

Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication

December 18, 2016

Important Dates

Dec 19	Day 1
Dec 22	Report Cards Sent Home in Email
Dec 23	SHORTENED DAY, Dismissal at 11:55am (Holiday Recess)
Dec 26 - Jan 2	NO SCHOOL (Holiday Recess)
Jan 6	Deadline for National PTA Reflections Competition
Jan 6	Reading Rocks! Pledge Forms Go Home
Jan 10	PTA Meeting, Cafeteria, 9:15am
Jan 16	NO SCHOOL (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Jan 24	"Feeling Safe" Parent Workshop, 9:30am, Cafeteria
Jan 27	"Dress Like a Rock Star" Day and Reading Rocks! Pledge Forms Due
Jan 27	3 rd Grade Fun Night
Jan 28	Reading Rocks! Reading Period Begins

Important Phone Numbers

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or fallonk@wiltonps.org
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

Note from the PTA President

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,
Welcome to the final Hot Cider of 2016, what a year it has been! This week saw the PTA Hospitality committee organize its famous Teacher's Holiday Brunch. Thank you to all those who donated food items, and to the hard work and dedication of the hospitality co-chairs Annemarie Aronowitz, Holly Barker, Lena Booth, Lisa Finn, Sharon Prather and Valerie Shukovsky. It is truly an event full of warmth and gratitude.

Thursday night was our first Family Bingo Night. It was incredible to see the cafeteria packed out with families and friends. Thank you to the co-chairs who brought this event to life - Jess Christ, Jackie Couch, Susan Price and Mandi Schmauch. You guys did an amazing job!

If your kids are looking for something fun and creative to do during the break, have them complete an entry for our Reflections competition (see below for more)

information). Finally, please check to see if you are missing a coat, sweatshirt, hat or gloves, lost property is overflowing and unclaimed items will be donated to the Turnover Shop at the end of this week!

I wish you a very happy holiday season and peaceful New Year.

Warmly,

Nicola Davies, PTA President

School News

2016-17 National PTA Reflections Student Art Competition ~ November 17-January 6

This year's PTA Reflection Student Art Competition theme is "What Is Your Story?" This is a great opportunity for student artists to REFLECT on the theme, CREATE art, and BE RECOGNIZED! Entries will be displayed at the Wilton Library in January. First place winners will move forward to the state level. Students are encouraged to submit original pieces of art in one or more of the following categories:

Visual Arts

Photography

Dance Choreography

Literature

Film Production

Musical Composition

For entry forms and rules, please visit the CT PTA Reflections website at <http://www.ctpta.org/reflections-program>. Students can place their entries in the blue bin in the main office. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 6th. For more information, please contact Jane Hamilton (janehamilton15@mac.com) or Emily Galligan (emgrill@yahoo.com).

Shutterfly and Tiny Prints ~ Fundraiser for Cider Mill

Holiday card season is here. If you choose to buy your cards through Shutterfly or Tiny Prints, Cider Mill will benefit by receiving 13% of your purchase. Please use this link: <http://cidermill.shutterflystorefront.com/>.

Look Out for "Reading Rocks!" Pledge Forms Coming by January 6!

Wilton Education Foundation's (WEF's) very successful "Reading Rocks!" program is back for its 6th year! "Reading Rocks!" is a fun, non-competitive Read-A-Thon type fundraiser for students in Pre-K to 5th grades. Over the five years of this event, "Reading Rocks!" has raised more than \$200,000 for our Wilton Public Schools!!! This year, with your support, we hope to attain 100% student participation. "Reading Rocks!" pledge forms will be sent home with students by Friday, January 6th, which is also "Book Character Day" where students can dress up as a favorite book character. The pledge form will also be available to

download on Edline by 12/19 for those wishing to start collecting pledges over winter break! Not only does this program help students celebrate literacy, but there are great prizes too, including an iPad*, Kindle Fires and more!! *win an iPad or a gift card of equivalent value to the Apple Store.

For questions please contact Julie Steckel at jjsteckel@gmail.com or Kiki Cross at kcross106@gmail.com. Many thanks to the Stroup family for generously sponsoring "Reading Rocks!"

Third Grade Fun Night, January 27, 7-9pm

We will need parent volunteers for the check in and individual activities. Look for the sign up first week of January!

Seeking Co-Chairs for Fifth Grade Fun Night

We are seeking a 5th grade parent or two to chair or co-chair 5th Grade Fun Night on Saturday, February 25th. This is a truly memorable night for our 5th graders who get to take over the entire YMCA for the night, as well as swimming and access to the basketball courts, there are other fun activities going on - a magic show, a disco, photo booth to name but three. If you would like to find out more about what the role entails, please contact Tara Snow - tanda@optonline.net or Nicola Davies - nicoladavies@outlook.com.

Ongoing Cider Mill News

Join the Cider Mill PTA!

The Cider Mill PTA is a powerful network of parents and teachers whose mission is to make every child's potential a reality, by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. We want you as a member! Joining the PTA is showing that you care what happens in your child's education. It shows you want to be involved, engaged and informed. It is not a commitment to volunteer for anything!

It does not 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, get to know your school and administrators, have a voice and be heard at the school and 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, Walkathon, Book Fair, Spiritwear, library volunteers, and the Hot Cider newsletter.

Membership signup is ONLY online. Joining gives you instant access to the Cider Mill directory of parent and student information. You can download the MobileArq app at the

Apple Store or Google Play Store, or visit this link: <http://wilton.mobilearq.com> and use code 'wilton'.

Buy Name Labels at Mabel's Labels

Last year, over 300 sweatshirts, 100 winter hats, 50 pairs of gloves, 50 lunch boxes, and 10 winter jackets were left in our Lost Property areas at school. The overwhelming majority had no owner information marked in them. To raise funds and reduce this immense amount of loss, we have teamed up with Mabel's Labels to run a fundraiser. Mabel's Labels adhere to your child's clothing and will not come off in the wash. You will get your missing property back and Cider Mill will earn money! Please visit www.mabelslabels.com. Click on 'Support a Fundraiser.' We are listed as Cider Mill School (Wilton). Cider Mill will receive a 20% donation based on the cost of your order. Thank you!

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](#).

Lost and Found

There are two L&F locations in Cider Mill. One is at the doorway where you go to the playground, on the high school side (Cannondale). The other is by the front door on the far side of the bus loop (Kent). You or your child can check these locations for lost items. At the end of each season, the unclaimed items are donated to the Turnover Shop with proceeds going to the Cider Mill PTA. Contact Amanda Mitchell with questions, at amandaNmitchell@gmail.com.

School Spiritwear

Show your school spirit! Please visit the Cider Mill PTA website at www.cidermillpta.org to order your school clothing. Students are encouraged to wear their Spiritwear clothing for various days and events during the year. Proceeds benefit the Cider Mill PTA. Please contact Annemarie Aronowitz at annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com or Amanda Mitchell at amandanmitchell@gmail.com with any questions.

Community News

Wilton Youth Council (WYC) ~ Upcoming Events

Find us on Facebook or visit www.wiltonyouth.org.

NAMI CAN ~ December 19, 10-11:30am, 49 New Street, Wilton

Are you stressed about the upcoming holidays? Do you worry about needing to hide or explain your child's behavior to extended family and friends? Does the break in routine and hectic time cause behavioral changes in your child? 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. Parents come from Redding, Weston, Westport, Wilton and towns in the surrounding area. Our next meeting is Monday, December 19, 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa 203-970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

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 January 8, 2017. The deadline for submissions is January 3, 2017.