

**Hot Cider
A Cider Mill PTA Publication
October 11, 2015**

Important Dates

October 12-13	NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day and Staff Development)
October 14	Day 4
October 14	Literacy Night, Parent Meeting – 7pm
October 15	Literacy Day, Parent Meeting – 9:15am
October 20	PTA Meeting – 9:15am
October 21	Math Night – 7pm
October 22	Math Day – 9:15am
October 29	Photo Retake Day
October 30	Halloween Parades
November 3	NO SCHOOL – Staff Development
November 11	Veterans Day Assembly
November 12	Turkey Trot
November 19-25	Early Dismissal – Dismissal at 11:55am
November 26-27	NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

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

A Note from Your PTA President

Our 6th Annual Walkathon took place last week. Thank you to all of our wonderful and generous donors - our final total was \$33,000 with 86% of our families donating. Thank you Gretchen Jeanes for managing the whole event. Thank you Susan Price and Michelle Tarantino for all their work behind the scenes and thank you to our army of parent chaperones for turning up to ensure that our students had a great walk. Congratulations to Nod Hill for winning 'No Homework Night' after returning more forms than any other house.

Our next PTA meeting is coming up on October 20th, I hope to see many of you there.
Warmly,
Nicola Davies
PTA President

School News

Literacy and Math Parent Meetings ~ See 'Important Dates' section above

Come to either the nighttime or daytime parent meetings listed above to learn more about the literacy and math curricula for your students. Math Night will be an interactive, hands-on evening to help you better understand how Math in Focus builds a deep understanding of math concepts, and how you can strengthen your child's math confidence and success at home. For those who cannot attend the nighttime session, there will be an informational daytime presentation the following day.

Photo Retake Day ~ Thursday, October 29

Who should go to Retake Day:

- Any student not satisfied with original portrait (you will receive original portraits before October 29). Return your complete package, minus the class picture, to the photographer on Retake Day.
- Any student who was absent on the original day, whether you are purchasing a package or not.
- Any student who did not purchase on the original day and would like to purchase a package. Go to www.mylifetouch.com and use picture day ID J995860Q1.

Questions? Please call Lifetouch at 203-735-5933.

40th Annual Turkey Trot ~ Thursday, November 12

Cider Mill's Turkey Trot was started by then PE teacher Jim Cook in 1975! The goal was and is to help Wilton families in need during the holidays. The PE Department, with assistance from the PTA, continues this long tradition in which all students walk, run or jog for one half mile. Don't forget to wear sneakers and dress warmly! Rain date is November 13. We are asking each student to voluntarily donate a minimum of \$2.00. Funds collected will purchase turkeys and gift cards for Wilton Social Services to distribute to families in December.

- Participation donation fee is optional (additional donations welcome).
- Please return donations to your child's teacher.
- Cash or checks, made payable to Cider Mill Activity Fund, will be accepted.

Fifth grade will run 7:45-8:25 am, 4th grade 8:30 -9:10 am, and 3rd grade 9:00 -9:55 am. Registration form will be posted soon in the Virtual Backpack on Edline.

News from Cider Mill's School Counselors

We are very excited to embark upon a new school year! During the months of September and October, we will be meeting with **all** students in grades 3, 4, and 5 during lunchtime. Our "lunch bunches" give us chances to check in with our students to hear about how their first few weeks of school have been.

Throughout the month of October, we will be going into classrooms to deliver developmental guidance lessons. The lesson topics for this month are as follows:

- Grade 3: Empathy
- Grade 4: Teamwork/Communication

- Grade 5: Stress/Ways to cope with stress

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

Lauren Buckley – School Counselor, Kent/Belden Hill

Dawn Randall – School Counselor, Cannondale/Nod Hill

PTA ~ Open Committee Chair Positions

The PTA still needs Committee Chairs or Co-Chairs for the following Committees:

- 5th Grade Great Books: Each January for eight weeks, interested students participate in a book club. Students read assigned books and then meet during lunch to discuss and exchange their ideas. As Committee Chair you are recruiting other parent volunteers and ensuring they are trained and ready to lead discussions in their own small groups.
- 4th Grade Fun Night: 4th Grade Dad, Chris Jeanes, has stepped up, but he needs a co-chair to help out. Fun Nights are just that - lots of fun. It is a great reward to see all your hard work in organizing teams, games and parent volunteers in the faces of happy children. This event takes place in February.

To find out more information, or to volunteer to Chair one of these Committees, please contact Tara Snow at tanda@optonline.net.

****CORRECTION TO BACK OF CIDER MILL DIRECTORY****

For those of you who received the Cider Mill Directory, we want to let you know that the Attendance Line telephone number on the back is *correct*. However, there is a small, indented section under that called "To Report an Absence," and that small section does not apply to Cider Mill. Please ignore that section.

If you would like to receive a Directory, please sign up for a PTA membership by clicking here: [PTA Membership](#). Thank you!

Ongoing Cider Mill News

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 volunteer, 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

National Alliance on Mental Illness Child and Adolescent Network

School is back in session and for many children, so is the academic and social stress 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 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 meeting is Monday October 26th, from 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa 203 970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com

Wilton Community Activities

For information about community organizations who offer activities for students, please click this link: <http://www.wiltonpta.org/CommunityLinks.html>.

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 October 25, 2015. The deadline for submissions is October 20, 2015.