

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – February 27, 2023

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

Important Dates

March 2	Read Across America Day
March 2	BOE Meeting – WHS Professional Library, 7:00 pm
March 3	Spirit Day – Favorite Book Character/House Colors
March 3	3 rd /4 th Grade Fun Nights and 5 th Grade Laser Show
March 7	Scott Driscoll Parent Presentation
March 8	Early Release
March 14	Cider Mill PTA Meeting – 9:15 am, School Cafeteria
March 14	End of Second Trimester
March 16	BOE Meeting – WHS Professional Library, 7:00 pm
March 24	5 th Grade Fun Night
March 27	BOF Public Hearing for the BOE proposed school budget

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break! We have some great things coming! Please note the new **Spirit Day** on **March 3!**

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.** Information on dates and sign up can be found below!

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** and **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 need two people to join our nominating committee. The nominating committee is tasked with helping fill vacancies for the upcoming year. 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 and giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com.

We are in the process of updating our **bylaws**. The proposed bylaws can be found here: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/cider-mill-bylaws>. Please note these are taken from the Connecticut PTA, but feedback is always welcome.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at MichelleAKrupa@gmail.com or 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

CM School

Handbook: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_f0M9w06qZRHnJLuF6Th_kbtDQqCPRABChT0M-ERmVM/edit

CM House

List: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINNY/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 Back to School

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

WPS 2022-23 School Calendar: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/2699/revised_2022-23_district_calendar_472022.pdf

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/>

School Messenger 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

Laser Nights Fun Nights!

Laser Night Fun Nights are here for the Cider Mill Community!

Please join us for a **FREE PTA Event with Prismatic Laser Light Shows**

The laser program features hit music and stunning laser animation to excite and inspire every student. Your kids will be singing and cheering throughout!

The Laser Shows take place at Wilton High School's Little Theatre

March 3rd

3rd Grade: 5-6pm

4th Grade: 6:30pm-7:30pm

5th Grade 8pm-9pm

****This is a DROP OFF event.****

Event is FREE but you need to **REGISTER YOUR CHILD:**

3rd Grade Registration: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScYv53MLj8bSM.../viewform>

4th Grade Registration: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdhmHbXya5Vjb.../viewform>

5th Grade Registration: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdDWxyUO448iL.../viewform>

(NOTE: This is an additional fun night for 5th graders, who also will have their traditional Fun Night at the YMCA on 3/24)

Cider Mill Reflections 2023 Winners!

Congratulations to all the students who participated this year in the **2023 Cider Mill PTA Reflections Art Contest and who “Showed Us their Voices”!!!** The participation and artwork were truly inspiring! Through Reflections, our children engage with complex themes in creative and individual ways, using their talents and experimenting with artistic media. Join us in applauding their efforts! Thank you to the parents and teachers who supported these students in their participation!

1st Place Winners have all been forwarded to CT State PTA Reflections and are currently under consideration there! We are so proud to have Cider Mill represented by them!

Certificates will be distributed through classroom teachers and are forthcoming.

We will keep everyone posted on the possibility of a Reflections show to celebrate all of this incredible work!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS!!!!

Visual Arts

Honorable Mentions:

Gianna Aversano

Parker Bailey

Sara Cannizzaro

Emerson Kannry

Stella Matera

Tayton McGoldrick

Avery Pham

Lola Robinson

Anna Wang

Cider Mill Visual Arts 1st Place: Myra Jaiswal

Cider Mill Visual Arts 2nd Place: Sahana Kaushik

Cider Mill Visual Arts 3rd Place: Advitia Maheshwari

Literature

Honorable Mentions:

Sloka Attaluri

Disha Avadhani

Mila Balicki

Sally Price

Cider Mill Literature 1st Place: Madeleine Valassis

Cider Mill Literature 2nd Place: Auburn Upright

Cider Mill Literature 3rd Place: Sahana Kaushik

Music Composition

Honorable Mentions:

Grace De Phillips

Avery Kugler

Cider Mill Music Composition 1st Place: Samiya Agree

Cider Mill Music Composition 2nd Place: Winifred Gulati

Cider Mill Music Composition 3rd Place: Madison McGoldrick

Film Production

Honorable Mention: Michael Gubner

Cider Mill Film Production 1st Place: Jiya Praveen

Cider Mill Film Production 2nd Place: Aurora Gulati

Cider Mill Film Production 3rd Place: Joseph Saffi

Photography

Cider Mill Photography 1st Place: Alexandra Staszyszyn

Dance Choreography

Cider Mill Dance Choreography 1st Place: Elana Yermesheva

Special Artist

Cider Mill Special Artist 1st Place: Magnolia Tesler

5th Grade Yearbook

Calling all **5th 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

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

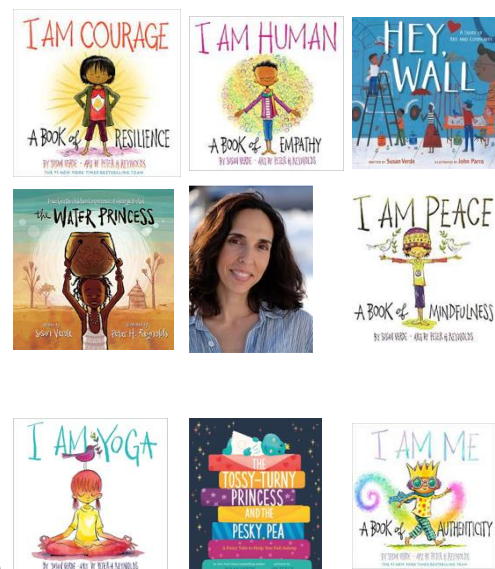
CM Visiting Author

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!

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

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](#).

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 (HRRA). 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

Zero Waste Schools

Scott Driscoll Parent Presentation - Internet Safety and Social Media – March 7th (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



"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



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 OR Vanessa at 203-970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com

[Submit News to Hot Cider](#)

Anu Suri at anusuri2022@gmail.com

Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is March 9, 2023.
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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.