

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – January 17, 2021

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

Important Dates

Jan 15	Day 4
Jan 18	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Jan 25	Belden Hill/Kent Photo Day Make-up
Jan 26	Cannondale /Nod Hill Photo Day Make-up
Feb 12	SHORTENED DAY (Teacher professional development)
Feb 15- Feb 19	NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)

From The PTA President

To Cider Mill Parents and Guardians:

I hope you all are enjoying the long weekend!

Photo retake day will be Monday, January 25th for the South Side , and Tuesday , January 26th for the North. Remote students will have the option to have their photos taken after school starting at 2:30pm. Please use the following link to signup (**this is for remote students only**)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4BACA92EA1F58-cmphoto>

Students that were absent on Photo day will have their photos taken on these days as well. Please send in the fall package with your student to hand off on photo day even if you are having retakes done. Lifetouch will still take your students photo even if you no longer have the original packet. All CM families will receive a refreshed class photo after retake day. If you have specific issues with your photo please contact Lifetouch directly at <https://contact.lifetouch.com/> or 1-888-267-7571.

Reading Rocks will kick off on February 1st! The Program will be 100% virtual this year, and there are many exciting events planned . The Program will kick off with a video shared at school and personalized fundraising pages that will be mailed to parents. The reading period is February 6 through February 20th , and all pledges are due by February 5th to be eligible for the iPad and Kindles. Please be on the lookout for additional information on this program. If you have any questions please contact Jen Carvajal jencrav@hotmail.com or Kiki Cross kcross106@gmail.com

As a reminder, CM has moved to the “FastLane” procedure for pickup. Instructions are below if you have not already transitioned to using the fast lane button . Please remember to wait until you see the “click button here” sign in the pickup lane. Hitting the button before you reach the sign causes delays and had more students outside than should be.

For this to be successful, please read the following directions.

[SDM FAST LANE QUICK GUIDE](#)

The **Wilton PTA's** extend a huge thank you to the **Turnover Shop** for the \$25,000 donation! The Turnover shop has been a long-standing supporter of the schools and these funds support student enrichment programs sponsored by the PTAs in each school. For anyone looking for a wonderful volunteer opportunity, please email [the Turnover Shop](#) for further information. The Turnover Shop is always open to new volunteers, with weekly to even once a month commitments available. Located to the lower left of the Village Market, the Turnover Shop accepts donations when open.

The PTA is beginning to look towards next year to help facilitate a smooth transition into the new school year. With that being said, many of our Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs will be leaving CM in the , which requires us to fill many open positions. A few of these positions include Co-President, Treasurer and Hospitality. If you would like to volunteer or would like to hear more about the open

positions, please contact Meghan Russo, President at meghan.russo13@gmail.com, Amanda Patania, Nominating Chair amanda_Patania@yahoo.com and / or Alex Frisbee, Nominating Chair alex.frisbee.pta@gmail.com

Please join us for our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 10am via Zoom. Thank you for all of your continued support. Please reach out if you have any questions or comments at meghan.russo13@gmail.com.

Meghan Russo

CM PTA President.

School News

Recess Aide Opportunity

If you are interested in being a hired aide Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri from 10.30=1.30 you can apply at : <https://www.wiltonps.org/departments/human-resources> and please contact Lauren Catalano directly at catalanol@wiltonps.org. The children will not be wearing masks outside; therefore, you must be comfortable with this scenario and participate in helping the children remain physically distant. Aides will lead the children in physically distant games while also supervising chat circles and walks. We know there is a lot to think through and make sense of. If your schedule allows for it, please consider taking on this role. If you know someone who would fit the role of a recess aide, please share this note and encourage them apply and contact Lauren as soon as possible.

<https://www.wiltonps.org/departments/human-resources>

WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ~ OPEN POSITIONS

The Wilton Public Schools "For a Better World" are seeking recent college graduates, college students, retirees, career-changers, and those interested in giving back to their community to join a dynamic, engaging, and inspirational team of staff and students. A number of flexible positions are available, including substitutes, lunch-recess monitors, certified teachers, long-term substitutes, and paraprofessionals. Help shape the lives of our future leaders! To learn more and/or apply, please visit our website at: <https://www.wiltonps.org/departments/human-resources> or contact Human Resources Coordinator Erika Cross at crosse@wiltonps.org.

Ongoing School News

NEED HELP IN SCHOOL? FREE TUTORING FOR CM STUDENTS

All Cider mill students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are Wilton High School students. Please fill out this form if you need help in any subject: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBFFyrppvQ7z7wMCub3j3oQGmwM7m0DVbqgRvBB0cVloK6xQ/viewform>

For more information, please visit <https://youracademics.org/>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The PTA has 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](#).

STOP AND SHOP REWARDS PROGRAM

CIDER MILL SCHOOL (ID#: 40341) has the opportunity to participate and earn CASH from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through our local Stop & Shop!

To participate: Visit <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus> and scroll down to the center of the page to select REGISTER YOUR CARD from the red box on the right marked FOR CUSTOMERS

To earn points:

- Use your registered Stop & Shop Card each time you shop at Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can track the number of points you are earning for our school by checking your grocery receipt.

- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards for our school. These CASH rewards are updated monthly on the Giant A+ website beginning in November.
- After the last day of the 2019-2020 program, these same conversions are performed and the final school account total is posted.
- Our school will receive one CASH awards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

BOX TOPS HAVE GONE DIGITAL!

No more clipping Box Tops! Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production. The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

3 easy steps...

1. Download the "Box Top\$ for Education" app on your phone.
2. Sign up using your email or Google or Facebook account.
3. Simply snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.

Have a question? Please reach out to Allison Norful via email: anorful@gmail.com

ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS

With the start of school, we'd also like to send a Zero Waste quick refresher for all, it's YES to using reusable containers, bags, silverware, and ice packs; purchasing bulk snacks to sort into reusable containers, packing realistic portions and taking home uneaten food (or compost!) It's AVOID disposable paper or plastic bags; Individually-packaged snacks; non-reusable food wrap; disposable ice packs, utensils, or drink containers (juice boxes or pouches); and plastic straws.

Community News

Join Wilton Go Green's Do One thing Campaign

Join our campaign designed to help our community connect with one another on a different level. We aim to let each other see what our friends and family are doing around simple changes we are making to help foster more sustainable behaviors. These efforts can be made in different areas of our lives and spread positivity by showing us that we all can make a difference.

Join the campaign by visiting our ["Do One Thing"](#) webpage to view all different types of action perhaps you are already taking and then consider a new action to try for 2021. We are sharing images and stories through social media pages, website and newsletters.

[Zero Waste Schools](#)

Your Covid Toolbox: Helping Adults Cope in Crazy Times ~ January 19th 10-11am

Has the past year got you feeling stressed, anxious, not sleeping well or over-indulging? Join Matt DeBernardis, Resilience Trainer from Silver Hill Hospital, for an interactive online workshop and gather some tools to help you cope during the winter months of the pandemic. This workshop focuses on evidence-based strategies proven to enhance one's ability to not only bounce back, but to grow and thrive in the face of hardship. Sponsored by Wilton Library, Wilton Youth Council, Silver Hill Hospital and Wilton Social Services. Visit <https://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events/> for more information and registration information.

WILTON SEPTA (SPECIAL EDUCATION PTA)

Join us! Next Wilton SEPTA (Special Education PTA) meeting:

Wednesday, February 10th at 7 PM

Support our families, students and staff! Open positions for next year include President, Secretary and Committee Chairs!

We are excited to present new programs coming early this Spring 2021:

For Students:

[Sensory Integration Art Experience Classes.](#)

free for SEPTA member families
Social Hangouts, Cooperative Play Groups:
Facilitated by trained BCBA's from the Hangout Spot
Free for SEPTA member families
Details to follow

April's Diversity and Inclusion Awareness Month Committee needs Volunteers!

Join us to find out more: Two ways to Join here! Mobile App to join all PTA's and Paypal link to join SEPTA only <https://www.wiltonsepta.org/projecto-5>

Feb. 10th zoom meeting link here!

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/91630930209?pwd=LzBzSIVHSVJrWXdiM0dKNHhxQzJ0Zz09>

Thanks!

Kara Berghaus
Wilton SEPTA President

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

Clarissa Cannavino at clarissacannavino@yahoo.com

Anu Suri at anusuri2022@gmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is January 27, 2021.

The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on January 31, 2021.

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.

QUICK GUIDE ON NEW CIDER MILL PICK UP LINE PROCEDURE

Cider Mill will be utilizing a new feature in School Dismissal Manager (SDM) called FastLane, and your child's class has been chosen to participate in our pilot of the program – **you do not need to activate anything, as this feature is already turned on in SDM!** This new system uses the SDM app to allow parents to notify their child's classroom teacher that it is time to send your child out to the pick up area. *When you hit the clearly marked check-in spot in the pick up line*, you will open the SDM app on your phone and press the blue button marked "CLICK HERE TO CHECK IN." A photo of this button and a screenshot of the SDM homepage with the button are at the end of this quick guide. Please note, this button will ONLY appear in the app 10 minutes prior to dismissal and will remain there for 2 hours – at all other times, you will not see this button.

So what do I have to do?!

- ◆ **If your child's default dismissal plans are already set to CM PICK UP NORTH or SOUTH LOT**, you do NOT need to do anything additional UNLESS you need to modify the pick up person (use "Add Exception").
 - ◆ 10 minutes prior to dismissal, a blue button will appear on the pick up person's homepage in the SDM app that says "CLICK HERE TO CHECK IN." **You will press this button ONLY when you hit the clearly marked check-in spot in the pick up line.**
- ◆ **If your child's default dismissal plans are BUS and your child is riding the bus home**, you do NOT need to do anything.
- ◆ **If your child's default dismissal plans are BUS, however you want to pick up** in the pick up line on any given day, you will choose "Add Exception" (as you would normally, before 12:30 p.m. on regular days) and select CM PICK UP NORTH or SOUTH LOT. You will follow a series of prompts to specify who is picking up your child.
 - ◆ 10 minutes prior to dismissal, a blue button will appear on the pick up person's homepage in the SDM app that says "CLICK HERE TO CHECK IN." **You will press this button ONLY when you hit the clearly marked check-in spot in the pick up line.**
- ◆ **If you have set up recurring exceptions for PICK UP NORTH or SOUTH LOT** (for example, every Monday your child is not taking the bus home, they are a recurring pick up in the North Lot), you do NOT need to change anything UNLESS you need to modify the pick up person.
 - ◆ 10 minutes prior to dismissal, a blue button will appear on the pick up person's homepage in the SDM app that says "CLICK HERE TO CHECK IN." **You will press this button ONLY when you hit the clearly marked check-in spot in the pick up line.**

What if someone else is picking up my child?!

If someone besides you is picking up your child in the pick up line, you will simply choose "Add Exception," select CM PICK UP NORTH or SOUTH LOT, and follow a series of prompts to specify who is picking up your child.

- ◆ **If the person picking up your child is a parent of another student at Cider Mill**, when prompted "Who is picking up your child?" you will select "Someone Else," and follow the prompts to say this person is a parent of another student.

