

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication

January 10, 2016

Important Dates

January 10 Day 3
January 12 PTA Meeting, 9:15a.m., Cafeteria
January 18 NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
January 22 "Reading Rocks!" pledge forms and donations are due
January 22 "Dress Like a Rock Star Day" to celebrate "Reading Rocks!"
January 23 Reading Period begins for "Reading Rocks!"
January 28 Superintendent's Public Budget presentation 7pm, Cider Mill Cafeteria
January 29 4th Grade Fun Night
February 7 Reading Period ends for "Reading Rocks!"
February 9 PTA Meeting, 9:15a.m., Cafeteria
February 11 NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Day)
February 12 NO SCHOOL (February break)
February 15 NO SCHOOL (President's Day)
February 19 3rd Grade Fun Night
February 27 5th Grade Fun Night

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

Letter from the President

Dear Parents,

I hope that your year has got off to a tremendous start. Thank you to all the outstanding artists who submitted an entry to the PTA's Reflections competition and thank you to Sujata Vemuri for coordinating the competition for Cider Mill.

This week is our first PTA meeting of 2016. I am pleased to let you know that our literacy coaches will be attending to deliver a presentation on the new spelling program – Words Their Way. It promises to be very informative, I hope you will consider attending.

The New Year means school budgets. The Superintendent has posted his proposed budget on the district website. The document can be found [here](#). The Board of Education encourages parents to email questions and feedback to them at boe@wilton.k12.ct.us. Dr. Kevin Smith will be presenting his plans to the public at 7pm on January 28th at Cider Mill.

With best wishes,

Nicola Davies

Cider Mill PTA President

School News

Reading Rocks! ~ Pledges Due On or Before Friday, January 22

Wilton Education Foundation's (WEF's) very successful "Reading Rocks!" program is returning! "Reading Rocks!" is a fun, non-competitive Read-A-Thon program. In its first four years, this important program raised more than \$155,000 for our schools! With your support, we hope to meet our financial goal as well as attain 100% student participation. Not only does this program help students celebrate literacy, but there are great prizes too! "Reading Rocks!" pledge forms will be sent home with students by Thursday, January 7th. The pledge form is already posted on Edline's homepage. **Students must turn in completed pledge forms, and pledge money raised, to teachers on or before Friday, January 22nd.** For each pledge a student receives by January 22nd, he or she gets a chance to win an iPad OR KINDLE FIRE! The more pledges, the more chances to win a prize. For example, if your child receives 12 pledges, he or she earns 12 chances to win! There will be one Kindle Fire awarded randomly to one participant per House at Cider Mill, as well as one iPad awarded across all grades, pre-K-5. The Cider Mill House with the highest percentage participation rate by January 22nd will get a homework-free day! Questions? Contact Julie Steckel at jjsteckel@gmail.com or Rebecca LePage at rebeccalepage@gmail.com. Many thanks to the Stroup family for generously sponsoring "Reading Rocks!" Prize winners will be announced after February 8th.

Fourth Grade Fun Night ~ Friday, January 29th, 7pm-9pm

Fourth Grade Fun Night is going to be Friday, January 29th, at Cider Mill. Please use this link to sign up your child for the event.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to be Game Leaders. Parent volunteers can also sign up through the same Volunteer Spot link.

<http://vols.pt/9Dw4af>

News from Cider Mill School Counselors

It has been great to meet with all of our students during guidance lessons and lunch bunches. Throughout January, we will continue to go into classrooms to deliver developmental guidance lessons. The lesson topics are:

Grade 3: Mean Behavior or Bullying...what is the difference? (Bullying is something that happens over and over with the same people who hurt bodies or feelings on purpose.) We will teach the students that bullying is about taking power away from others and show them how to advocate for themselves or others.

Grade 4: Upstanders – We teach the students that upstanders stand up for others by telling the person who is showing mean behavior or bullying behavior to stop, include the target, or let an adult know. We play out different scenarios so the students can practice this behavior.

Grade 5: How to navigate the social scene in 5th grade: how cliques, rumors, and perceptions of popularity can get in the way.

Please ask your child about these lessons so they can tell you all of the new things that they have learned!

We are also teaching Mindfulness strategies in each class to help the students calm their bodies and minds. This first round we are teaching Mountain (imagining themselves calm and holding their bodies strong amidst stress and chaos), Washing Machine (ridding their minds of negative thoughts and replacing them with positive ones), and Rag Doll (relaxing their entire bodies).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Dawn Randall, Counselor for Cannondale and Nod Hill x 4257 randalld@wilton.k12.ct.us
Lauren Buckley, Counselor for Kent and Belden Hill x 4242 buckleyl@wilton.k12.ct.us

Box Tops!! ~ January Contest

The Competition is on. Which classes can bring in the most box tops Cider Mill earned over \$1100 for the box tops collected during our contest last year! This year's contest launches this week. Be sure to keep collecting and submitting your box tops so your class can be announced the winner! Each classroom will be collecting and there will be one winner per house. Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> to learn more.

Third Grade Fun Night ~ Friday, February 19th, 7pm-9pm

Third Grade Fun Night is at Cider Mill on Friday, February 19th (snow date: February 25th)
Watch for registration for students and for parent volunteers.

Fifth Grade Fun Night ~ Saturday, February 27th, 8p.m.-10p.m. Fifth Grade Fun Night is at the Wilton Y! on Saturday February 27th (snow date: March 5th). Activities range from Swimming (experienced swimmers only, no lessons provided), Mat Ball, Dance Room, and more. Watch for registration and please consider volunteering – we'll need lots of parents to help make this night a success for our 5th graders!

Ongoing Cider Mill News

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/>

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 volunteers, pre-order 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.

Community News

NAMI-CAN Parent Support Group ~ January 25, 10am, 49 New St., Wilton

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 places 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. The next meeting is January 25th from 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at [203-984-0123](tel:203-984-0123) or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa [203-970-4130](tel:203-970-4130) or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

Stress and Success: Strategies to Recognize and Reduce Stress ~ January 13, 10am, Weston Library or 7pm, Wilton Library

Wilton Youth Council's Parent Connection invites you to the 2015-2016 Parent Information Series: Everything You Want to Know About Your Adolescent. The next presentation in the series is "Stress and Success: Strategies to Recognize and Reduce Stress" with Michelle Albright, PhD, Director of Youth Services, Town of Weston. Although stress is inevitable, it doesn't have to be insurmountable! Join Michelle for an interactive discussion on the A, B, C's of stress. You will learn how to raise Awareness of the stressors in your and your children's lives, Buffer their impact, and identify the Consequences for your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The presentation is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 10:00-11:30 am at the Weston Library or 7:00-8:30 pm at the Wilton Library. Advance registration recommended (www.wiltonlibrary.org or [203-762-3950, ext. 213](tel:203-762-3950)).

Commemorative Bricks

Create a lasting impression by purchasing a personalized brick. Custom walkways adorn each school in Wilton with personalized bricks honoring our students, teachers, coaches, teams, clubs, alumni, family members and special groups in our community. You are invited to be a part of this project by contributing an engraved brick, which will remain a permanent part of the Wilton schools. Funds raised from

the sale of engraved bricks will be utilized by WEF to support district-wide projects specifically, technology projects, professional development scholarships, and funds to enhance arts and music in the Wilton Public Schools. For more information please contact the program chair, Kate Filaski at katefilaski@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 January 24, 2016. The deadline for submissions is January 19, 2016.