

Hot Cider
A Cider Mill PTA Publication

April 23, 2017

Important Dates

April 24	Day 6
April 28	Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?, 6:30pm, WHS Clune Center
May 2	Annual Town Meeting, 7:30pm, WHS Clune Center
May 5	Spirit of Inclusion Day – Wear the colors of every house in honor of Disabilities Awareness Month
May 8	Incoming Grade 6 Parent Orientation, 7-8:30pm, Middlebrook Auditorium
May 8	FAPA Library Show, Wilton Public Library
May 9	4 th Grade Chorus and Orchestra Concert - South, 7pm
May 10	Dress Like a PE Teacher Day
May 11	4 th Grade Chorus and Orchestra Concert - North, 7pm
May 11	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7pm, WHS Professional Library
May 16	PTA Meeting, 9:15am, Cafeteria
May 16	5 th Grade Chorus/ Orchestra Concert, 7pm
May 18	School-Wide Art Show, 5:30-8pm
May 23	5 th Grade Band Concert, 7pm, Main Gym
May 25	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7pm, WHS Professional Library
May 29	NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)

Important Phone Numbers

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or fallonk@wiltonps.org
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

Message from the President

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,
This week the work of the PTA continued with our membership approving a grant request from the school to enable Scott Driscoll, retired policeman and internet safety expert, to come into Cider Mill and talk to all of our 5th graders on the subject of using the internet safely. I am very proud that the generosity of parents enables us to support valuable programs like this.

We are still searching for next year's PTA President. If you are reading this and feel that the role sounds really interesting, but you are sure there is someone more qualified than you to do it, YOU are the person we are looking for! I will still be around next year to advise and

you will learn everything you need on the job! It is a very rewarding role, I urge you to consider it, please get in touch with me directly to learn more.

Look out for the food bins just inside the front doors of the school. A group of passionate students are running a food drive for the Connecticut Humane Society. Please consider supporting this very important cause. Donations of cat and dog food are being accepted.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual town meeting on May 2nd. Voting on the town budget begins after the meeting and continues on Saturday May 6th. Last year the budget passed by default - more people voted against the budget than for it, but the number of voters was less than 15% so the budget passed. Please, please exercise your right to vote on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Nicola Davies, PTA President

School News

Disability Awareness Month ~ Events on April 24 and May 5

Wilton's Parent Advisory Board is sponsoring district-wide activities to encourage Wilton students to recognize and support people with disabilities, and to encourage inclusion and kindness overall. On April 24, students will see a skit based on the novel *Wonder*, performed by Wilton High School's Top Inclusion Models. On May 5, please show the spirit of inclusion by wearing the colors of every Cider Mill house (red, yellow, blue and green). Make a special effort to include others throughout the day, especially those with learning differences. There is also a flower display in front of Cider Mill School, reminding the children to cultivate inclusion.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week- May 1st-May 5th - PLEASE SIGN UP!

The Cider Mill Hospitality Committee needs your help to celebrate our wonderful teachers and staff.

Monday - May 1st - Health and Wellness Day

Do you love making smoothies and juices? We'll provide the ingredients, if you can bring your blender or juicer on Monday, May 1st to help make healthy drinks for the teachers and staff, please contact Lisa Finn at ldbfinn@hotmail.com.

Wednesday - May 3rd - Bagged Lunch Day

The ever-popular bagged lunch day is back. It's a fan favorite of teachers and staff. We need 180 lunches! Please help by providing a bagged lunch filled with a sandwich/wrap/salad, chips/fruit, drink, and dessert. (Bags with instructions and labels will be sent home on May 1st or 2nd, and then your child will bring in the bagged lunch the morning of the 3rd.)

For more details and to contribute a bagged lunch, please click here: <http://signup.com/go/gPvEiE>

If you would like to participate and are unable to send in a bagged lunch, we will purchase and assemble one for you. Please send a check for \$15 (made payable to Cider Mill PTA) through your child's backpack in an envelope marked "Bagged Lunch Day". Deadline for sending in contributions is Monday, April 24th. Please contact Holly Barker at ctbarkers@optonline.net if you have any questions.

Friday - May 5th - Lunch Buffet and Treat Table

Finally, on Friday, May 5th we will host the Teacher and Staff Luncheon. We are seeking donations of hot foods, cold foods and desserts. If you love to cook, bake or have a favorite place to pick up the perfect meal, please consider making a donation. We're also collecting donations of small gift cards and gifts (\$5 and under) for a "treat table". Donations will be collected the morning of Friday, May 5th from 7:00am until 10am or coordinate with the Hospitality Committee for earlier drop off. For more details and to contribute please click here: <http://signup.com/go/855WEY>. Please contact Valerie Shukovsky at vshukovsky@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this a memorable week for all of our wonderful Cider Mill Staff Members! And many thanks to all those who are sending in multiple items for all of these much loved staff events – we could not do any of these things without your participation! We appreciate your help in making this week a success!

Please Volunteer to Help Hang Art for Cider Mill Art Show

As the Annual Art Show at Cider Mill is quickly approaching on May 18, the Art Department is in need of parent volunteers. Volunteers will help mount, hang and display beautiful artwork created by the budding artists of Cider Mill. Volunteers can come at anytime during the day and stay for as long as you want! If this is something you are interested in, please contact Cider Mill's Art Department, using the email addresses listed below.

Caroline Duggan, dugganc@wiltonps.org

Michael Galullo, galullom@wiltonps.org

Michele Montanaro, montanarom@wiltonps.org

Join the Cider Mill PTA Board in 2017-2018!

Below is a list of open positions for next year's Cider Mill PTA. So many fun and special positions are available and we are looking for volunteers. The PTA is a great way to get involved with the school and with other parents. Many of these programs will not happen if we are not able to find a volunteer. There are opportunities for everyone, no matter how much time you can volunteer. You can find descriptions of many of the roles at <http://www.cidermillpta.org/committee-descriptions>.

The role of President will be open next year. The best part of this role is that the only requirements are time and willingness to fulfill the role and make it your own. It is a great

role for someone with an ability to work well with a wide range of people from volunteers to the Principal and Superintendent and a passion for working for the betterment of the school and its community.

Additionally, Vice President of Fundraising will be open next year. Other roles that are open:

3rd grade Fun Night
3rd grade Great Books
3rd grade River Study

4th grade Great Books
4th grade Field Day

5th grade Fun Night
5th grade Field Day
5th grade River Study

Box Tops
Webmaster
Marketing

If you have any questions about any of the roles, please contact Tara Snow at tanda@optonline.net or at 203-563-0866.

*****Attention 5th Grade Parents*** Middlebrook PTA Volunteer Opportunities**

Next year begins the big adventure known as middle school, and 6th grade parent orientation is right around the corner on May 8th. Middlebrook PTA is looking for volunteers to support our student enrichment and social programming – it can't be done without you!

There are many ways to help, and there is sure to be a committee to engage your interests. Currently, we need volunteers to co-chair these committees: Science & Engineering Fair, Reflections Arts & Literature Competition, Nominating, and 6th Grade Fun Night!!! I know so many of you have talents to share!

Please contact Middlebrook's PTA President, Laura Rowley, at rowleylg@gmail.com for more information.

Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? ~ Friday, April 28, 6:30pm, Wilton High School Clune Center

Join us on April 28th for the always fun "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"! The Wilton Education Foundation's **spirited, family friendly "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"** is BACK! Please come and be prepared to laugh and cheer as you join us in supporting the Cider Mill students who will be participating! Each House at Cider Mill will

be represented by four students. They are:

Belden Hill: Anderson Campbell, Josephine Coleman, Eli Patania, Abigail Schwartz

Cannondale: Dillon Bhutani, Eva Filipponi, Ryan Smith, Phoebe Snow

Kent: Peter Adams, Elizabeth Denneen, Jack Leventhal, Charlotte Stapkowski

Nod Hill: Gracie DiBuono-Krafick, Cameron Royle, Aryan Shah, Saniya Shah

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Adult supervision is required for students in the sixth grade and younger. Premium reserved seating is available at \$25 per seat (center stage, rows 3 - 10), and general admission is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. This event is always a huge hit and has sold out in the past so get your tickets online

now at <http://wiltoneducationfoundation.com/5th-grader>.

Tickets will also be available at the door while supplies last! We hope to see you there!

Should you have any questions, please contact us

at 5thgrader@wiltoneducationfoundation.org.

Ongoing Cider Mill News

Join the Cider Mill PTA!

The Cider Mill PTA is a powerful network of parents and teachers whose mission is to make every child's potential a reality, by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. We want you as a member! Joining the PTA is showing that you care what happens in your child's education. It shows you want to be involved, engaged and informed. It is not a commitment to volunteer for anything!

It does not 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, get to know your school and administrators, have a voice and be heard at the school and 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, Walkathon, Book Fair, Spiritwear, library volunteers, and the Hot Cider newsletter.

Membership signup is ONLY online. Joining gives you instant access to the Cider Mill directory of parent and student information. You can download the MobileArq app at the Apple Store or Google Play Store, or visit this link: <http://wilton.mobilearq.com> and use code 'wilton'.

Buy Name Labels at Mabel's Labels

Last year, over 300 sweatshirts, 100 winter hats, 50 pairs of gloves, 50 lunch boxes, and 10 winter jackets were left in our Lost Property areas at school. The overwhelming majority had no owner information marked in them. To raise funds and reduce this immense amount of loss, we have teamed up with Mabel's Labels to run a fundraiser. Mabel's Labels

adhere to your child's clothing and will not come off in the wash. You will get your missing property back and Cider Mill will earn money! Please visit www.mabelslabels.com. Click on 'Support a Fundraiser.' We are listed as Cider Mill School (Wilton). Cider Mill will receive a 20% donation based on the cost of your order. Thank you!

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](#).

Lost and Found

There are two L&F locations in Cider Mill. One is at the doorway where you go to the playground, on the high school side (Cannondale). The other is by the front door on the far side of the bus loop (Kent). You or your child can check these locations for lost items. At the end of each season, the unclaimed items are donated to the Turnover Shop with proceeds going to the Cider Mill PTA. Contact Amanda Mitchell with questions, at amandaNmitchell@gmail.com.

School Spiritwear

Show your school spirit! Please visit the Cider Mill PTA website at www.cidermillpta.org to order your school clothing. Students are encouraged to wear their Spiritwear clothing for various days and events during the year. Proceeds benefit the Cider Mill PTA. Please contact Annemarie Aronowitz at annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com or Amanda Mitchell at amandanmitchell@gmail.com with any questions.

Community News

Wilton Youth Council (WYC) ~ Privileged and Pressured Continued: How to Talk About Substance Use, Expert Panel Discussion with Q&A, April 26, 2017 at 10:00 - 11:30 AM, Wilton High School's Clune Center

Last October, about 300 parents and other concerned adults attended a presentation by Suniya Luthar, PhD on the risks of growing up in an affluent community. Dr. Luthar discussed her research that shows that teens in towns like ours have elevated risks of anxiety, depression, substance use and other risky behaviors, compared to national norms. Many questions from the audience reflected parents' concerns about adolescent use of alcohol and other drugs and their uncertainty about how to address these issues at home. In response to these concerns, a coalition of local organizations is pleased to present a follow up panel discussion on how to talk about substance use.

The expert panel includes:

- Shanthi Mogali, MD, Director of Psychiatry of Mountainside, who will discuss the effects of substance use on adolescent brain development;

- Giovanna Pisani, MSW, Director of Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition, who will describe vaping products and their ingredients;
- Allison Kernan, Certified Recovery Coach, who will tell her own remarkable story of addiction and recovery;
- Amy Sedgwick, LADC, CCDP, SCPG, Director of Outpatient Services of Mountainside, who will share practical strategies for family communication and decision making.

Ample time will be provided for questions.

The program will start promptly at 10:00 AM. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to find parking and pass through school security at the Clune Center. This presentation is free and open to the public. Parents, professionals, school staff and other interested adults are welcome. The program is appropriate for parents with children of all ages. Registration is recommended

at talkaboutsubstanceuse.eventbrite.com. Please contact Wilton Youth Services at (203) 834-6241 with questions. Sponsored by: Mountainside, Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Coalition / Human Services Council, Wilton Public Schools, Wilton Schools PTAs / PTSA, Wilton Youth Council, Wilton Youth Services.

Get Smart 5K Race to Support Wilton Education Foundation ~ May 28, Wilton High School Track

Join us on Sunday, May 28th for Wilton's Get Smart 5k to support the Wilton Education Foundation. Start and finish at WHS track. To guarantee a t-shirt, register early: <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/28708>.

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 May 7, 2017. The deadline for submissions is May 2, 2017.