

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – October 23, 2023

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

### Important Dates

<b>Oct 23-27</b>	Zero Waste Week
<b>Oct 30</b>	Education-Focused Candidate Forum 7:30 pm Clune Auditorium
<b>Oct 31</b>	Cider Mill Halloween Walk, <b>North Houses 8:45 am to 9:00 am South Houses 9:30 am to 9:45 am</b>
<b>Nov 2</b>	Turkey Trot, <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 7:50 to 8:20 am, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:30 to 9:00 am, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 9:10 to 9:40 am</b>
<b>Nov 10</b>	Veterans Day Assembly
<b>Nov 16-21</b>	Scholastic Book Fair
<b>Nov 16-21</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal
<b>Nov 22-26</b>	Thanksgiving Break

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Our annual **Walkathon** was a big success! We had many smiling and active children circling the track, not to mention a great group of parents cheering for them. A very big thank you from the Cider Mill PTA to all who donated. The donation link will be open for one more week, and donations can be made here: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/walkathon2023>. All prizes will be given out once the fundraiser closes.

Our **Halloween Bingo Night** was full of fun and laughter! We thank everyone who attended and hope a good time was had by all. Thank you to those who helped out that night.

Our annual **Jim Cook Turkey Trot** is fast approaching! Information can be found below with the times each grade will run. A sign-up link will go out soon for parents to help out, and as always, parents are welcome to come and cheer everyone on!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming! Running from **November 16 to 21**, our children will have the opportunity to purchase books and novelties in the school cafeteria. It will also be open during parent conferences so please feel free to stop in!

A reminder that **October 30 is the education-focused Candidate Forum** sponsored by all of the school PTA's. It will be held in the **Clune Auditorium from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**. Questions can still be submitted at the link below.

And finally, our first **sensory-friendly child/parent event** was a slimy success! Slime, photo frames, and jewelry were made while a jack-o-lantern glowed, and spooky music played. We thank everyone who came and hope it was fun for all!

Please see the links below for info that will be helpful this school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com) or [carolinehavlin@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinehavlin@hotmail.com).

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman  
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 House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9d0lNY/edit>

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

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/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 2023-24 School Calendar: [https://www.wiltonps.org/342735\\_2](https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2)

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/>

ParentSquare 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

### Cider Mill Walkathon

Our Cider Mill Walkathon was a great success! We hope that everyone, students, parents, and staff had a fun time! Our donation link will remain open for the rest of this week. Thank you to everyone who donated, we appreciate all your support!

<https://www.cidermillpta.org/walkathon2023>

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### Start with Hello

Cider Mill kicked off “**Start With Hello Week**” to raise awareness for our school community about the importance of building connections and making everyone feel included. *Start with Hello* was developed by the Sandy Hook Promise Organization to foster awareness around building connections and reducing the number of students who feel left out, alone, or invisible.

Students were greeted during arrival by community members such as our Central Office Faculty, Police Officers, Firefighters, and members of the Wilton High School Link and Hope Crews. Activities this past week taught students the importance of being an upstander, how to include peers in classroom and recess activities, the importance of having a trusted adult, and how to be empathetic.

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**AtoZ Connect**

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](https://membershiptoolkit.com). You can register here and then join the PTA by clicking on Join The PTA.

A Single Membership gives you directory access and one vote when voting on PTA issues. A Family Membership gives you directory access and two votes.

Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. All revenue goes to pay dues to the CTPTA and to support school events, grants, gifts, and more!

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**Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!**

If you didn't grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>

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**Lost and Found**

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? A headband, a hat, or a fidget? If any of your child's belongings haven't made their way home, he or she can check the Lost and Found to try to recover them. They are located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent.

A great way to help out is by labelling your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels, where a percentage goes back to the PTA. Here is the link: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/mabel-s-labels>

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**Wilton SEPTA**

**Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!**

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2023-2024 school year, for meeting dates, for volunteer and officer opportunities, and to stay updated with the latest 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, and Committee positions are 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 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign

Zoom link for all 2023-2024 meetings:  
<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/s/91771706236>

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## Wilton SEPTA Halloween Event

**The Wilton SEPTA Halloween Sensory Friendly Touch a Truck and Treat event is back!** Open to all! Don't miss this super fun family event held at the Town Hall with Wilton Police and Firefighters outside at 238 Danbury Road, Wilton CT on **Friday, October 27 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm**. Wear a costume or just come for the fun! Meet Wilton's amazing First Responders and Sparky the Fire dog, too. There will be fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, even a police ATV available to tour!

**Register here by October 23:**

<https://www.wiltonsepta.org/event-details/sensory-friendly-touch-a-truck-ntreat-halloween-fun>

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## Family Fun Event at the Bridgeport Islanders hockey game

Join us for a Cider Mill School Family Fun Event at the Bridgeport Islanders AHL hockey game! **The game is on Sunday, November 5, at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, and the puck drops at 3:00 pm.** This event is especially noteworthy for our 5th Grade Chorus who have been invited to sing the National Anthem prior to the game.

To purchase your discounted tickets, click on this link: <https://fevoqm.com/event/Cidermill>

We look forward to seeing all who can make it to the arena for this fun afternoon event. Feel free to contact Andrew Pearson ([pearsona@wiltonps.org](mailto:pearsona@wiltonps.org)) or Beth Bakst ([bakstb@wiltonps.org](mailto:bakstb@wiltonps.org)) with questions or concerns.

Thank you, as always, for your on-going support of our music program!

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## The CHET Dream Big! Competition

The Dream Big! Competition is an exciting program offered by Connecticut's Office of the Treasurer (OTT). **The competition gives Connecticut parents and guardians the opportunity to win money toward their child's future education.** Participants are asked to submit an entry based on specific grade-level topics. Students can submit an original essay, video, or artwork (painting/drawing or illustration):

K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: What is something you could do to make your community or neighborhood better?

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: What is something you could do to make the lives of others better?

**New prizes for 2023:**

- 3 Grand Prize winners receive \$20,000 (one student from each age group)
- 24 winners receive \$6,000 (eight students from each age group)
- 336 winners receive \$500 (112 students from each age group)
- 10 randomly selected participating schools will win \$7,500 in tech equipment

To enter this competition and for official rules, go to: <https://www.fidelity.com/about-chet/dream-big-competition>. **All entries are due by November 5 by 5:00 pm.**

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## Wilton Go Green

**Zero Waste Week!**

Our Cider Mill **Zero Waste Schools Committee** looks forward to being back in the school this week, **October 23 – 27**, for our annual Fall Zero Waste Week!

We have a full week of fun activities planned for the students in the cafeteria. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the waste sorting and activities. If possible, please consider signing up [HERE](#) to volunteer for one of the lunch shifts during the week.

**Activities:**

- Tuesday/Wednesday: BYO Reusables Raffle
  - Each student using 1-3 reusable items in their lunch will receive one raffle ticket; students with 4+ reusable items will receive two tickets
  - Raffle prize drawing will take place and 3 winners per grade will be announced on Friday
- Waste Weighing
  - Daily weighing and graphing of trash, recycling, compost, and trays to draw attention to the quantity and type of waste created in the cafeteria
- Bottle/Can Collection
  - Single-use water bottle and Switch can collection to support the WHS Music Department fundraiser

**We are excited to announce the 17th Annual HRRRA Recycling Billboard Contest!**

The theme this year is: **“Keep It Loose” Don’t Bag or Bundle Your Recycling!** Student’s artwork should encourage residents to NOT put their recycling in plastic bags or tie with a string. Regional Winners could win \$500, \$75, \$50 or \$25 prizes for their artwork!

**NEW!! FOUR Grand Prize Regional Winners!**

One Grand Prize winner in each of the following categories will receive \$500.

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Students can visit <https://hrra.org/annual-billboard-contest/> for a complete list of rules, to print a template, as well as get [information on why this theme is so important!](#)

**Original artwork should be submitted by November 15**, in the collection box located in each school’s lobby or the vestibule at Town Hall starting mid-October.

We are excited to see the inspiring messages our students create this year!

Questions? Email our Town Coordinator, Tammy Thornton, at [tammy@wiltongogreen.org](mailto:tammy@wiltongogreen.org).

**Community News**

**Wilton Historical Society**

The Wilton Historical Society is hosting a workshop on **Saturday, November 4th from 11am-12:30pm** where Museum Educator Catherine Lipper will lead the group in making a batch of apple jelly while discussing the various methods of fruit preservation.

Attached are the press release and logo image for the event. [Click here for the website page.](#)

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**The Turnover Shop**

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at <https://turnovershopwilton.org/>

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**Wilton Youth Council**

Wilton Youth Council offers the following upcoming programs:

**Wilton Youth Council presents Coffee - Community - Conversation.** Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

**Saturday, November 11 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**  
Nova Café, Wilton (located at 200 Danbury Road)

**December 6, 2023 @ 9:30-10:30 am**  
Location TBD

**A follow-up book discussion group with Wilton Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Smith, will be held on Thursday, October 26, 10:00 - 11:30 am** at Comstock Community Center. Stay tuned for registration information at [Wilton Youth Council](#).

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**Wilton Chamber of Commerce**

In partnership with ASML and the Town of Wilton, **the Wilton Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of the much-anticipated Pumpkin Parade and Trick or Treating in Wilton Center on Saturday, October 28 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm!**

With the support of our event sponsor, ASML, all are invited to dress up and don their Halloween best as they gather treats throughout Wilton Center. Join us for some frightful fun and gather at the gazebo as we feature *spooktacular* interactive games and activities for the whole family this year!

Enjoy some howling good music with our band and plenty of entertainment as the Town Green and Wilton Center is transformed into a (not so) scary gathering place, featuring our participating local businesses and non-profit organizations as they hand out sweet treats for the ghouls, goblins, prince, and princesses' trick or treating that afternoon!

This is a RAIN or SHINE event.

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**Education-Focused Candidate Forum**

On behalf of the Miller-Driscoll PTA, Cider Mill PTA, Middlebrook PTA, WHS PTSA and SEPTA:

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Education-Focused Candidate Forum**  
**Monday, October 30, 7:30 - 9:30 PM**  
**Clune Auditorium, Wilton High School**  
**Livestream Link Forthcoming**

Come hear candidates for the Boards of Education, Finance, and Selectpersons respond to education-focused questions. All candidates running for these three boards are invited to attend.

To submit questions for the candidates, please submit suggestions via this [Google Form](#) by Sunday, October 22. Not all submitted questions will be used. Find out more information about the candidates and their platforms via:

[Good Morning Wilton Election Coverage](#)  
[Wilton Democrats](#)  
[Wilton Republicans](#)  
[Sara Sclafani \(Independent\)](#)

**There are also two candidate debates/forums, held at the Wilton Library, that will cover a broad range of issues and topics.** These two events are sponsored by the Wilton League of Women Voters, Wilton Library, and Good Morning Wilton.

**Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**, Board of Education, [Registration](#)

**Thursday, October 26, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**, Boards of Finance and Selectmen, [Registration](#)

To check your voter registration status [click here](#).

To learn about how to register to vote [click here](#).

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### **Improve Your Academics**

All Wilton School District students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are fellow Wilton High School students.

Please fill out this [FORM](#) if you need help in any subject. For more information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#). **Tutoring available in person and virtually for grades 6+, virtually only for 3rd-5th graders.**

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### **IvyMath**

#### **Is Your Child on Track in Math?**

<https://ivymath.com/> is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level. IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year. The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Signup now at: [IvyMath.com/Boost](https://ivymath.com/Boost)**

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### **NAMI-CAN WILTON**

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses 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, find resources 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. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Our remaining fall meeting is **Monday November 6 over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>

Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

For the password and more 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).

**Submit News to Hot Cider**

Danielle Michalisin at [micdch72@gmail.com](mailto:micdch72@gmail.com)

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

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is November 2, 2023. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on November 6, 2023

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