

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication

February 7, 2016

Important Dates

February 9	PTA Meeting, 9:15a.m., Cafeteria. Click here for Agenda .
February 9	5 th Grade Band Concert, 7pm, Main Gym
February 11	NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Day)
February 12	NO SCHOOL (February Break)
February 15	NO SCHOOL (President's Day)
February 19	3 rd Grade Fun Night (Snow Date: February 26)
February 27	5 th Grade Fun Night (Snow Date: March 5)
March 4	"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" Show, Clune Center, 7pm
March 8	PTA Meeting, 9:15 am, Cafeteria
March 16	Two Hour DELAYED OPENING – Professional Development

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,

The first of our PTA sponsored fun nights – 4th Grade Fun Night - was a tremendous success providing an evening of entertainment for almost 200 4th graders. Thank you to our husband and wife co-chairs - Gretchen and Chris Jeanes for their hard work organizing this event.

Tuesday 9:15am is our next PTA meeting. Jason Greasley, Cider Mill's technology instructional leader, will be making a presentation at the meeting on the use of technology within Cider Mill. The use of iPads and Chromebooks has exploded over the last 3 years, but what exactly are the students using them for? Come and find out. PTA meetings run for one hour and are informative for ALL parents. Newcomers and first timers are always welcome.

With best wishes,

Nicola Davies

Cider Mill PTA President

School News

Box Tops Contest Ends February 10

The Box Tops contest will be ending on February 10. Be sure to get any last box tops sent into your classroom no later than February 10. One class per house will be the winner of a No Homework Night. The winner will be announced when we return from February break. For information on box tops, please visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com>. Good luck!

Third Grade Fun Night ~ Friday, February 19, 7-9pm, Cider Mill

Third Grade Fun Night will be at Cider Mill on Friday, February 19 (snow date: February 26). This PTA sponsored event is free for all children. Students will be grouped by teacher/house into teams and will rotate through eight fun stations set up throughout the school. We will end with an ice cream party. We promise to send them home exhausted and happy!

The registration deadline has passed so if you have not signed up, and your child wants to participate, please email your child's name and classroom teacher to Susan Price as soon as possible (sprice14@optonline.net). In an effort to create balanced teams, we need to know all students planning to attend in advance. Thank you for your cooperation. We need some additional adult volunteers. All volunteers will need to arrive at 6:30pm and stay until 9pm. If you are interested, please also let Susan know. Thank you in advance! We are looking forward to a great night!

Fifth Grade Fun Night ~ Saturday, February 27, 8-10pm, Wilton YMCA

It's time to register for Cider Mill's 5th Grade Fun Night at the Wilton YMCA! The event is scheduled on Saturday, February 27 from 8-10pm (snow date: Saturday, March 5). Our 5th Graders have the freedom that night to visit stations with any of their friends, and there are lots of activities to choose from – mat ball in the gym, dance room, a magician's show, a photo booth, and lots more! Snacks and waters are provided, and there will be a raffle for each house at the end of the night.

Students also have an option for Swimming, which is the only activity organized by house – a limited number of spots are allowed per house, and experienced swimmers only (lifeguards are on duty, but no swim lessons). Each house will have 25 minutes in the pool, and kids can change before and after in the locker rooms (remember to bring a towel, goggles and maybe flip flops – but no pool toys).

There is a \$5 charge per student for this event, which can be paid at check-in the night of the event. All registrations must be submitted by **Friday, February 19**. To register, please e-mail the House contact below for your student and include the following information:

- First and Last name of student, 2) Teacher name, 3) Your e-mail address, 4) An emergency contact number (for the night of the event), 5) A note if your child would like to swim (the first 50 replies will be registered to swim that night)

BELDEN HILL – janeld@optonline.net

KENT – alisonlombardi1@gmail.com

NOD HILL – gmdar@optonline.net

CANNONDALE – rwallen70@yahoo.com

If you'd like to volunteer, or you have any questions about the event, please e-mail Chandra Ring at cring226@hotmail.com, or Jen Enman at zim100@yahoo.com.

News from Cider Mill School Counselors

The School Counselors are continuing to work with your children on Mindfulness by helping students discover new ways to calm their mind and bodies. This month, we will be teaching students “Balloon Breathing” and doing an imagination vacation activity called “Big White Star.” In addition, we will be continuing our monthly guidance lessons. The topics this month in each grade are:

- **3rd:** Decision Making – what are the steps to making a decision and which kinds of decisions do we make every day?
- **4th:** Conflict Resolution – how do we resolve conflicts with others and make sure we are not escalating small problems into something bigger?
- **5th:** Peer Pressure – what is peer pressure (spoken vs. unspoken), what is the difference between positive/negative pressure, and how do we respond to peer pressure?

As always, please feel free to reach out to us if there is anything we can do to assist your child!

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.

Community News

Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader T-Shirts

These t-shirts, designed by Hannah Rhodes, will go on sale this week! A flyer will come home in your backpacks. You can order a shirt in your house color for the "BATTLE OF THE HOUSES!!" Shirts are \$15 each.

Teens for Jeans ~ Deadline Friday, February 19

A local Wilton High School senior is involved with the drive "Teens for Jeans," a global drive sponsored by DoSomething.org. The point of the drive is to collect as many jeans as possible, to be donated to a nearby homeless shelter. The jeans should be gently used and wearable. All sizes and colors are accepted! The school that collects the most jeans will win a \$3000 grant; second place will win \$2000, and third place will win \$1000. There are collection boxes set up in the WHS second floor lobby, the Cider Mill School lobby, and at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. All jeans must be collected by Friday, February 19. Questions? Please contact Kate at 16williamsk@wiltonps.org.

Wilton Youth Council's Parent Connection Program - Not My Kid: What's Really Happening with Marijuana, Binge Drinking, and E-Cigarettes in Wilton ~ Tuesday, February 23, 10-11:30am, Wilton Library

Youth and parent surveys show that youth are using substances at a higher rate than parents believe they are. A survey of Wilton middle and high school students shows high rates of binge drinking, e-cigarette use and marijuana use among upper-classmen. Wendy

Bentivegna (Positive Directions) will share survey results and briefly discuss e-cigarettes and binge drinking. John Douglas, MD, (Silver Hill Hospital) will share information about today's marijuana. Please register in advance at <http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events> or call 203-762-6334.

Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? ~ March 4, 7pm, Clune Center

Based on the hit TV show of the same name, the spirited game show places Wilton's brightest 5th graders from Cider Mill on stage to readily assist celebrity contestants. The event will be March 4, 2016. As in the past five years, it promises to be fun, educational and raise valuable funds for our students and schools. Please remember this is not a drop off event. Ticket sales will begin online on February 22. See www.wiltoneducationfoundation.org for more details.

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 February 21, 2016. The deadline for submissions is February 16, 2016.