

**Hot Cider  
A Cider Mill PTA Publication  
December 6, 2015**

**Important Dates**

December 7	Day 3
December 11	Two Hour Delayed Opening (Staff Development)
December 23	Shortened Day – Dismissal at 11:55am
Dec 24 – Jan 1	NO SCHOOL (Holiday Break)
January 18	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

**Important Phone Numbers**

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351  
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or [kellym@wilton.k12.ct.us](mailto:kellym@wilton.k12.ct.us)  
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381  
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

**School News**

**Cider Mill Staff Holiday Brunch ~ Tuesday, December 8**

Happy Holidays! Calling all festive foodies! To thank our incredible teachers and staff, the Cider Mill PTA Hospitality Committee is looking for donations for the Cider Mill Staff Holiday Brunch on Tuesday, December 8th. This brunch buffet full of your favorite holiday dishes is an annual event anticipated all year and greatly appreciated by our teachers and staff.

We are looking for donations of 20 hot items (Quiche, Egg Bake, Sausage, Bacon, Ham, Potatoes, Baked Ziti, Lasagna); 20 cold items (Veggie Tray, Fruit Bowl, Green Salad, Tuna Salad, Pasta Salad, Quinoa Salad, etc.); 15 baked items (Cakes, Cupcakes, Cheesecake, Pies, Breakfast Breads, etc.); and 10 drinks (Water, Cans of Seltzer - both flavored & plain, etc.). We are using VolunteerSpot for all signups. Sign-up at this link: <http://vols.pt/jiak7u>.

Please drop off your items on the day of the brunch, Tuesday, December 8th between 7:15 to 7:45am (park and walk items into building); and 7:45 to 9:00am (drop off in central bus loop).

Thank you in advance!

The Hospitality Committee

**Giving Tree and Holiday Baskets ~ Deadlines: December 11 and December 16**

The December Holiday Season provides us all with a chance to reflect on our good fortune, and opportunities for sharing with less fortunate neighbors. Cider Mill will once again provide a helping hand to Wilton families in need through our Annual Giving Tree and Classroom Holiday Baskets. Our intention is to involve as many students, parents and staff as possible in the spirit of giving for the benefit of others. Participation is strictly on a voluntary basis, of course.

**Holiday Baskets:** From Wednesday, December 2nd through Wednesday, December 16th those who wish to participate are requested to bring food and holiday items to their classroom “baskets”. Our goal is to create a wonderful holiday dinner and special holiday season. Wilton’s Department of Social Services has developed a list of families who will receive our baskets. Each classroom will sponsor a family. Students will be sharing more details about their classes’ family. More information can be found by following this link: <http://goo.gl/VU4UqK>

**Giving Tree:** The Cider Mill community will also be collecting **NEW** hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, books and unwrapped toys for children and families at the Danbury Women’s Center through our “Giving Tree.” Please bring in your donations and place them under the Giving Trees located in both the Kent and Main Hallways by December 11<sup>th</sup>. <http://goo.gl/YnG4fl>  
Thank you and Happy Holidays,  
Sponsored by the Cider Mill Helping Hands and Cider Mill School

### **Junior Great Books ~ Register by Friday, December 11**

Junior Great Books is back, and registration for the program has begun! This is an opportunity for your child to be part of a book group and discuss literature from all over the world. Groups begin in January and meet once a week during your child's lunch and recess period (for about eight weeks). Check the school's Virtual Backpack on Edline for the registration form. Please mail form and \$20 to your grade level contact (mailing address on form). The registration deadline is Friday, December 11th.

Questions? Contact...

Third Grade: Annemarie Aronowitz – [annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com)

Fourth Grade: Lauren Gibbons -- [slaterglassibbons@mac.com](mailto:slaterglassibbons@mac.com)

Fifth Grade: Laurie Musilli – [dljamus@hotmail.com](mailto:dljamus@hotmail.com)

### **PTA Reflections Contest 2015-2016: Let Your Imagination Fly ~ Deadline: January 8**

The 2015-2016 PTA Reflections contest is underway! 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 at [www.cidermillpta.org](http://www.cidermillpta.org) or click on Reflections Information. Any questions? Contact Sujata Vemuri: [sujata.vemuri@gmail.com](mailto:sujata.vemuri@gmail.com).

### **Turkey Trot News**

Cider Mill is going to postpone the Turkey Trot until Spring 2016. We understand that some will be disappointed that it will not be run this calendar year. There are WAY TOO MANY events between now and the holiday vacation to plan this event accordingly and the weather unfortunately has not been very cooperative as well. We look forward to a GREAT event in the Spring!

### **News from Cider Mill's School Counselors**

It has been great to meet with all of our students during lunch bunches in September and October. It is very apparent that our students have had a great start to the school year!

Throughout November and December, we will continue to go into classrooms to deliver developmental guidance lessons. The lesson topics for Nov/Dec 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!

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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 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](mailto: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**

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 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 December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: 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).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:katefilaski@gmail.com).

### **Submit News to Hot Cider**

Please email school news to Andrea Bates at [connbates@gmail.com](mailto:connbates@gmail.com), Clarissa Cannavino at [clarissacannavino@yahoo.com](mailto:clarissacannavino@yahoo.com) and Nicola Davies at [nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto: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 December 20, 2015. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2015.