on December 4, 2023

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