

## HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – February 13, 2023

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

### Important Dates

<b>Feb 14</b>	Cider Mill PTA Meeting – 9:15 am, School Cafeteria
<b>Feb 16</b>	BOE Meeting (to approve budget)
<b>Feb 17</b>	Early Release
<b>Feb 21</b>	BOF Meeting (regular meeting)
<b>Feb 20- 24</b>	Winter Recess
<b>March 3</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Nights and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Laser Show
<b>March 7</b>	Scott Driscoll Parent Presentation
<b>March 8</b>	Early Release
<b>March 14</b>	Cider Mill PTA Meeting – 9:15 am, School Cafeteria
<b>March 14</b>	End of Second Trimester
<b>March 24</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night
<b>March 27</b>	BOF Public Hearing for the BOE proposed school budget

#### Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

On February 1st, our Hospitality Chair **Caroline Hoffman** helped treat our wonderful faculty to some treats after school. As always, we'd like to thank Caroline for all her hard work!

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming **3rd and 4th Grade Fun Nights** (and an extra special Laser Show for our 5th graders) on March 3rd at the Little Theater at WHS. Please keep a look out for more information on how to sign up and volunteer!

Also please mark your calendar and consider joining us for **our next PTA meeting** on Tuesday, February 14th at 9:15 a.m. in the Cider Mill Cafeteria.

We are in the middle of budget season! Please consider taking just a couple minutes and voicing your opinion on the proposed school budget. If interested, email your full name, address, and opinion to *both*: [boardoffinance@wiltonct.org](mailto:boardoffinance@wiltonct.org) and [boe@wiltonps.org](mailto:boe@wiltonps.org).

Finally, the CM PTA is beginning to look towards next year to help facilitate a smooth transition into the new school year. To help us achieve this, we are in need of two people to join our nominating committee. The nominating committee is tasked with helping fill vacancies for the upcoming year. With that being said, many of our Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs will also be leaving Cider Mill in the Fall. A few of these positions include President-Elect, Treasurer, and VP of Membership. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, including the nominating committee, or would like to hear more about the open positions, please contact us at [MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com](mailto:MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com) and [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com).

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at [MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com](mailto:MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com) or [giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com).

Michelle Krupa and Melissa Reynolds  
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 School

Handbook: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_f0M9w06qZRHnJLuF6Th\\_kbtDQqCPRABChT0M-ERmVM/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f0M9w06qZRHnJLuF6Th_kbtDQqCPRABChT0M-ERmVM/edit)

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/scschoolfles/2699/wps\\_covid\\_protocols\\_2022-23\\_school\\_opening.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/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 Back to School

Guide: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GaiNlxIMyxXW6MCCbSMi2fer2xLP0bfT/view?usp=drivesdk>

WPS 2022-23 School Calendar: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/revised\\_2022-23\\_district\\_calendar\\_472022.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/2699/revised_2022-23_district_calendar_472022.pdf)

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/>

School Messenger 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

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**

Calling all **5<sup>th</sup> Grade parents** - we need some of your photos for the 5th Grade yearbook to help make this as memorable as possible! We would love it if you could share with us some pictures of your 5th grader (even better if it also has a bunch of their Cider Mill friends in it) from the events listed below.

- First Day of 5th Grade
- Halloween
- Walkathon
- Turkey Trot
- Snowball Dance
- Wilton town team sports/scouts/band/theater
- Any Cider Mill events that are upcoming (like field trips or any in classroom events)

Please send all photos **in the “actual size” format** to:

[CMyearbookPTA@gmail.com](mailto:CMyearbookPTA@gmail.com)

Do not send screenshots of photos or send from cell phones in small/medium/large size format as the clarity is not good enough to print.

It would be extremely helpful if you include names of those in the picture, CM house and teacher (if possible).

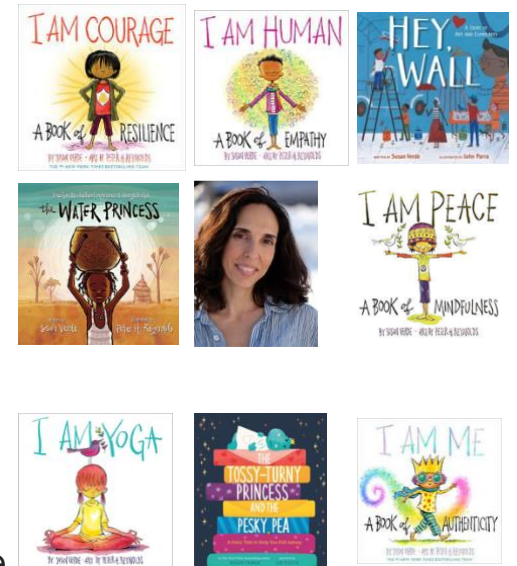
Thanks, from Your Yearbook Team

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**CM Visiting Author**

Dear Families,

We are thrilled to welcome New York Times best-selling author, Susan Verde, to Cider Mill on Wednesday March 1 and Thursday March 2. Mrs. Verde is the author of many wonderful children’s books including The Water Princess, Unstoppable Me, Say One Kind Thing, and the I Am series.



Ms. Verde's sessions include a short presentation about her background and process, a mindfulness/yoga activity, and a Q&A. Her website can be found here: <https://www.susanverde.com/>

Susan Verde’s books can be pre ordered and personalized through her local bookstore, Book Hampton LLC, in East Hampton, NY:

- 1) [Simply click here to pre order any of Susan’s titles!](#)
- 2) Fill out your information and specify the desired personalization for the book.
- 3) Choose “curbside pickup.”
- 4) Contact BookHampton, LLC. at [\(631\) 324-4939](tel:6313244939) for questions.

Ms. Verde will personalize and sign books and bring them to Connecticut with her. Book orders are due by February 17.

Lastly, Susan Verde’s visit to Cider Mill School would not be possible without the generous support and funding of the Cider Mill PTA. We are so very grateful to them! Thank you!

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**Wilton Special Education PTA**

**“Let Them Thrive”**

Please join us for a two-part event featuring **Katie Novak's** important book, "**Let Them Thrive**".

A Book Discussion and Workshop:  
**Empowering Your Child to Thrive in Today's World**

**Let Them Thrive by Katie Novak** provides practical strategies for helping your child become a self-navigating, expert learner, a key aspect of the **Wilton Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate**. Based on Novak's decades of experience as an educator and parenting expert, 'Let Them Thrive' is a must-read for any parent looking to support their child's growth and development.

**VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

Put it Into Practice on **March 9 at 7 pm**, participate in a virtual workshop with Pam Chu-Sheriss from Novak Consulting. Learn how to apply the principles from the book to your own parenting style. Sign up now to reserve your spot and receive a free book! Hope to see you there!

**REGISTER HERE**  
**LET THEM THRIVE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP [HERE](#)**

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to stay updated with the latest meetings, 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, Committee positions 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 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign.

**Community News**

**Please see Principal Higgin's message below:**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the Board of Education meeting last night, I shared that we are adjusting our proposal for the Middlebrook bell schedule.

At a meeting this week, Middlebrook staff expressed overwhelming interest conceptually to a schedule that delivers 60-minute classes for math, ELA (English Language Arts), World Language, science, and social studies through the team model. A few sample schedules resonated with staff, and we expect to complete our review of these schedules in the coming weeks.

Our priorities continue to include 60 minutes for math and ELA classes, combining writing and reading into one class, keeping a team model, maintaining a full complement of STRIDE classes that meet at least 40 minutes for each class period, and providing five sections of each academic course on team.

A group of staff members have committed to work together to finalize a schedule that includes all the necessary details and is responsive to stakeholder feedback. I hope parents/guardians can join us next Thursday at the Middlebrook PTA meeting so that we can include your voice as well. The meeting is Thursday, February 16 at 9:30 AM in the Middlebrook LLC. I will continue to provide schedule updates in future Friday letters as well.

Additionally, here is the link to the PTA Meeting announcement, agenda, and Zoom information: <https://www.middlebrookpta.org/single-post/pta-meeting-february-16th>. This meeting will include an update on the Middlebrook Schedule.

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**Let's Talk Mental Health: Community Conversation**

WYC, in collaboration with a number of community partners including WPS in planning a Community Conversation on Mental Health.

Across the country, youth are facing mental health challenges of unprecedented proportions. Wilton community members: you're invited to **Let's Talk Mental Health: Community Conversation** on Friday, March 3, 2023 @ 9:15 am. Register to join the discussion at <https://WiltonLetsTalkMentalHealth.eventbrite.com>

This event is intended to bring the dialogue on mental health challenges within Wilton to the forefront and help find solutions and support. Join the Wilton community for a presentation and discussion on the current mental health landscape, what "mental health" includes, signs of concern in youth and adults, when to reach out for help and who to contact. Dr. Gerber will open with a presentation on these topics and then the floor will be open for questions. Panelists include:

- Deputy Chief Robert Cipolla, Wilton Police Department
- Marie Demasi, Advocate for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (CT Chapter)
- Vanessa Elias, NAMI Southwest CT

- Sarah Heath, MA, MS, LPC, Wilton Social Services
- Anthony Nave, LCSW, Mountainside
- Denise Qualey, MSW, Kids in Crisis
- Chandra Ring, MEd, Wilton Youth Council
- Kim Zemo, LCSW, Wilton Public Schools

The discussion is intended as the first step in the dialogue; a jumping off point to more discussions and action! [Register now!](#)

This event is sponsored by [Wilton Public Schools](#), [Riverbrook Regional YMCA](#), [Town of Wilton](#), Mental Health Task Force, [Wilton Youth Council](#), [Wilton Police Department](#), [Kids in Crisis](#), [NAMI Southwest CT](#), [Silver Hill Hospital](#) and [Mountainside](#).

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**Wilton Go Green**

**Trash Talk with Jennifer Heaton-Jones at Wilton Library**

Managing waste and knowing what to recycle can be confusing. The **Wilton Library and Wilton Go Green** are proud to sponsor this event to learn where our garbage and recycling really goes after leaving the Town of Wilton.

What is the State of Connecticut’s universal recycling guide? What happens when you put the wrong thing in your recycling bin? What is this waste crisis in CT? How can managing your waste save you money and how does it affect your taxes?

Jennifer Heaton-Jones the Executive Director of the regional, governmental, solid waste and recycling authority, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA). She will give a one hour presentation followed by a half hour Q&A. You’re guaranteed to learn something new!

**Thursday, March 9th 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

Register at [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org)

**Zero Waste Schools**

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**Scott Driscoll Parent Presentation - Internet Safety and Social Media – March 7<sup>th</sup> (7.00 pm)**

Details below:

**EventBrite Registration Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/scott-driscoll-internet-safety-tickets-537775861077>



MIDDLEBROOK PTA AND WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENT...

**AN EVENING WITH SCOTT DRISCOLL**

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED PRESENTATION ON THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD OF INTERNET SAFETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

7:00-8:00PM

MIDDLEBROOK AUDITORIUM

*Parent/Caregiver event. Light refreshments will be served*

Please register:(free):

[scottdriscoll.eventbrite.com](http://scottdriscoll.eventbrite.com)



*"Scott's presentation is hands down the best I have seen on any topic in my 20+ years of education. His knowledge of the pitfalls young adults fall into had our students checking their digital footprint the minute the presentation concluded."*  
Steven Swensen, High School Principal



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**NAMI-CAN WILTON**

The COVID pandemic has caused unprecedented stress in our society and many children’s behaviors have been triggered as a result. What was manageable pre-Covid is now out of control. Find support for you, as you support your child who is struggling.

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.

Our meetings are held virtually over zoom and for security, you must contact Beth or Vanessa for the password. For more information contact: 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**

Anu Suri at [anusuri2022@gmail.com](mailto:anusuri2022@gmail.com)

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

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is February 23, 2023. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on February 27, 2023

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