

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – August 26, 2024

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

Important Dates

Aug 26	First Day of School!
Sept 2	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL, Offices Closed
Sept 5	New Parent Coffee, 9:45 am, Low Tech MakerSpace
Sept 10	First PTA Meeting of the School Year, 9:15 am, CM Cafeteria
Sept 11	Shortened Day/Early Dismissal, 12:00 pm – Professional Development
Sept 17	Open House – Kent/Belden Hill, 6:45 – 7:30 pm
Sept 23	Open House – Nod Hill/Cannondale, 6:45 – 7:30 pm
Sept 25	School Photo Day
Oct 2	Shortened Day/Early Dismissal, 12:00 pm – Professional Development
Oct 3	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL, Offices Closed

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Welcome everyone to a new school year! We hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy summer break with many memories made.

The **Cider Mill 2024/2025 PTA Board** is ready for a great year! We hope you took the time to indicate some interest in any of our events this coming year, as any and all help is always welcome. There will be notices throughout the year with opportunities to volunteer and help out. Already a big thank you to everyone who offered to be a class representative this year; it is a big help to us and our teachers.

Please join us for our **first PTA meeting of the year on September 10, at 9:15 am** in the Cider Mill cafeteria and on Zoom. **Dr. Kevin Smith**, Superintendent, will be speaking at our meeting regarding the upcoming cell phone policy for the Wilton schools.

Please stay tuned for more emails and information as the year gets started. Again, we thank everyone for their support in all the PTA does. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenfareed@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Melissa Reynolds, President
Cathleen Fareed, President-Elect

Helpful Links

Important and Helpful Links:

Cider Mill Contact Info: (203) 762-3351

CM Attendance: (203) 834-4950 or cmattend@wiltonps.org

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNgLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINy/edit>

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

WPS Covid 19 Health and Safety

Protocols: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf

WPS Back to School Website: https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2

WPS 2024-25 School Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2

CM Interactive Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/576928_3

WPS App: Located in the Apple and Android app stores

Wilton BOE: https://wiltonps.org/338734_2

Pay for CM Club/Activities Fee: https://www.wiltonps.org/575955_3

Wilton PowerSchool Login: <https://wilton.powerschool.com/public/>

ParentSquare Information: https://wiltonps.org/595543_3

Schoology Information: https://wiltonps.org/576129_3

Special Bus Assignments: 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

Welcome Cider Mill PTA Board!

Our 2024/2025 PTA Board is ready to serve:

Melissa Reynolds – President
Cathleen Fareed – President-Elect
Jess Evans – Co-Treasurer
Rebecca Perlman – Co-Treasurer
Kelly Cerabino – Secretary
Connie Rinaldi – Gifts and Grants
Caroline Hoffman – Hospitality
Marisa Rosado, Alana D'Angelica – Fundraising
Sara Sclafani – Parent at Large
Libbet Field – Special Education Interests

The Cider Mill PTA works hard to ensure enjoyment for its teachers and students, as well as providing funding for many enrichment programs and grants. We still have many areas where we can use some help from volunteers. Please email giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenfareed@gmail.com if you're interested!

AtoZ Connect

PTA Membership and Directory coming soon!

Please stay tuned to sign up for our membership platform for the 2024-25 school year. In a few weeks, you'll be able to register and 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!

ParentSquare

Wilton Schools will continue to use the Parent Square platform www.parentsquare.com to facilitate school communication (updates, newsletters, class info, etc.). Don't miss out on any information!

Once you join, go to notifications, and pick a preference of ways you want to receive information – what method of communication (text, email, or both), and how often (instant, daily). Emergency Alert will override all preferences (ex. Snow Day) and will alert you by text and email instantly.

Zero Waste

The CM Green Team is Back in Action!

Your CM Green Team is here to remind all of our families of simple easy ways to reduce waste when packing school snacks and lunches!

Did you know?

PACKING A WASTE FREE LUNCH/SNACK:

SAVES MONEY! Packing a reusable lunch and snack instead of disposables can save families over \$400 per student per school year.

BETTER FOR THE EARTH! Life cycle analyses show that reusables have significantly less environmental impacts than single-use disposables, including energy use and air pollution.

CUTS WASTE! Every year the average student tosses 67 pounds of packaging and 39 lbs of uneaten food. Lunch in reusable containers could save over 58 million pounds of trash statewide that we pay to haul and burn.

Questions? Please email Tammy and Denise at tammythornton1112@gmail.com and dee0128@gmail.com.

Student Re-education Time!

Once again, the CM Green Team will be re-educating our students and staff on the proper cafeteria waste sorting process. We have been given permission to have volunteers in the cafeteria the first three days of school and we need help!

We are also VERY hopeful we'll be supporting the new reusable tray and utensil program on the first day of school. We'll know more at the end of this week.

We are looking for 3 volunteers each day either for a half shift or full shift.

Learn more and sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C0A4CADA62AA3F4CE9...>



Fall After School/Enrichment Programs at CM

Registration is now open for Fall 2024 After School Enrichment/Activities. Classes begin Monday, September 16 and run for 4 – 8 weeks. **Programs include:** 3D Design & Printing, Advanced Paint, Draw & More, Basketball, Books Gone Wild: Crafting & More, Chess, CLAYtastic, Coding, Debate Club, Guitar: Group Beginner, Martial Arts, Matball & P.E. Games, Running Club, Speed & Agility Training, Science Super Powers, STEM Exploration using LEGO® Materials, Tennis, Ukulele: Group Beginner, and VEX & LEGO® Robotics. Come and join the fun! Programs fill up quickly! Click [here](#) for details and to register.

Registration is now open for Fall 2024 Girls Gymnastics. The session begins Monday, August 26 and runs through Monday, November 19. Classes are held at the Wilton High School Auxiliary Gym for all levels – Beginners, Level II, Level II/Intermediate. Click [here](#) for details and to register. Contact enrichment@wiltoncontinuinged.org or dowdene@wiltonps.org with questions.

Register now for music lessons with the Wilton Conservatory of Music. Private lessons in guitar, piano, percussion, woodwinds, voice, violin/viola, cello, and even bagpipes are available after school at Cider Mill and begin August 26. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register. Contact conservatory@wiltonps.org for more information.

Wilton SEPTA

The Wilton SEPTA's mission is to build compassionate, trusting, and collaborative relationships with all members of our schools and community. We strive to ensure that the diversity of all children receiving Special Education and related services will be supported, celebrated and socially embraced. Collectively, we will work to increase access to resources, empowering every child with the opportunity and inspiration to thrive.

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2024-2025 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. Please stay tuned!

Community News

Wilton Youth Council

Throughout the coming year, Wilton Youth Council will offer Parent Programs on timely and relevant topics such as a community event on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm at the YMCA to talk about issues facing our children and teens today. We will have a panel of speakers who work directly with our kids, talk about what they see as challenges and give parents insight on how we can best support our young people. The panel will be followed by a resource fair.

On Wednesday, October 23 WYC will partner with the Wilton Library to offer a presentation on Gambling and Addiction.

The WYC Mental Health Task Force is also planning a Volunteer Fair on September 21 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Wilton Library. Volunteering is shown to improve both physical and mental health and also bring a sense of belonging while building community relationships for volunteers. Further, we recognize that many adults are struggling to build community connections – volunteering is an excellent way to foster and build these relationships. Come get involved on September 21!

If you have questions or would like to get involved in [Wilton Youth Council](#), email Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org. Stay tuned for more information about community events, parenting groups and programs on healthy families, building connections, transitions, and more!

Woodcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for the following fall programs for Grades 3 – 5:

Earth Artists

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature. Projects will often be made from natural or upcycled materials too!

Limit of 10 students.

Dates: Wednesdays, September 11 – October 23

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Earth Keepers

Each week we will learn about a different sustainability inspired topics and find ways to incorporate our newfound knowledge into our own lives! Using interactive games, activities, and art projects, we will learn how to make a difference.

Limit of 10 students.

Dates: Thursdays, September 12 – October 24

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Navigators

Dive headfirst into nature and explore your fascination with the natural world! Through hiking, animal encounters, nature activities, and more, we'll enhance our understanding of nature as we appreciate and enjoy precious time spent outdoors! Learning will be guided by our observations as we explore.

Limited of 10 students.

Dates: Fridays, September 13 – October 25

Time: 4:15 – 5:45 pm

Cost: \$260 (7 classes)

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

One Day Only

Moth Madness

In this special after dark drop-off program, we will uncover the wonderful world of moths! Many of these primarily nocturnal insect species are seldom seen and underappreciated for their strikingly beautiful patterns and interesting range of adaptations and behaviors. Educators will lead students in visiting light traps and baited trees which will attract different moth species.

Limited of 12 students.

Date: Friday, September 13 (5th-6th graders)

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Cost: \$45

Grades: 5th and 6th

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Ambler Farm

Come have fun on the farm this fall:

Junior Apprentices Program

This program is designed for children in Grades 3 – 5 who are interested in learning more about how the natural world and the farm come together through hands-on and engaging activities, games, and crafts. Our Junior Apprentices spend time visiting and caring for our animals every week (families have the option of allowing their children to take the bus directly to Ambler Farm after school for this program). Reach out to kevin@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Dates: Begins September 4 and meets for 5 – 6 weeks on Mondays or Wednesdays

Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm

Click her to register: [Junior Apprentices Program](#)

Ambler Farm Day

Families from Wilton and beyond descend upon the farm for our most pinnacle event of the year; a fall festival for all ages! We offer live music, food trucks, sweets and treats, as well as an array of activities to commemorate fall that the entire family will enjoy. Fan favorites include the Apple Slingshot, Haymaze, Build-Your-Own Scarecrow, Pumpkin Patch, Dunk-A-Local Celebrity and more! Check out the amblerfarm.org website for more info. We depend on adult volunteers to help out with this fun event! Please [sign up here](#) and enjoy the day with your family at the Farm! Reach out to laura@amblerfarm.org or amy@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Date: Sunday, October 6

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 pm

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/>.

Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

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.

Website: <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Fall Meeting Dates: Mondays, September 9, October 7, November 4, and December 2

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998029176>

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: Contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

[Submit News to Hot Cider](#)

Danielle Michalisin at micdch72@gmail.com

Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is September 5, 2024.

The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on September 9, 2024.

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