

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – March 13, 2023

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

### Important Dates

<b>March 14</b>	Cider Mill PTA Meeting – 9:15 am, School Cafeteria – <b>Jory Higgins to Present</b>
<b>March 14</b>	End of Second Trimester
<b>March 16</b>	BOE Meeting – WHS Professional Library, 7:00 pm
<b>March 27</b>	BOF Public Hearing for the BOE proposed school budget
<b>March 27</b>	Pizza and Babysitting at Middlebrook for BOF Hearing
<b>April 4</b>	Cider Mill PTA Meeting – 9:15 am, School Cafeteria
<b>April 6</b>	Cider Mill Spirit Day
<b>April 7</b>	Good Friday – School Closed
<b>April 10 – 14</b>	Spring Recess – School Closed

#### Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Please join us for our next **PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at 9:15 am** in the Cider Mill cafeteria! **Middlebrook Principal Jory Higgins** will be joining us with a presentation on the proposed MB schedule changes and will be available to answer questions and hear comments.

Our Cider Mill PTA Reflections students did wonderfully at the Connecticut State level in the Intermediate & Special Artist Division! Congratulations to: **Elana Yermesheva** for placing 3rd in Dance Choreography; **Jiya Praveen** for placing 2nd in Film; **Samiya Atree** for placing 1st in Music Composition; **Magnolia Tesler** for placing 1st in Visual Arts, Special Artist Division; and **Myra Jaiswal** for placing 2nd in Visual Arts.

First place winners **Samiya Atree and Magnolia Tesler will now be competing nationally!** We wish them the best of luck!

We held **Laser Show Fun Nights** for all grades on March 3rd - our students enjoyed a science lesson on lasers, followed by a laser show set to music. Thank you to **Alexis Murphy** and all our parent volunteers who helped make this evening special!

**Budget News!** On **March 27th, the Board of Finance** will take public comment on the Board of Education proposed budget starting at 7pm. Please consider coming down to **Middlebrook at 6:30pm** for free pizza and babysitting and then stay to give comment on the BOE budget!

Finally, as we begin looking towards next school year, we have **several Executive Board positions to fill - President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, and Co-Parent at Large!** Please contact us if you would like more information or to be considered for the positions.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at [MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com](mailto:MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com) or [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com).

Michelle Krupa and Melissa Reynolds  
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](mailto:cmattend@wiltonps.org)

CM School

Handbook: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_f0M9w06qZRHnJLuF6Th\\_kbtDQqCPRABChT0M-ERmVM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f0M9w06qZRHnJLuF6Th_kbtDQqCPRABChT0M-ERmVM/edit)

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINNY/edit>

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

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf)

WPS Back to School Website: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342738\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2)

WPS Back to School

Guide: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GaiNlxIMyxXW6MCCbSMi2fer2xLP0bfT/view?usp=drivesdk>

WPS 2022-23 School Calendar: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/revised\\_2022-23\\_district\\_calendar\\_472022.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/revised_2022-23_district_calendar_472022.pdf)

CM Interactive Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/576928\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3)

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: [https://wiltonps.org/338734\\_2](https://wiltonps.org/338734_2)

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: [https://www.wiltonps.org/575955\\_3](https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3)

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

School Messenger Information: [https://wiltonps.org/595543\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/595543_3)

Schoology Information: [https://wiltonps.org/576129\\_3](https://wiltonps.org/576129_3)

Special Bus Assignments: [https://wiltonps.org/579910\\_3](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

### **Connecticut State Reflection Winners!**

We have wonderful news about the performance of our **Cider Mill PTA Reflections** students at the **Connecticut State level in the Intermediate & Special Artist Division!**

Congratulations to:

**ELANA YERMESHEVA** for placing 3rd in **DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY**.

**JIYA PRAVEEN** for placing 2nd in **FILM**.

**SAMIYA ATREE** for placing 1st in **MUSIC COMPOSITION**.

**MAGNOLIA TESLER** for placing 1st in **VISUAL ARTS, Special Artist Division**.

**MYRA JAISWAL** for placing 2nd in **VISUAL ARTS**.

First place winners **Samiya Atree and Magnolia Tesler** will now be competing Nationally! Best of luck to them!

A **PTA Reflections State Ceremony** will be held on **Wednesday, May 10th** at Fairfield Woods Middle School at 7 pm to honor **ALL** State winners!

We are so proud of them for honorably representing Cider Mill School!

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**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**

Calling all **5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents** - we need some of your photos for the 5th Grade yearbook to help make this as memorable as possible! We would love it if you could share with us some pictures of your 5th grader (even better if it also has a bunch of their Cider Mill friends in it) from the events listed below.

- First Day of 5th Grade
- Halloween
- Walkathon
- Turkey Trot
- Snowball Dance
- Wilton town team sports/scouts/band/theater
- Any Cider Mill events that are upcoming (like field trips or any in classroom events)

Please send all photos **in the “actual size” format** to:

[CMyearbookPTA@gmail.com](mailto:CMyearbookPTA@gmail.com)

Do not send screenshots of photos or send from cell phones in small/medium/large size format as the clarity is not good enough to print.

It would be extremely helpful if you include names of those in the picture, CM house and teacher (if possible).

Thanks, from Your Yearbook Team

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**Wilton SEPTA**

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to stay updated with the latest meetings, 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, Committee positions 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 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign.

**Community News**

**Board of Finance Survey**

In advance of their budget deliberations, the **Board of Finance** is asking residents to complete a survey to provide feedback on the FY2024 proposed 4.5% increase in the Board of Education budget, 2.15% proposed increase in the Board of Selectmen budget and the 5.5% - 6% proposed increase in the mill rate. Their survey is available online here or downloadable from the town website here. **Responses must be received by March 31st.**

The survey can be found here: [Wilton Board of Finance Resident Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

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**Wilton Children’s Theater Presents Newsies Jr!**

Seize the Day and come see fellow students in Wilton Children's Theaters production of Newsies Jr.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Performances are **Friday, March 17 at 7pm, Saturday, March 18th at 4pm, and Sunday, March 19th at 2pm.**

Purchase your tickets at [www.wiltonchildrenstheater.org](http://www.wiltonchildrenstheater.org)

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**Wilton Youth Council Author Talk**

Join **Linda Flanagan, Author of Take Back the Game**, for an author talk and book signing On **March 22 @ 7 PM in WHS Little Theater.**

Linda Flanagan is a freelance journalist, researcher, and former cross-country and track coach. A graduate of Lehigh University, Flanagan holds master’s degrees from Oxford University and the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and was an analyst for the National Security Program at Harvard University. She is a founding board member of the New York City chapter of the Positive Coaching Alliance and a 2020–21 advisory group member for the Aspen Institute’s Reimagining School Sports initiative, and her writing on sports has appeared in The Atlantic, Runner’s World, and on NPR’s education site MindShift, where she is a regular contributor. A mother of three and a lifelong athlete, Flanagan lives in New Jersey.

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**INTERESTED IN EMPOWERING WILTON'S YOUTH,  
PARENTS AND COMMUNITY?**

*Meet the Wilton Youth Council Board*



**March 15, 2023**  
9 AM - 11 AM  
at Tusk & Cup, Wilton Center  
Drop in

**Evening of April 24, 2023**  
7 PM at a private home.  
Address sent with RSVP.  
RSVP to [info@wiltonyouth.org](mailto:info@wiltonyouth.org)



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**Wilton Zero Waste**

Join **Wilton Go Green and Trackside Teen Center** for a day of purposeful play in a reusable kind of way! **Reuse expert and Box Truck Tiny Home builder Alex Eaves** will be with us to showcase his Box Truck Tiny Home and screen his new film “*The Box Truck Film.*” We will also have reuse activities for all ages and displays on how small moves of reusing & repurposing make a BIG difference. Raffles, Trackside Cafe and more! Donations appreciated.



**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**At Traskside Teen Center - 15 Station Road**

**11:00am - 1:00pm - Meet and Greet with Alex Eaves, tour the Box Truck Tiny home, engage in reuse activities**

**1:00pm - 3:00pm - Screening of “*The Box Truck Film*” and Q&A with Alex Eaves**

Registration recommended at <https://www.traskside.org/special-events.html>

Alex Eaves is a reuse expert and has been leading a passionate “reuse life” since 2008; finding reuse solutions for his needs and wants. He is the owner of the green certified reuse apparel brand, STAY VOCAL and the director of the award-winning documentary, REUSE! Because You Can't Recycle The Planet. “*The Box Truck Film*” follows two builders as they convert a 17-foot moving truck into a 98-square foot tiny house and mobile reuse education center.

Our Zero Waste Schools Committee is getting a jump start on our bi-annual Spring Zero Waste Week with some announcements of how you can participate now, during our Zero Waste Week and beyond.

### **Feed the Earth, Not the Landfill Zero Waste Week Challenge**

What you do with your food scraps can have the biggest impact on the overall health of our community, planet and yes, your wallet.

Did you know that by far the largest amount of garbage that residents throw away in Connecticut is food waste? More than ¼ of the solid waste in the state is food with the average family throwing out 1 in every 4 bags of groceries. Our food scraps can all be used for good — an outsized reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and rich soil returned to the Earth to nourish our planet and our soul.

Our students show us how they feed the Earth every day in our cafeteria, so now it's time for our families to show us how they are feeding our Earth and not the landfill at home by participating in our Spring Zero Waste Week Family Challenge.

From now until March 31st, fill out our form [HERE](#) and upload a photo showing us how your household is working to reduce food waste and/or divert food scraps. We'll pick one winner per school.

What could that look like?

Reducing Food Waste:

- Show us your weekly meal plan
- Show us your grocery list in order to help you only buy what you need for the week ahead
- Show us how you utilize your freezer for surplus items
- Show us your leftovers for lunch the next day

Diverting Food Scraps:

- Show us your backyard composting system
- Have you hired [Curbside Compost](#) to pick up your food scraps weekly? Show us your bucket
- Are you participating in the [NEW Town of Wilton Food Scrap Recycling Program](#) at the Transfer Station? Show us your starter kit, a picture of your system or a selfie of you dropping off your food scraps at the Transfer Station

### **Volunteer During Zero Waste Week - March 20 - 24**

We are looking for volunteers to help us throughout the week during the lunch waves in Miller-Driscoll, Cider Mill and Middlebrook. If you are interested, please reach out to the appropriate Green Team Co-Chair below.

- Miller-Driscoll - Erin Moran [erinoconn@gmail.com](mailto:erinoconn@gmail.com)
- Cider Mill - Denise Reznik [dee0128@gmail.com](mailto:dee0128@gmail.com)
- Middlebrook - Nicole Northway [nicole.northway3@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.northway3@gmail.com)

### **Plastic Awareness Day**

Inspired by the PS 15 fifth-graders in Red Hook Brooklyn and the [Plastic Free Lunch Day](#) movement they started, our Zero Waste Schools Committee has selected one day to raise more awareness on single-use plastics during Zero Waste Week.

Over the years Chartwells and our schools have:

- Installed utensils, napkins and condiment dispensers so students only take what they need.
- Installed water refilling stations and encourages students to bring refillable bottles from home
- In December and January a reusable tray pilot occurred with a select group of Miller-Driscoll students to assess installing dishwashers in our kitchens and replacing our disposable trays with reusable ones.

On Thursday, March 23rd, we are working with Chartwells to make a few minor changes to decrease single-use plastics that day where we can and hope our families packing lunch can participate as well.

For example, on Thursday, March 23rd we are looking for students to:

- Have their reusable water bottle at lunch
- If they are packing lunch from home, use as many reusable containers as they can
- Take single-use plastic utensils only if they need to when buying lunch
- Choose a lunch option with less packaging

More details to come.

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### **NAMI-CAN WILTON**

The COVID pandemic has caused unprecedented stress in our society and many children's behaviors have been triggered as a result. What was manageable pre-Covid is now out of control. Find support for you, as you support your child who is struggling.

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 and be understood without embarrassment or the fear of being judged or treated differently.

Our meetings are held virtually over zoom and for security, you must contact Beth or Vanessa for the password. For more information contact: Beth at 203-984-0123 or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com)

**Submit News to Hot Cider**

Anu Suri at [anusuri2022@gmail.com](mailto:anusuri2022@gmail.com)

Melissa Reynolds at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com)

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is March 23, 2023.  
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on March 27, 2023

*Content may be edited at the discretion of editors. In an effort to keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice.*