

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication December 20, 2015

Important Dates

December 21	Day 1
December 23	Shortened Day – Dismissal at 11:55am
Dec 24 – Jan 1	NO SCHOOL (Holiday Break)
January 7	"Reading Rocks!" pledge forms go home
January 8	Deadline to enter Reflections Arts Competition
January 18	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
January 22	"Reading Rocks!" pledge forms and donations are due
January 22	"Dress Like a Rock Star Day" to celebrate "Reading Rocks!"
January 23	Reading Period begins for "Reading Rocks!"
February 7	Reading Period ends for "Reading Rocks!"

Important Phone Numbers

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351

Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or kellym@wilton.k12.ct.us

Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381

Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

Letter from the President

Dear Parents,

As we approach the holidays, I want to acknowledge the great way the school community has come together to help others over the last several weeks. The giving trees were very laden by Monday when the gifts and clothing they contained were packed up and delivered to the Danbury Women's Shelter. Additionally, each classroom, under the direction of Wilton Social Services, provided a holiday basket to help a Wilton family this holiday season. The baskets lined the entire hallway on Friday morning before they were collected; I was astonished by the generosity that they represented. The PTA held a successful holiday brunch for staff on December 8th. Thank you to all our talented bakers and chefs for providing the food, and thank you to the hospitality committee for putting the whole thing together.

With best wishes,

Nicola Davies

Cider Mill PTA President

School News

PTA Reflections Contest 2015-2016: Let Your Imagination Fly ~ SUBMISSION

DEADLINE: Friday, January 8

The holidays are a great time to explore your creativity!! The theme this year is "LET YOUR IMAGINATION FLY." We are calling all budding artists, photographers, writers, dancers and musicians to participate in the competition. The contest takes place throughout the Wilton School District and winners will go on to compete with other entrants across the state as well. There will be an **exhibition** for all visual arts and photography entries at the Wilton Library during the week of January 11th, 2016. This is a fantastic way for young talent to gain recognition! Look for posters on bulletin boards around the school and the blue project collection bin outside the main office. **The submission period is from December 1st - January 8th.** For more information, rules and an entry form, visit the Cider Mill PTA website (www.cidermillpta.org), or click on <http://www.cidermillpta.org/#!reflections/qtzbx>. Any questions? Contact Sujata Vemuri: sujata.vemuri@gmail.com.

Reading Rocks! ~ Pledges Due On or Before Friday, January 22

Wilton Education Foundation's (WEF's) very successful "Reading Rocks!" program is returning! "Reading Rocks!" is a fun, non-competitive Read-A-Thon program. In its first four years, this important program raised more than \$155,000 for our schools! With your support, we hope to meet our financial goal as well as attain 100% student participation. Not only does this program help students celebrate literacy, but there are great prizes too! "Reading Rocks!" pledge forms will be sent home with students by Thursday, January 7th. The pledge form is already posted on Edline's homepage. **Students must turn in completed pledge forms, and pledge money raised, to teachers on or before Friday, January 22nd.** For each pledge a student receives by January 22nd, he or she gets a chance to win an iPad OR KINDLE FIRE! The more pledges, the more chances to win a prize. For example, if your child receives 12 pledges, he or she earns 12 chances to win! There will be one Kindle Fire awarded randomly to one participant per House at Cider Mill, as well as one iPad Mini awarded across all grades, pre-K-5. The Cider Mill House with the highest percentage participation rate by January 22nd will get a homework-free day! Questions? Contact Julie Steckel at jjsteckel@gmail.com or Rebecca LePage at rebeccalepage@gmail.com. Many thanks to the Stroup family for generously sponsoring "Reading Rocks!" Prize winners will be announced after February 8th.

News from Cider Mill's School Counselors

It has been great to meet with all of our students during lunch bunches. Throughout December, we will continue to go into classrooms to deliver developmental guidance lessons. The lesson topics are:

Grade 3: Friendship

Grade 4: Differences/Disabilities

Grade 5: Learning Styles

Please ask your child about these lessons so they can tell you all of the new things that they have learned!

Here are some great conversation starters to use with your family to discuss the idea of giving to others:

- What can you give or do for someone that doesn't cost money?
- Think about a time someone did something thoughtful for you. What was it? Was there a time you did something thoughtful for someone else? How did this make you and the other person feel?
- What is something you love that you can share with someone else?

Visit <http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/> for more ideas!

Lauren Buckley – School Counselor, Kent/Belden Hill

Dawn Randall – School Counselor, Cannondale/Nod Hill

Ongoing Cider Mill News

Find Us on Facebook!

The PTA has set up a group on Facebook called Cider Mill Parent Community. It is a place where the PTA can communicate to parents, and also where parents can communicate with one another. Please check it out by clicking here: [Cider Mill Parent Community](#).

Cider Mill PTA Membership

What is a PTA membership all about? Becoming a member of our PTA is more than just getting a directory - although you will get one with your membership. Our membership is open to all adults who believe in the mission on the PTA. Joining the PTA is showing that you care what happens in your children's education. It shows that you want to be involved, engaged and informed. It isn't a commitment to volunteer for anything! It doesn't mean you have to turn up to a meeting every month (although we hope you will consider it). It is a way to stay connected with our school community, getting to know your school and administrators, having a voice and being heard at the school and school district level.

Your membership dues support the programs your children participate in regularly. Without the PTA, your support and all of our wonderful volunteers, these activities would not happen: Field Days, Fun Nights, Reflections, River Study, School Store, Visiting Author, Turkey Trot, World language celebrations, Walk-a-thon, Book Fair, spirit wear, library volunteers, pre-order school supplies, Hot Cider newsletter, etc. You can find a form on the new PTA

website: <http://www.cidermillpta.org/#!forms/c70d>.

Bus Barn – Lost and Found Items

Missing something? Check out the Bus Barn Blogspot at <http://wiltonlostproperty.blogspot.com> for photos of items found on school buses. If you see something that might be yours, please contact Nicola Davies at nicoladavies@outlook.com.

Box Tops

Remember to clip your Box Tops! We are collecting Box Tops again this year and the collection box is located in the office. We will be running another Box Top competition soon!

Community News

NAMI-CAN Parent Support Group ~ December 21 and January 25, 10am, 49 New St., Wilton

Are you stressed about the upcoming holidays? Do you worry about needing to hide or explain your child's behavior to extended family and friends? Does the break in routine and hectic time cause behavioral changes in your child? 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 places to speak freely 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. Our next meetings are Mondays December 21st and January 25th from 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at [203-984-0123](tel:203-984-0123) or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa [203-970-4130](tel:203-970-4130) or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

Stress and Success: Strategies to Recognize and Reduce Stress ~ January 13, 10am, Weston Library or 7pm, Wilton Library

Wilton Youth Council's Parent Connection invites you to the 2015-2016 Parent Information Series: Everything You Want to Know About Your Adolescent. The next presentation in the series is "Stress and Success: Strategies to Recognize and Reduce Stress" with Michelle Albright, PhD, Director of Youth Services, Town of Weston. Although stress is inevitable, it doesn't have to be insurmountable! Join Michelle for an interactive discussion on the A, B, C's of stress. You will learn how to raise Awareness of the stressors in your and your children's lives, Buffer their impact, and identify the Consequences for your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The presentation is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 10:00-11:30 am at the Weston Library or 7:00-8:30 pm at the Wilton Library. Advance registration recommended (www.wiltonlibrary.org or [203-762-3950, ext. 213](tel:203-762-3950)).

Honor an Educator

This holiday season take this opportunity to let an educator know they have made a difference in your student's life. To acknowledge Wilton public school's exceptional instructors, the Wilton Education Foundation (WEF) is delighted to promote the "Honor an Educator" program. Make a donation in honor of an outstanding educator to commend their innovation, inspiration and excellence, and WEF will present them with a certificate of recognition. What better way to express your appreciation for our amazing educators? Better still, all proceeds are gifted back to Wilton Public Schools. To obtain additional details or to nominate an educator to receive the award, please contact the program chair, Debby Rowland at dtrowland@aol.com.

Commemorative Bricks

Create a lasting impression by purchasing a personalized brick. Custom walkways adorn each school in Wilton with personalized bricks honoring our students, teachers, coaches, teams, clubs, alumni, family members and special groups in our community. You are invited to be a part of this project by contributing an engraved brick, which will remain a permanent part of the Wilton schools. Funds raised from the sale of engraved bricks will be utilized by WEF to support district-wide projects specifically, technology projects, professional development scholarships, and funds to enhance arts and music in the Wilton Public Schools. For more information please contact the program chair, Kate Filaski at katefilaski@gmail.com.

Submit News to Hot Cider

Please email school news to Andrea Bates at connbates@gmail.com, Clarissa Cannavino at clarissacannavino@yahoo.com and Nicola Davies at nicoladavies@outlook.com. For submission deadlines, publication dates, and past issues, please click this link: <http://www.cidermillpta.org/#!/hotcider/ccjp>.

Content may be edited at the discretion of the Hot Cider staff. In an effort to keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice. Please consider publication dates carefully. Your understanding is appreciated. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published January 10, 2016. The deadline for submissions is January 5, 2016.