

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – January 8, 2024

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

Important Dates

Jan 9	PTA Meeting, 9:15 am cafeteria
Jan 19	Spirit Day, Dress Like a Rockstar
Jan 19	Reading Rocks! Launches
Jan 19	Snow Ball Dance Party: 5:30 to 7:00 pm grades 3 and 4, 7:30 to 9:00 pm grades 4 and 5
Jan 24	4 th Grade Chorus/Orchestra South, 9:15 to 10:15 am and 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
Jan 25	4 th Grade Chorus/Orchestra North, 9:15 to 10:15 am and 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Jan 25	BOE Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 pm, WHS Library
Jan 31	5 th Grade Orchestra/Advanced Strings 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Feb 1	BOE/BOF Joint Meeting, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, WHS Library
Feb 3-16	Reading Rocks! Reading Period
Feb 7	Read Aloud Day

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Cider Mill PTA wishes everyone a Happy New Year! We hope coming back to school after the break has been a smooth transition as we begin the second half of our school year!

We are pleased to announce that we received a very **generous donation from The Turnover Shop** in Wilton! The \$18,000 we received will be used towards grant requests and other activities for students. Please see below for ways to support The Turnover Shop.

Snow Ball dance party tickets are now on sale! Please see below for more information.

Our next PTA meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 9 at 9:15 am** in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome! We have some new members to vote in as well as voting on previous meeting minutes and a grant request. We hope to see you there!

Beginning in February we will also be seeking some new board members for the next school year, so please stay tuned for more details, or if you are interested, please reach out.

As always, we thank you for your support. We can always be reached at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or carolinehavlin@hotmail.com

Melissa Reynolds and Caroline Hoffman
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 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/scschoollfiles/2699/wps_covid_protocols_2022-23_school_opening.pdf

WPS Back to School Website: https://www.wiltonps.org/342738_2

WPS 2023-24 School Calendar: https://www.wiltonps.org/342735_2

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/>

ParentSquare 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

Snowball Dance Party Tickets on Sale!

Back by popular demand, the **Snowball Dance Party will be held on January 19**, in the Cider Mill Gym. There will be two times, **5:30 pm to 7:00 pm for 3rd and 4th grades and 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm for 4th and 5th grades.**

Children will enjoy an interactive DJ, foosball, basketball, photo booths, nail painting and airbrush tattoos, as well as snacks and refreshments. This is not a “date” dance. It is a night of fun for our Cider Mill kids and we hope everyone has an enjoyable time! If you do not wish your child to have nails or tattoos done, please speak with them before the dance.

Tickets can be purchased here: [Spiritwear | cidermillpta](#)

Fun Nights – 3rd and 4th Grades

Every year our 3rd and 4th graders enjoy an evening of fun, a magic show, laser show, or similar. **We are eager to find a person, or persons to put these together this year!** Due to booking, it is easier to run both groups the same night, one after the other, so entertainment only needs to make on trip. The PTA has a budget set for the event. If interested, please let us know!

School Store Opening!

The Cider Mill School Store will open Wednesday, January 10, starting with 5th grade and rotating each grade each Wednesday during their lunch period. The store is brought to the cafeteria where students can shop. Items generally include pencils, erasers, and other small items.

If you are interested in running the store for session, please sign up here:

[Cider Mill School Store: Cider Mill School Store Schedule - 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

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Turnover Shop Donation

Again, the Wilton Turnover Shop was very generous towards all of the Wilton PTA's this year. Cider Mill received a donation of \$18,000 dollars which will go towards gifts and grants as well as other requests. We thank the Turnover Shop for thinking of us! Please remember it is a great resource to relieve yourself of unneeded clothing and goods, or to pick up something. The Turnover Shop is located just under the Village Market.

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Reading Rocks!

Wilton Education Foundation (WEF) is excited to announce our Annual **Reading Rocks! Fundraiser**. All students in grades PreK-5 are invited to participate. Reading Rocks! will officially kick-off on **January 19th with Dress Like a Rockstar Day**. Pledge collection for Reading Rocks! is once again fully digital this year. Participants will create online campaign pages to share their reading goals with friends and family who wish to donate to support them.

Please visit the following website to learn more about the program or to make an online pledge donation starting on Jan 19!

[https://wiltoneeducationfoundation.org/events-programs/reading-rocks.](https://wiltoneeducationfoundation.org/events-programs/reading-rocks)

If you have questions, please email Elizabeth Brown at eliz.wise@gmail.com, Caroline Hoffman at carolinehavlin@hotmail.com, or Sarah Rondeau at sarah.rondeau@gmail.com.



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Fifth Grade Yearbooks

Submit Photos for the Fifth Grade Yearbook:

Attention fifth grade families and teachers! You are invited to submit photos of your fifth graders for the yearbook! We plan to feature photos from the first day of school, events such as the Walkathon and Halloween parade, classroom activities, recess, assemblies, and much more. You will simply need to create a new Lifetouch account, then you can use the link or QR code below, along with the invite code, to upload your images. Be sure to tag them with the appropriate labels (first day, walkathon, etc.) so we know what's what. Thank you for your participation in making a fabulous yearbook for our students to treasure for years to come!

<https://community.lifetouch.com/invite?code=CIDERMILLYEARBOOK-24>

Invite Code: CIDERMILLYEARBOOK-24



Reflections 2023 - 2024 Entries Due January 16 – Extended Deadline!

Please see below for details on registering for this year's **Reflections** competition. The theme this year is **I Am Hopeful Because...** For more information, please scan the QR code below or see the website for details. Good luck to everyone!



The poster features the National PTA Reflections logo at the top left, with the text '2023-2024 CALL FOR ENTRIES!' below it. The main title 'I am Hopeful Because...' is written in large, stylized blue letters. To the right, a sun and a cloud are depicted. Below the title, it says 'Explore the arts and express yourself!' and 'All submissions are Due January 10th, 2024'. A paragraph states: 'All students are welcomed to register in the Reflections competition. To register please use the QR code that applies to the student's school. Students submitting as "Special Artists" can see guidelines for additional information.' At the bottom left, there are four QR codes for Miller Driscoll, Cider Mill, Middlebrook, and Wilton High, each with its respective school logo. To the right of these is the SEPTA logo with the tagline 'everychild.onevoice.' and a cluster of colorful flowers with icons representing various art forms like music, dance, and visual arts. The bottom of the poster includes the text 'Learn more and get involved! PTA.org/Reflections'.



SAVE THE DATE- Cider Mill's second annual World Culture Night!

Our World Culture Night will take place on **Wednesday, March 6th from 5-8pm**. Just like last year, we hope to incorporate representation from the cultures and heritages that make up our Cider Mill School Community.

To do this, we will have a celebratory food component at this special event and we need volunteers. Save the date if you are interested in cooking/representing your culture and/or volunteering at this fabulous event!

All foods will be "small bites" or finger-foods (e.g. appetizers, desserts, drinks) that can be eaten on the go with minimal set-up. You will also need to delineate all ingredients to support community members with allergies. Families are also welcome to represent their culture in any way such as artifacts, music, crafts, traditional apparel, etc....Please be on the lookout for a sign up if you are interested in either participating or volunteering to help to make this a successful event!

Thank you,
The Cider Mill DEI Committee

Event Date: Wednesday, March 6th
Tentative Event Time: 5:00-8:00 pm
Event Location: Cider Mill School
Contact us at (203) 762-3351 and ask for Alyssa Peterson or Petersona@wiltonps.org

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Movie Night

Due to a very wet fall our outdoor movie night was unable to happen. We still have a deposit with the movie company which needs to be used up, so movie night is moving indoors! Anyone with a ticket to our movie night in September can use it at **indoor movie night March 1, in the Cider Mill Gym**.

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AtoZ Connect

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](http://membershiptoolkit.com). You can register here and then join the PTA by clicking on Join The PTA.

A Single Membership gives you directory access and one vote when voting on PTA issues. A Family Membership gives you directory access and two votes.

Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. All revenue goes to pay dues to the CTPTA and to support school events, grants, gifts, and more!

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Cider Mill Spirit Wear On-Sale Online!

If you didn't grab your **Cider Mill Spirit Wear** at Meet the Teacher or Open House, you can still purchase it online. All orders will be delivered to school for your child to pick up. Please see here to purchase: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>.

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Lost and Found

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? A headband, a hat, or a fidget? If any of your child's belongings haven't made their way home, he or she can check the Lost and Found to try to recover them. Tables are located at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent.

A great way to help out is by labelling your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels, where a percentage goes back to the PTA. Here is the link: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/mabel-s-labels>

Wilton SEPTA

Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help!

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2023-2024 school year, for meeting dates, for volunteer and officer opportunities, and to stay updated with the latest 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, and Committee positions are 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 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awareness and Be Kind Campaign

Zoom link for all 2023-2024 meetings:

<https://wiltonps.zoom.us/j/91771706236>

Community News

Dialectical Parent Therapy Program

Please join Tanya Leonard in a four-part wellness series learning about the evidence-based curriculum that introduces and dives deeper into four specific Modules: Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance, Emotion Regulation, and Interpersonal Effectiveness.

Dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) skills *in schools* help everyone improve and regulate their emotions, allow for more tolerance of distress and negative emotion, to be mindful and present within the moment, improving communication, and an ability to interact more effectively with others.

- 4 Sessions: 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12 Attendees are asked to attend all sessions. Sessions are in person or live by Zoom (no recording/replay). *There is a limit of 25 participants by Zoom.*
- 7-8:30 pm, Q&A 8:30-9pm
- Location: Middlebrook School, [131 School Rd, Wilton, CT 06897. \(Room 156\)](#) - across from the Guidance Office and attached to the LLC) & Zoom

Thank you to the PTA's and WEF grant funding to make this program available to Wilton caregivers for free!

[To register please click here](#)

Woodcock Nature Center

Afterschool Programs:

Navigators

Dive headfirst into nature and explore your fascination with the natural world! Through hiking, animal encounters, nature activities, and more, we'll enhance our understanding of nature as we appreciate and enjoy precious time spent outdoors! Learning will be guided by our observations as we play and explore.

Tuesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm, January 23 – March 12, 2024

Earth Artists

Do you love nature and art? Join the Earth Artists!

Each week we will create art projects inspired by animals and nature (and sometimes made from nature too!). **Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 pm, January 24 – March 13, 2024**

Register here: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/3-5afterschool>

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Wilton Historical Society

Model trains, holiday cheer, and family fun return with one of Wilton’s favorite winter traditions, the Great Trains Holiday Show! Explore the Wilton Historical Society’s 18th and 19th century historic buildings – charmingly decorated for the holiday season – to find multiple layouts of model trains that wind their way through miniature snowy landscapes, vibrant towns, and mountain tunnels, as well as some unexpected characters! The interactive displays and model holiday village are perfect holiday fun for all ages. Whether a model train builder or collector, young wannabe train conductors, or a family looking for a delightful seasonal experience, the Great Trains Holiday Show has something for everyone.

The Great Trains Holiday Show will run through January 15, 2024. Wilton Historical Society Hours during this event are Wednesdays – Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Sundays, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Admission is free for members, \$5 per non-member child and \$10 per non-member adults.

Special holiday programming occurs on select Saturdays in December, including a singalong with Music on the Hill on December 2 and a visit from Santa Claus on December 9! While you are visiting the Train Show, don’t miss shopping at the Betts Store Museum Shop for holiday treats and treasures!

[Our website](#) has more details, including scheduling for holiday programming throughout December.

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The Turnover Shop

The Turnover Shop is a great Wilton resource when looking to reuse or donate items you no longer need. They run on volunteers and sell by donations or consignment. Many of our lost and found items end up at the Turnover Shop at the end of terms! Please check them out at <https://turnovershopwilton.org/>.

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IvyMath

[IvyMath](#) is providing all Cider Mill families with a free online math tutoring session and an in-depth parent conference to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and how they compare to grade level.

IvyMath will also create a custom learning plan that maps out the exact areas your child should be focusing on in math for the rest of the year. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, and understand what your child needs to feel confident and stay on track in math this year.

The IvyMath tutoring session, parent conference, and learning plan are free for all Cider Mill families. Popular times fill up, so please register quickly! **Signup now at: IvyMath.com/Boost**

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Wilton Youth Council



**WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL
&
CLASSICALLY CATE**

Available now at Classically Cate, 77 Old Ridgefield Rd

- ★ exclusive **YOU MATTER** and **YOU GOT THIS** designs
- ★ special gift packaging
- ★ your choice from 8 different custom cards
- ★ local delivery available

A portion of the proceeds benefits  WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL
empowering youth, parents and community

NAMI-CAN WILTON

School is back in session and for many children, so are the academic and social stresses that can cause behavioral changes. **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 meetings are 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, find resources 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. <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Our winter meetings will be held on the following Monday mornings over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am: January 8, February 5 and March 4, 2024. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>
Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

In the meantime, for password and more information please 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

Danielle Michalisin at micdch72@gmail.com

Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

Deadline for submission for the next issue of Hot Cider is January 18, 2024.
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on January 22, 2024.

Content may be edited at the discretion of editors. To keep Hot Cider timely and concise, your article may be published only twice.