

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication October 25, 2015

Important Dates

October 29	Photo Retake Day
October 30	Halloween Parades <i>*See below for times</i>
November 3	NO SCHOOL – Staff Development
November 3	“Swing to School” Bake Sale
November 10	PTA Meeting, 9:15-10:30am, Cider Mill Cafeteria
November 10	Technology Talk, 9-11am, Middlebrook Media Center
November 11	Veterans Day Assembly
November 11	Technology Talk, 7-9pm, Cider Mill Cafeteria
November 12	Turkey Trot
November 19-25	Early Dismissal – Dismissal at 11:55am/ Parent Conferences
November 19-24	Book Fair
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

Note from the President

Our monthly PTA meeting was held this week at school. Draft minutes are posted on our Cider Mill PTA Website under 'About Us.' I want to ensure all who can't make our meeting, can stay informed about what happens. I want to let you know that Dr. Chuck Smith is planning an evening meeting in November to discuss Common Core State Standards and the new MAP assessment. The date has not been set yet, more information will be sent out soon. Please also consider attending one of the two Technology Talks (see below for more information). This meeting represents a real opportunity for parents to have input into the future technology policy at Wilton Public Schools.

Wishing a Happy Halloween to you all!

Nicola Davies
Cider Mill PTA President

School News

Swing to School Bake Sale ~ Tuesday, November 3

Calling all bakers!! A group of 4th grade students has created a group called "Swing to School," because they would like to add additional swings to both Cider Mill playgrounds for all students to enjoy during recess. To help raise funds, they are organizing a Bake Sale on Election Day at Cider Mill. We are looking for bakers to help make this a successful event! If you are interested in donating baked goods, please visit our Volunteer Spot to sign up. We sincerely appreciate your help! <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/376367240071>

Photo Retake Day ~ Thursday, October 29

Who should go to Retake Day:

- Any student not satisfied with original portrait. 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.

Halloween Parades! ~ Friday, October 30

The Cider Mill Halloween Parades will again take place this year in front of the school, on Friday, October 30. Times are as follows:

- 3rd Grade – 10:15-10:45am
- 4th Grade – 11:20-11:50am
- 5th Grade – 12:30-1:00pm

Technology Talks ~ November 10, 9-11am, Middlebrook & November 11, 7-9pm, Cider Mill

Wilton Public Schools would like your feedback on the future of educational technology. We welcome your feedback by asking you to complete the following Google Form: <http://goo.gl/forms/heCsh2yN4L>.

We would also like to invite you to join us for our upcoming community conversations about the future of educational technology in the Wilton Public Schools. Please join us for either the daytime event at Middlebrook on November 10th from 9:00am to 11:00am or an evening conversation at Cider Mill on November 11th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Thank you in advance for completing our form and providing us with your valuable feedback on the future of educational technology in our schools.

40th Annual Turkey Trot ~ Event: November 12, Deadline: November 9

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 is on the front page of Edline under "News," and is also in the Virtual Backpack on Edline. Form is due November 9.

Book Fair ~ November 19-24

The Fall Book Fair is fast approaching! Take advantage while you are at school for conferences, and pick up some great books for your children and as gifts. Set up for the Fair will take place November 18. Sale dates will be November 19, 20, 23 & 24. Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time. It's easy to sign up! Use this link to select the best times that work for you: <http://vols.pt/XYoDRX>.

Volunteer Opportunities at Cider Mill

- Cider Mill staff is looking for parents who would like to volunteer to help teachers with photocopying.
- 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, please contact Tara Snow at tanda@optonline.net.

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

****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** (203-762-3351). However, there is a small, indented section under that number, 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

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 November 8, 2015. The deadline for submissions is November 3, 2015.