

## Hot Cider A Cider Mill PTA Publication

January 24, 2016

### Important Dates

- January 25 Day 6
- January 26 Superintendent's Budget Presentation to Wilton PTA's, 9:15am, Cider Mill Cafeteria
- January 26 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus/Orchestra Concert (Cannondale and Nod Hill), 7pm, Main Gym
- January 28 Superintendent's Public Budget presentation 7pm, Cider Mill Cafeteria
- January 29 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night
- February 2 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus/Cider Mill Singers/Orchestra/Advanced Strings, 7pm
- February 7 Reading Period ends for "Reading Rocks!"
- February 9 PTA Meeting, 9:15a.m., Cafeteria
- February 9 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert, 7pm, Main Gym
- February 11 NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Day)
- February 12 NO SCHOOL (February break)
- February 15 NO SCHOOL (President's Day)
- February 19 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fun Night
- February 27 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night

### Important Phone Numbers

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351  
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or [kellym@wilton.k12.ct.us](mailto:kellym@wilton.k12.ct.us)  
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381  
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

### Letter from the President

Dear Parents,

I would like to draw your attention to the budget presentations Superintendent Kevin Smith will be making this week (see important dates above for times and location). Dr. Smith will be outlining his proposed budget increase of 1.27% over this year's spending. Budget priorities for Cider Mill include providing a math interventionist and transforming the physical space of the library media center into a 'Learning Commons'. I believe it is very important for parents to be engaged in the budget process, and to get out and vote! If you have questions and cannot attend either presentation please feel free to email me.

With best wishes,  
Nicola Davies  
Cider Mill PTA President  
[nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto:nicoladavies@outlook.com)

## School News

### Fourth Grade Fun Night ~ Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 7pm-9pm

Fourth Grade Fun Night is going to be Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at Cider Mill. Please use this link to sign up your child for the event.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to be Game Leaders. Parent volunteers can also sign up through the same Volunteer Spot link.

<http://vols.pt/9Dw4af>

### Box Tops!! ~ January Contest

The Competition is on. Which classes can bring in the most box tops? Cider Mill earned over \$1100 for the box tops collected during our contest last year! This year's contest launches this week. Be sure to keep collecting and submitting your box tops so your class can be announced the winner! Each classroom will be collecting and there will be one winner per house. Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> to learn more.

### Odyssey of The Mind

We are currently seeking a number of adult judges to take with us to the State finals on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Odyssey of the Mind is a national competition to promote creativity, problem solving and team work. Judges must attend training on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Becoming a judge is a great way to learn more about the competition which Cider Mill is competing in for the first time this year. For more information please email Nicola Davies – [nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto:nicoladavies@outlook.com).

### Third Grade Fun Night ~ Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm-9pm

Third Grade Fun Night is at Cider Mill on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> (snow date: February 26<sup>th</sup>) This PTA sponsored event is free for all children. Kids will be grouped by teacher/house into teams and will rotate through eight fun stations set up throughout the school. We will end with an ice cream party in the gym. We promise to send them home exhausted and happy! Please see the two links below. The first link is to register your child to participate in the event. When registering please include **your child's name** (as opposed to your own) which will make creating teams easier for us. **Registration begins now and ends Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. The second link is to volunteer for the night as either a group or activity leader. All volunteers will need to arrive at 6:30pm and stay until 9pm. This event cannot be successful without your help so please consider volunteering. Thank you in advance!

To register your child to participate:

<http://vols.pt/9EDheG>

To register as a parent volunteer:

<http://vols.pt/PgCZUe>

If you have any questions please contact Susan Price ([sprice14@optonline.net](mailto:sprice14@optonline.net)). We are looking forward to a great night. Thank you!

**Fifth Grade Fun Night ~ Saturday, February 27th, 8p.m.-10p.m.** Fifth Grade Fun Night is at the Wilton Y! on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> (snow date: March 5<sup>th</sup>). Activities range from Swimming (experienced swimmers only, no lessons provided), Mat Ball, Dance Room, and more. Watch for registration and please consider volunteering – we'll need lots of parents to help make this night a success for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

### **PTA REFLECTIONS ART COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED!**

Thank you to all the participants in the annual PTA Reflections art competition! The creativity displayed was amazing. We truly have a talented group of artists!

#### **Visual Arts**

1<sup>st</sup> - Kosygin Andrey

2<sup>nd</sup> - Alexis Shukovsky

3<sup>rd</sup> - Lukas Koutsoukos

Honorable Mention- Fiona Conway and Caisie Kennedy

#### **Photography**

1<sup>st</sup>- Juliette Casher

2<sup>nd</sup> - Sahana Bhagavatula

3<sup>rd</sup> - Tina Pamnani

Honorable Mention- Avni Gupta

#### **Literature**

1<sup>st</sup> - Scarlett Dicamillo

2<sup>nd</sup> - Lukas Koutsoukos

3<sup>rd</sup> - Vihan Jayawardhane

#### **Music**

1<sup>st</sup> - Grace Ratcliffe

#### **Dance**

1<sup>st</sup> - Kelsey Tangorra

2<sup>nd</sup> - Siddharth Suneja

#### **Film**

1<sup>st</sup> - Finn Ryder

Winning entries will be sent to the state level for judging - we wish you good luck!

Congratulations and thanks to all for participating, we hope you enjoyed the experience of being involved in the Reflections program this year!

### **News from Cider Mill School Counselors**

It has been great to meet with all of our students during guidance lessons and lunch bunches. Throughout January, we will continue to go into classrooms to deliver developmental guidance lessons. The lesson topics are:

Grade 3: Mean Behavior or Bullying...what is the difference? (Bullying is something that happens over and over with the same people who hurt bodies or feelings on purpose.) We will teach the students that bullying is about taking power away from others and show them how to advocate for themselves or others.

Grade 4: Upstanders – We teach the students that upstanders stand up for others by telling the person who is showing mean behavior or bullying behavior to stop, include the target, or let an adult know. We play out different scenarios so the students can practice this behavior.

Grade 5: How to navigate the social scene in 5<sup>th</sup> grade: how cliques, rumors, and perceptions of popularity can get in the way.  
Please ask your child about these lessons so they can tell you all of the new things that they have learned!

-----  
We are also teaching Mindfulness strategies in each class to help the students calm their bodies and minds. This first round we are teaching Mountain (imagining themselves calm and holding their bodies strong amidst stress and chaos), Washing Machine (ridding their minds of negative thoughts and replacing them with positive ones), and Rag Doll (relaxing their entire bodies).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Dawn Randall, Counselor for Cannondale and Nod Hill x 4257 [randalld@wilton.k12.ct.us](mailto:randalld@wilton.k12.ct.us)  
Lauren Buckley, Counselor for Kent and Belden Hill x 4242 [buckleyl@wilton.k12.ct.us](mailto:buckleyl@wilton.k12.ct.us)

### **Ongoing Cider Mill News**

#### **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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1168962513117647/>

#### **Cider Mill PTA Membership**

What is a PTA membership all about? Becoming a member of our PTA is more than just getting a directory - although you will get one with your membership. Our membership is open to all adults who believe in the mission on the PTA. Joining the PTA is showing that you care what happens in your children's education. It shows that you want to be involved, engaged and informed. It isn't a commitment to volunteer for anything! It doesn't 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, getting to know your school and administrators, having a voice and being heard at the school and school 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, Walk-a-thon, Book Fair, spirit wear, library volunteers, pre-order school supplies, Hot Cider newsletter, etc. You can find a form on the new PTA

website: <http://www.cidermillpta.org/#!/forms/c70d>.

#### **Bus Barn – Lost and Found Items**

Missing something? Check out the Bus Barn Blogspot at <http://wiltonlostproperty.blogspot.com> for photos of items found on school buses. If you see something that might be yours, please contact Nicola Davies at [nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto:nicoladavies@outlook.com).

## Community News

### **NAMI-CAN Parent Support Group ~ January 25, 10am, 49 New St., Wilton**

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 places 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. The next meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30, G&B Cultural Center, 49

New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at [203-984-0123](tel:203-984-0123)

or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa [203-970-4130](tel:203-970-4130) or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com).

### **Commemorative Bricks**

Create a lasting impression by purchasing a personalized brick. Custom walkways adorn each school in Wilton with personalized bricks honoring our students, teachers, coaches, teams, clubs, alumni, family members and special groups in our community. You are invited to be a part of this project by contributing an engraved brick, which will remain a permanent part of the Wilton schools. Funds raised from the sale of engraved bricks will be utilized by WEF to support district-wide projects specifically, technology projects, professional development scholarships, and funds to enhance arts and music in the Wilton Public Schools. For more information please contact the program chair, Kate Filaski at [katefilaski@gmail.com](mailto:katefilaski@gmail.com).

### **Submit News to Hot Cider**

Please email school news to Andrea Bates at [connbates@gmail.com](mailto:connbates@gmail.com), Clarissa Cannavino at [clarissacannavino@yahoo.com](mailto:clarissacannavino@yahoo.com) and Nicola Davies at [nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto:nicoladavies@outlook.com). For submission deadlines, publication dates, and past issues, please click this link: <http://www.cidermillpta.org/#!/hotcider/cjcp>. 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 February 7, 2016. The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2016.