

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – September 11, 2023

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

Important Dates

Sept 11	Open House, Kent/Belden Hill, 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm
Sept 12	PTA Meeting 9:15, school cafeteria
Sept 18	Open House, Nod Hill/Cannondale, 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm
Sept 21	BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
Sept 23	Cider Mill Movie Night 6:45 pm, Comstock Field
Sept 27	School Photo Day
Oct 3	Flu Clinic 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm
Oct 5	BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 12	Cider Mill Walkathon

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone has had a happy and productive start to the school year!

The Cider Mill PTA has been busy. Please join us for our first **PTA meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 12 at 9:15 am in the school cafeteria**. We are hoping to offer a Zoom option but are experiencing some technical difficulties. Please keep an eye on email and Facebook for a link. We are hoping to be able to vote on our **2023/2024** budget, so every vote is needed!

A reminder that **Open Houses are September 11 (South Houses) and September 18 (North Houses)**. They run from **6:45 pm to 7:30 pm** and are full of information about what your child will be learning this year. **Spirit Wear** will also be on sale in the front entrance during the Open Houses!

The 2nd annual **Cider Mill Movie Night** is coming up. Enjoy a night out (literally) by enjoying **The Super Mario Bros. Movie in Comstock Field on Saturday, September 23rd**. Parents attend free, and this is not a drop off event. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/movie-night>.

Photo Day is fast approaching! You can preorder your child's photos here: <https://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/#/prepay-student-info> with event number **EVTNMT8FK**. A call for photo day volunteers will go out soon!

Please see the links below for info that will be helpful this school year. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or issues at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or carolinehavlin@hotmail.com

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

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/scschoolfles/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

Cider Mill PTA Needs YOU!

The Cider Mill PTA works hard to ensure enjoyment for its teachers and students, as well as providing funding for many enrichment programs and grants. We still have many areas where we can use some help! Please email giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com if you are interested!

The following positions are still open:

VP Fundraising – or a fundraising group

The PTA runs events throughout the year that can use someone with great organizational skills, or even a group to work together to make these happen! These include our walkathon, ice skating night, snowball dance, and more.

5th Grade Yearbook Chairs

The 5th grade yearbook is gifted to its graduating class from the PTA. It includes photos from events throughout the year as well as school photos, comments from students and is a great keepsake. Volunteers are needed to organize all this information and create the yearbook.

Book Fair Chair

Cider Mill runs two Scholastic Book Fairs, one in November and another in May. Duties involve organizing volunteers to set up and work shifts, sending out information, including ewallet setup information, and closing the fair.

Spirit Wear Chair

Cider Mill is proud to see its students walking the halls in their house colors! The Spirit Wear Chair would monitor orders and distribute as well as help sell at events and secure new inventory.

Photo Day Chair

Photo Day is fast approaching! A photo day chair is needed to organize volunteers to help the students get their photos taken in a calm and orderly fashion.

Garden Center Chair

Our garden center is terribly overgrown! Cider Mill hopes to make the garden center a great learning tool for this year, not to mention the outdoor club. Anyone with a green thumb or a love of digging in the dirt, please reach out!

Hot Cider Co-Editor

Hot Cider is our bi-monthly newsletter full of Cider Mill info, events, and community happenings. The co-editor would be responsible for every other month, updating the information in Word and then sending it out via ParentSquare.

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Cider Mill Movie Night Tickets ON SALE Now!

Join us in the Comstock Fields for a night of a movie and popcorn! The Super Mario Bros. Movie will begin promptly at 7:30, and movie goers can begin setting up their chairs, blankets, and snacks at 6:45 pm. Tickets are available here: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/movie-night>. This is not a drop off event, and adults come free.

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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, 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>.

ParentSquare

Wilton Schools are now using Parent Square www.parentsquare.com. This is a new platform to receive school communication (updates, newsletter, class info, etc.). Don't miss out on information!

Once you join, go to notifications, and pick a preference of ways you want to receive information - what method of communication (text, email, or both), and how often (instant, daily). Emergency Alert will override all preferences (ex. Snow Day) and will alert you by text and email instantly.

AtoZ Connect

The PTA has a new membership platform, **AtoZ Connect!** Through this platform we will provide a directory of students, sell tickets to events, sell spirit wear, and conduct surveys. Please register by going to <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/> or downloading the app.

PTA memberships will be available soon. Each membership gives you one vote in the PTA and access to the directory. Stay tuned for more details!

Wilton SEPTA

Wilton SEPTA is looking for your help! Please see the link [HERE](#) to find out how you can help and future meeting dates.

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

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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Wilton Land Trust

Wilton Land Trust has a wonderful fall lineup to bring everyone closer to nature! Check out their listings below:

1. Birds & Binoculars:
A birding hike
Sept. 17, 8:00am – 10:00am
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/birds-binoculars-2023/>
2. Birds of Prey:
A Live Raptor Event
Sept. 16, 11:00am – 12:00 pm
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/birds-of-prey-2023/>
3. Books & a Blanket
Sept. 22, 10:00am – 11:00 am
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/books-a-blanket-sept-2023/>
4. Stewardship Sunday
The Seasons' Kickoff
Sept. 24, 1:30pm – 3:00 pm
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/2023-fall-stewardship-sundays/>

5. Wellness Walk
Sept. 26, 10:15am – 12:30 pm
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/wellness-walk/>

6. Trekking Together:
A Guided fall hike
Sept. 30, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/trekking-together-fall-2023/>

7. Create & Connect:
A Watercolor painting workshop
Sept. 30, 4:30pm – 7:30 pm AGE 18+
Registration: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/create-connect-2023/>

YB Taekwondo

YB Taekwondo was just added as a bus stop for Cider Mill this year!! It's a great option for parents looking for an after-school activity (Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4pm). Please see the link to find out more and register! www.ybworldtkd.com.

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Bulb Sales to Support A Better Chance of Wilton

Your purchase of bulbs, herb kits, and/or candles will support **A Better Chance of Wilton**. 50% of your sales will go back to the organization. You can buy bulbs for yourself or have them shipped to others as a gift!

Order Here: Three Rivers Fundraising

Dashing For Dylan - Kids Fun Run and Family Fun Day

Dashing for Dylan- Kids Fun Run & Family Fun Day is happening on **Sunday October 1st at Crawford Park in Rye Brook** (25 minutes from Wilton) from 10-2 and celebrates **Dylan Hoffman** who lived his 3 short years in Wilton and was about to start Miller Driscoll. This event benefits the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley where Dylan's family stayed while was in the hospital at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

Register Here: <https://rmh-ghv.org/index.php/events/dashing-for-dylan/>

Dylan's family still lives in Wilton and his sisters attend Cider Mill and Miller Driscoll. His family enjoys celebrating him each fall and giving back to the place that was so beneficial to them during Dylan's health crisis.

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Woodcock Nature Center

The Woodcock Nature Center has something for everyone this fall!

**Woodcock Nature Center -
Under The Harvest Moon Event - Friday 9/22**

[Woodcock Nature Fall Benefit | Under the Harvest Moon | September 22 \(woodcocknaturecenter.org\)](http://woodcocknaturecenter.org)

An enjoyable, relaxed evening of food, live music and more to benefit the nature center’s well-loved programs in environmental education. Held in and around Woodcock’s picturesque candlelit pavilion and pond, a highlight of the evening is carefully prepared fare by local chefs Sarah and Bernard Bouissou of the newly established **À Table** in Ridgefield.

A unique **silent auction** includes items not available anywhere else such as tickets to a Woodcock Yoga Retreat, a Birding Brunch experience, private animal encounters... you can even bid on a spot at summer camp! **Live auction** items include a Wreath Festival experience for 15 guests, private pavilion events, an upstate New York getaway and more.

Plus, guests will enjoy wine from **Cellar XV Wine Market**, brews and spirits from **Nod Hill Brewery** and **Litchfield Distillery**, delightful desserts and coffee from **Queen B Coffee Company**, and live music by Wilton's own guitarist **Matt Greene**.

Woodcock After School Programs:
[3-5 Afterschool | Woodcock Nature Center](#)

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

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

Improve Your Academics

All Wilton School District students can receive tutoring at no cost. All tutors are fellow Wilton High School students.

Please fill out this [FORM](#) if you need help in any subject. For more information, please visit our [WEBSITE](#). **Tutoring available in person and virtually for grades 6+, virtually only for 3rd-5th graders.**

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 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, 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 fall meetings are **Mondays September 11th, October 2nd, and November 6th over zoom from 10-11:30. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>**
Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

For the password and more information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa at 203 970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com

NAMI-Basics

NAMI-Basics is a FREE six-week program that allows families to connect to another while learning about mental illness, its impact on children and adolescents, strategies to deal with schools and providers and tools to empower parents/caregivers to overcome new challenges.

This program is for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents with a diagnosis of mental illness or in the process to get an evaluation with diverse and complex needs.

<https://namisouthwestct.org>

In person - Tuesdays 9:30 am to noon - Oct. 3 to Nov. 7
Darien Depot, 25 Heights Road, Darien, CT

To register, email Karen at mkarwest@hotmail.com
or Evan at epagano@me.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 September 21, 2023. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on September 25, 2023

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