

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – April 8, 2024

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

Important Dates

April 8	Solar Eclipse!
April 11	BOE Meeting at 7:00 pm
April 12	Dress Like a Bee Day!
April 15-19	Spring Recess
April 23	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
April 25	BOE Meeting at 7:00 pm
April 27	Wilton Basketball Fundraiser
April 30	Sixth Grade Parent Curriculum Night
May 6-10	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6-10	Scholastic Book Fair
May 7	Final PTA Meeting of the School Year
May 10	Italian Ice Truck at Cider Mill
May 17	Movie Night at Comstock

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

Hot on the heels of our 5th grade fun night, **3rd and 4th grade fun nights** were a big hit and a lot of fun for all who attended! They enjoyed Dancing on the DL, painting with 5iveFingaz, and more! A huge thank you to those who made it happen - **Jon Layne, Jolene Matthews, Kim Luppino, and Jaclyn Gallo**. And many thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time that night!

Our **PTA board for 2024/2025** is set for next year! The board is listed below and new members will be voted in during our May 7 meeting. We will be sending out a sign-up document for all volunteer positions next year including book fairs, teacher representatives and more. Please look for it toward the end of the school year.

We celebrated our irreplaceable **paraprofessionals** this past week with roses and thank you's. They truly make a difference in many of our children's lives during their school days.

As we begin to head to the end of the school year we still have **Earth Day planting, the Italian Ice truck coming, our second Scholastic Book Fair, outdoor movie night, and Field Day!** Be sure to keep an eye out for more information and sign ups as they become available.

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/scschoolfiles/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

Update from the PTA

Our 2024/2025 PTA Board is ready to serve, and we have some new names:

Melissa Reynolds - President
Jess Evans - co-Treasurer (new)
Rebecca Perlman - co-Treasurer (new)
Cathleen Fareed - Membership (new)
Kelly Cerabino - Secretary (new)
Connie Rinaldi - Gifts and Grants
Caroline Hoffman - Hospitality
Marisa Rosado, Alana D'Angelica - Fundraising (new)
Sara Sclafani - Parent at Large
Libbet Field - Special Education Interests

All new board members will be voted in during our final meeting of the school year on May 7.

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. **All items will be on display in the front lobby until the end of this week**, at which time all unclaimed items will be donated to the Turnover Shop. All labelled items will be turned into the office for distribution, and we ask all students to check if they are missing anything; parents can stop in to look, too.

Fifth-Grade Yearbook SHOUT-OUTS

Place a personalized message to your fifth grader in the yearbook! This is free to all fifth-grade families. Due to space constraints, PLEASE KEEP SUBMISSIONS TO ONE SENTENCE. Click the following link to see an example and to enter a message for your student: <https://forms.gle/gAr9ah46FFMtT3QZ6>

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the fifth-grade yearbook! At this time, we are finalizing the pages and can no longer accept photos. We had a tremendous response and we've featured as many photos as possible, but unfortunately not all submitted photos will be able to be included. Yearbooks will be distributed toward the end of the school year to all fifth graders at no charge.

Sixth Grade Parent Curriculum Night

Middlebrook Middle School will be hosting their annual curriculum night for incoming 6th grade parents. The evening will include an overview by principal Jory Higgins, a description of teaming, an overview of the curriculum areas, and a presentation by the deans of students. Please join the Middlebrook staff on this special evening!

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Place: Middlebrook Auditorium

Middlebrook Special Education Coffee Time

The Middlebrook Special Education department is offering a coffee morning to those with 5th graders moving up next year.

Please come by on April 9 from 10:00 – 11:00 am in the Middlebrook LLC.

The Middlebrook PTA Needs You

Looking to get more involved? The MBPTA is looking for volunteers to join our Executive Board and/or take the lead in other important areas. So we're able to hit the ground running in the **2024 – 2025 school year**, please reach out as soon as possible.

There are anticipated vacancies in the following areas:

- President
- Vice-President/Director of Membership
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parent At-Large
- Middlebrook Messenger Co-Chairs

To learn more or express interest, please contact nominations@middlebrookpta.org.

Dress Like a Bee Day!

In celebration of Diversity, Kindness and Inclusion month, students and staff are invited to **Dress Like a Bee on April 12!** The idea is to dress to show kindness and to make a kindness pledge for how you will show kindness to others during the month of April. **All photos and pledges are to be submitted by Monday, April 15** for a random drawing and feature in Good Morning Wilton. Please see the below flyer for more details!

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april 2024
KINDNESS
diversity
INCLUSION
awareness
month

Dress Like A Bee Day
April 12th

**In April we celebrate Diversity,
Kindness and Inclusion Awareness**

Spring has sprung! A time for new beginnings! On Friday, April 12th all students and staff are invited to celebrate Diversity, Kindness and Inclusion Month with Dress Like a Bee for Bee Kind! How will you celebrate diversity, kindness and inclusion this month and every month?

Dress like Bee for spring or in any way that shows kindness along with your kindness pledge for how you will show kindness to others this month.

Photos and pledges can be submitted for a random drawing and feature in Good Morning Wilton. Please submit photos and kindness pledges by Monday, April 15th to www.wiltonsepta.org

Please include:
your child's name, school, grade and a quote/pledge from them about how they will spread kindness.

Sponsored by Wilton Septa, Miller Driscoll PTA & Good Morning Wilton

**K
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Diversity/ Inclusion Awareness Month

SEPTA
every child. one voice.

Cider Mill PTA

GOODMorningWilton

Wilton Public Schools Long Range Planning

PLEASE JOIN US TO EXPLORE THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ITS EMERGING IMPACT ON THE WILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Please note: Seating capacity is limited. Participation is determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tuesday, April 9
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Zellner Gallery

Please RSVP for this event

[View Event](#)

Earth Day 2024

In celebration of Earth Day, Cider Mill students will be able to come as classes to plant at the Outdoor Garden. Students will plant seeds in biodegradeable pots to take home, and make seed bombs that can be either planted in the garden or taken home as well. **A sign up for parent volunteers will be available coming this week.**

The Italian Ice Truck Returns!

Once again the Italian Ice truck will be visiting the school on **May 10**. The event is free for staff and students and nutritional information will be sent closer to the date.

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Scholastic Book Fair

Our next Scholastic Book Fair will take place **May 6 – 10**. Emails will come soon for eWallet sign up and volunteer sign up.

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Movie Night is Coming

More tickets will open up soon for our movie night, May 17, at Comstock. College Creamery will be on hand selling ice cream and flavored ice, and Scoops will be selling candy. All tickets from our rained-out fall date will be honored.

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2024 – 2025 Extended Day Childcare Registration

Mark your calendars.....**on Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00 am**, online registration opens for the Cider Mill 2024-25 Extended Day Childcare Program!

Who can participate: Students entering grades 3 – 5 in the fall

Length of time: 2:15 – 6:30 pm

Prior to registration, click [here](#) to create and/or update your parent and student account with Wilton Continuing Education.

Keep your username and password handy to expedite your registration on the date and time above. Go directly to wiltoncontinuinged.org and click on Childcare to register.

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The School Store is Open for Business!

The Cider Mill School Store is now available to grades 3rd – 5th, rotating each grade each Wednesday. The store is brought to the cafeteria where students can shop for a variety of small items, including pencils and erasers.

If you're interested in running the store for a session, please sign up here (Cider Mill School Store Schedule 2024): [SignUpGenius](#)

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AtoZ Connect

Our new membership platform is now live! To sign up, please go to [Cider Mill PTA - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](#). 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!

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

Zoom link for all 2024 meetings:

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

Community News

Woodcock Nature Center

School's Out, Nature's In: Spring Break 2024!

School's out, but the woods are open! Children will explore vernal pools, search for amphibians, stomp in the mud, and scoop in the swamp! Each day will include exploration, hands-on activities, animal presentations, and nature crafts.

This program is outdoors. Please dress your child appropriately. Each group will have a sheltered Home Base space and we will go indoors for animal lessons, crafts, and bad weather. Please read our [Program Policies](#) before attending our program.

What to Bring: **Nut-free** snack and lunch, reusable water bottle, full change of clothes (including socks, underwear, extra shoes in case campers get wet)

How to Dress: Dress for the outdoors with layers and gear appropriate for the weather (rain coat, rain boots, etc.)

Dates: Monday – Friday, April 15 – 19

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

We have a new registration system. Click [here](#) for registration tips for new and returning campers.

Registration closes at 1:00 pm on Thursday, April 11.

Space is limited, so **register today** at:

<https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/spring-break-enrichment>

Wilton Basketball Fundraiser

Join us April 27 at 5:30 pm at the Wilton YMCA for the Wilton Baseball Fundraiser with Special Guest, Ron Darling: Mets pitching legend and current Mets SNY broadcaster!

After a sold-out event last year, Wilton Little League, WBSA and WHS Baseball is proud to announce another amazing event! Keynote address, Q & A, autographs, and photo ops with Ron Darling! Food! Beverages! Ice Cream Emergency truck! Silent Auction!

Buy tickets here! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/850358564357?aff=oddtcreator>

Camp Gordyland

Summer Camp at the YMCA!

Join us this summer at the Riverbrook YMCA Camp Gordyland! Available for campers ages 3 – 15. Register for the weeks that fit your schedule and lock in your spot today! Spend the summer exploring our 22 acres, including archery, swimming lessons, fishing, arts & crafts, sports and more.

Traditional Day Camp runs 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, with additional before and after care hours available.

To set up a tour or for questions, contact our [Camp Directors Here](#).
For more Information about Camp Gordyland, [visit our Website](#).

[Register Here](#) to sign up for one or more weeks of summer fun!

Ambler Farm Junior Apprentice Program and Summer Camp

Junior Apprentice Program

Ages: 3rd – 5th grades

Dates and Time: Wednesdays, April 3 – May 1, 2:45 – 4:45 pm

Register here: [Apprentice Program](#)

This 4-week course is designed for kids who are interested in learning more about how the natural world and the farm come together through hands on and engaging activities, games, and crafts. And we have some very exciting news at the Farm...We recently welcomed a beautiful Flemish Giant Rabbit who will be having baby bunnies this month! What's more exciting than baby bunnies?! We hope your kids will join us this Spring. Class will not meet during Wilton's Spring Break week of April 15.

Summer Camp...Join us for your choice of weeks or for the whole summer!

Ages: 1st – 8th grade

Camp Dates and Time: June 17 – August 5, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

(After Camp Care from 1:00 – 3:00 pm)

Registration: Now open for members; opens on February 15 for nonmembers

Campers attending our summer camp will have an amazing time experiencing farm life through hands-on activities, spending time with our farm animals, getting their hands dirty in our educational gardens, and working around the farm.

Every week is sure to include:

- Spending time with our baby goats, sheep, chickens, baby rabbits and holding our baby chicks, turkeys, and geese
- Woodworking
- Hayrides
- Harvesting
- Cooking with recipes that are inspired by what is growing in our gardens

Depending on the week, campers will:

- Harvest berries, peas, cucumbers, garlic scapes, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes and more
- Check our nesting boxes for eggs

Campers are divided by grade levels for appropriate activities.

Click here to register: [Summer Camp](#)

Wilton Youth Council

Matteing Movement Parent Toolkit Discussion Series

Were you excited by the conversation on Matteing when Jennifer Wallace came to Wilton during the fall? Join Wilton Youth Council for this important follow-up series about incorporating matteing into your life!

Wilton Youth Council is excited to partner with [The Matteing Movement](#) on a first of its kind 6-session parent discussion series diving into select aspects of their Parent Toolkit weekly. This interactive program will be open to a limited number of participants and will be led by Chandra Ring, MEd, Wilton Youth Council's Executive Director. Participants will consider the concepts of Not Worrying Alone, Making Your Home a Matteing Haven and Generating Gratitude.

This 6-week program will meet on April 2, 9, 23, 30, and May 7 and 14, all from 10:00 – 11:00 am at Comstock Community Center. This program is open to parents and caregivers of children of all ages. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/1c5dccb4-f04e-46ff-9533-7bdfd0a65c40> and please direct questions to Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org.

GoZen!

GoZen! is a skills-building program that teaches students hands on tools and strategies to effectively identify, understand, and manage worry and anxiety in a fun, engaging and interactive approach.

Students learn about their brains and discover their strengths through relatable, age-appropriate characters introduced throughout the curriculum. They begin to understand the science behind how and why we worry and practice the skills needed to manage anxiety. Students participate in activities that teach mindfulness, resilience, relaxation, and problem-solving strategies. This class benefits every child!

Learn more about the GoZen! curriculum at <https://gozen.com/>.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- The registration fee is \$240
- Scholarships are available if needed and are kept in strict confidence
- Capacity is limited; minimum enrollment is required in order for class to run
- Priority is given to new participants

For more information, [email Kara Berghaus](#), and click here to sign up: [GoZen! Registration](#).

Available Sessions:

Tuesdays from 2:30 – 3:30 pm on April 9, 23 and 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28, and June 4

Thursdays from 2:30 – 3:30 pm on April 11 and 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, and June 6

Mental Health Action Month Signs for Sale

May is Mental Health Action Month and Wilton Youth Council is getting ready to show how supportive our community is of everyone who struggles with or knows someone who battles mental health challenges. WYC is selling double-sided yard signs with the messages "**Mental Health is Health**" and "**Mental Health Matters**".

Placing a yard sign in front of your house is a simple way to show support, help reduce stigma and raise awareness of the mental health challenges people of all ages are facing.

Signs can be purchased through April 8 for \$20 and will be picked up at a private Wilton residence beginning around April 24. Complete pickup details will be emailed as soon as signs are ready. The double-sided sign design can be viewed and purchase at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/afe30e20-8c40-4c7d-aa71-868fa7d3a24f>.

QPR Training

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is a 3-step suicide prevention training designed to help those who are not mental health professionals recognize a suicide crisis situation, begin a dialogue and help the person to the right resources.

This training will take place on Wednesday, April 24 from 10:00 – 11:30 am at Comstock Community Center and is open to all adults. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a273464e-09c6-42bc-bc24-795c256a1d3f>.

QPR Training is being offered by Wilton Youth Council in partnership with The Hub: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) of Southwestern CT.

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/>.

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>

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. **Our next meetings are Mondays on May 6 and June 3 over Zoom from 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936Meeting>
ID: 837 7542 1936

[Submit News to Hot Cider](#)

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Melissa Reynolds at giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com

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