

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication

February 21, 2016

Important Dates

February 22	Day 4
February 27	5 th Grade Fun Night (Snow Date: March 5)
February 29	Deadline to Register for TechNext
March 4	"Are You Smarter Than a 5 th Grader?" Show, WHS Clune Center, 7pm
March 8	PTA Meeting, 9:15 am, Cafeteria
March 9-11	Book Swap – Collection Days
March 11	Book Swap – Swap Day
March 16	Two Hour DELAYED OPENING – Professional Development
March 22	TechNext, 5:30-7:30pm, WHS Little Theater
March 25	NO SCHOOL (Good Friday)

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

School News

Fifth Grade Fun Night ~ Saturday, February 27, 8-10pm, Wilton YMCA

Looking forward to a great night for our 5th Graders on Saturday! Thank you to all the volunteers who are coming to help us that night. If you've registered your student for the event, please remember to bring the waiver and \$5 in with your student at Check-in (exact change, if possible) -- a copy of the waiver and more details will be sent to you via e-mail this week. **Any questions about the event? Please e-mail Chandra Ring at cring226@hotmail.com, or Jen Enman at zim100@yahoo.com.**

TechNext ~ Deadline to Register: Monday, February 29

Calling all Cider Mill students! Do you love technology? Are you constantly figuring out new things to do with technology? Do you have new ways to use technology to make the world a better place for yourself and others? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we would like you to present at TechNext 2016!

We want to showcase students' ability to use technology to create and innovate outside of the classroom. We especially want students to show us their skills and share them with the rest of the community. So if you:

- Create, using technology, in the fine and performing arts, or
- Help others solve problems using technology, or
- Increase your knowledge, and that of those around you through the use of technology, or
- Build and/or program cool tools and apps

WE WANT YOU!

TechNext 2016 will be presented, as it was last year, as a “show.” Students can present their talents in one of two ways:

1. Present to the audience in the Little Theater at the high school
2. Present at one of the individual presentation tables before the doors to the theater open

Click on [this link](#) to register your activity with us no later than Monday, February 29, and we will contact you about presenting at TechNext 2016, to be held on March 22 at Wilton High School Little Theater (inside the high school) from 5:30pm-7:30pm. For more information, please contact Mr. Greasley at greasleyj@wiltonps.org.

Cider Mill Book Swap ~ March 9, 10, and 11

Cleaning up? Cleaning out? Don't donate your child's books. Swap them!

- Book Collection Days: March 9, 10 and 11
- Swap Day: Friday, March 11 from 2:10 to 4pm

On the mornings of March 9, 10 and 11, volunteers will be collecting books at the Main Entrance and the Kent Entrance. They will be there from 6:50 to 7:50 AM. The books should be appropriate, and at the reading level of Cider Mill students. There is no limit on the amount of books a student may turn in. On Friday, March 11, from 2:10 to 4pm, students can select replacements for each book they have turned in. AND THAT'S A SWAP! Questions? Please contact Ginna Yerrall at gmdar@optonline.net.

News from Cider Mill School Counselors

The School Counselors are continuing to work with your children on Mindfulness by helping students discover new ways to calm their mind and bodies. This month, we will be teaching students “Balloon Breathing” and doing an imagination vacation activity called “Big White Star.” In addition, we will be continuing our monthly guidance lessons. The topics this month in each grade are:

- **3rd:** Decision Making – what are the steps to making a decision and which kinds of decisions do we make every day?
- **4th:** Conflict Resolution – how do we resolve conflicts with others and make sure we are not escalating small problems into something bigger?
- **5th:** Peer Pressure – what is peer pressure (spoken vs. unspoken), what is the difference between positive/negative pressure, and how do we respond to peer pressure?

As always, please feel free to reach out to us if there is anything we can do to assist your child!

Lauren Buckley, School Counselor: Kent/Belden Hill
Dawn Randall, School Counselor: Cannondale/Nod Hill

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: [Cider Mill Parent Community](#).

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 Support Group Meeting ~ Monday, February 22, 10-11:30am, 49 New Street, Wilton

Feel like you have no one to talk with about your child's challenging behavior? You are not alone. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) Support Group is for parents of children with behavioral, emotional and mental health issues. The meeting is free, confidential, safe and led by trained and certified 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 and Wilton. Our next meeting is Monday, February 22nd from 10-11:30, at G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. For more info, contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or Beth44es@gmail.com; or Vanessa at EliasVanessa5@gmail.com, or text 203-970-4130.

Wilton Youth Council's Parent Connection Program - Not My Kid: What's Really Happening with Marijuana, Binge Drinking, and E-Cigarettes in Wilton ~ Tuesday, February 23, 10-11:30am, Wilton Library

Youth and parent surveys show that youth are using substances at a higher rate than parents believe they are. A survey of Wilton middle and high school students shows high rates of binge drinking, e-cigarette use and marijuana use among upper-classmen. Wendy Bentivegna (Positive Directions) will share survey results and briefly discuss e-cigarettes and binge drinking. John Douglas, MD, (Silver Hill Hospital) will share information about today's marijuana. Please register in advance at <http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events> or call 203-762-6334.

A Skills Building Program for Anxiety Relief ~ March 1 – April 5, 2:30-3:30pm, Cider Mill School

Free, and open to all 3rd and 4th graders, GoZen!© Group is a skills-building group offered through Wilton Youth Services. It is based on a curriculum that focuses on what anxiety is, why it occurs, and how to cope with it. The group will meet March 1 to April 5, every Tuesday, from 2:30-3:30pm at Cider Mill School. To register, please contact Jihan Hage at jihan.hage@wiltonct.org or 203-834-6241.

Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader? Battle of the Houses! ~ Friday, March 4, 7pm, Wilton High School Clune Center

The Wilton Education Foundation's much-anticipated 6th annual fundraiser overtakes the Clune Center at Wilton High School! Based on the hit TV series, the spirited game show puts Wilton's brightest 5th graders from Cider Mill on stage to help local "celebrity" contestants answer questions derived from the school's challenging curriculum. For the first time, this year we will see four 5th grade teachers — one from each house — take the stage.

Fifth grade teachers **Frank Coomaraswamy** (Belden Hill), **Jason Greasley** (Cannondale), **Tim Gallo** (Kent) and **Mike Hossler** (Nod Hill) will be joined by emcees, Miller-Driscoll teachers **Sal Giaimo** and **Bryan Ennis**.

Reserved seating is available at \$25 per seat. General admission is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Doors open at 6pm and the show begins at 7pm. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door or online starting February 22 at www.wiltoneducationfoundation.org. This event traditionally sells out, so get your tickets

soon! * Note: this is not a drop off event for children, and there must be a parent or guardian present at the event.

Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?: T-Shirts ~ Deadline to Order: Monday, February 22

Buy a t-shirt now to be ready for the ever-popular Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? live show on Friday night, March 4! **Deadline to order is Monday, February 22.** These t-shirts, designed by Cider Mill student Hannah Rhodes, come in each one of the four house colors, so you can wear your shirt with pride while you cheer on your house at the show! A flyer with order form went home in backpacks last week. If you did not receive one, please contact Kimber Felton at feltonuke@gmail.com. It's the "BATTLE OF THE HOUSES!!" Shirts are \$15 each, and all proceeds go to the Wilton Education Foundation for grants to Wilton Public Schools.

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 March 6, 2016. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2016.