

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – November 6, 2023

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

Important Dates

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| Nov 6 | Scott Driscoll Presentation, 4 th , and 5 th Grades |
| Nov 7 | No School ELECTION DAY |
| Nov 8 | Photo Retake Day |
| Nov 10 | Veterans Day Assembly, students only |
| Nov 10 | Spirit Day, Red, White, and Blue |
| Nov 14 | PTA Meeting, 9:15 am, CM Cafeteria |
| Nov 16 | BOE Meeting |
| Nov 16-21 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Nov 16-21 | Parent/Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal – Lost and Found on display |
| Nov 22-26 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Nov 30 | BOE Meeting |
| Dec 9 | SONO Ice Skating |

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

It was a chilly morning, but we had hundreds of little turkeys putting their all into our **48th Annual Jim Cook Turkey Trot!** Many thanks to our Cider Mill PE department for their work and enthusiasm and to all our volunteers and parents who showed up to cheer!

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** is quickly approaching and will run **November 16, 17, 20, and 21**. Information has been sent out regarding e-wallets and a sign-up genius link is out for volunteers. Thank you in advance to everyone who can help!

Photo retakes by Lifetouch are on November 8. Please have your child notify their teacher if they need to have retakes done.

Parent/teacher conferences will be running at the same time as the book fair. Our **lost and found** items will also be on display so parents can look!

The **PTA candidate forum** was a success, with many in attendance! For those who missed it, it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q7fti4rAMw>. A reminder that November 7 is election day and information can be found below.

Our final **PTA meeting** of the calendar year will be on **November 14, 9:15 am** in the school cafeteria. We hope to see many of you there! We thank everyone for their thoughts, suggestions, and support!

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.

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/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9dolNY/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

SONO Ice Skating

Tickets have gone on sale for a night of Cider Mill skating at the SONO Ice House, December 9, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm! There are a limited number of tickets due to ice capacity. Tickets include ice time and skate rentals. Pizza and drinks can be added at the time of purchase. We hope to see many hitting the ice!

Jim Cook Turkey Trot

Our **48th Annual Jim Cook Turkey Trot** was run with many proud smiles! Over **\$6,000** was raised to support families in need. A big thank you to our turkeys this year, **Christine Gemelli, Kristen Partenza, and Kim Luppino!**

Cider Mill Walkathon

Due to your overwhelming generosity, our walkathon made just over \$13,000! This money will go towards gifts, grants, hospitality, and more. An amount will also go to Homes With Hope.

The first 100 donations of \$75 or more received plush Buzzby bees. These went home last week. Our winning class for the most donations has been tallied and is **Nittolo/3rd Grade!** A big congratulations, all students in that class will receive their Wild Child gift cards this week.

The winners of the Orem's gift card and the Bronx Zoo membership will be voted on at our next PTA meeting, November 14.

Thank you again to all who supported our big fundraiser!

Scholastic Book Fair

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** is less than two weeks away. The fair runs from **November 16, 17, 20, and 21**. Children will shop during school time and parents are more than welcome to shop when they are in for teacher conferences.

We need a lot of help to make the book fair run smoothly! If you are able to help, please sign up [HERE](#).

The fair accepts cash, check, credit cards, Apple Pay, and e-wallets. E wallets can be set up [HERE](#). **An e wallet is only good for one book fair. Any remaining money in an e-wallet was converted into a gift card that remains in your Scholastic account. You can put that money into a new e-wallet as we cannot access gift cards at the fair.**

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!

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>

Lost and Found

Lost and Found will be on display during the Scholastic Book Fair! Please stop in if you are missing anything.

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. They 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>

Wilton Go Green

There was a lot of creativity during the door decorating!

There were so many upcycled items in so many creative ways! We were so impressed that it was hard to choose winners.

In Kent:

First place- Mrs. Grant in grade 3

Honorable mention- Mrs. Kubo in grade 3

In Belden Hill:

First place- Ms. Karlins- Grade 4

Honorable mention- Mr. Fritz- Grade 5

In Nod Hill:

First place- Ms. Duncan- Grade 5

Honorable mention- Mrs. Lewis- Grade 3

In Cannondale:

First Place- Mrs. McCusker- Grade 4

Honorable mention- Mr. Pullia- grade 5

We are excited to announce the [17th Annual HRRR Recycling Billboard Contest!](#)

The theme this year is: **“Keep It Loose” Don’t Bag or Bundle Your Recycling!** Student’s artwork should encourage residents to NOT put their recycling in plastic bags or tie with a string. Regional Winners could win \$500, \$75, \$50 or \$25 prizes for their artwork!

NEW!! FOUR Grand Prize Regional Winners!

One Grand Prize winner in each of the following categories will receive \$500.

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Students can visit <https://hrra.org/annual-billboard-contest/> for a complete list of rules, to print a template, as well as get [information on why this theme is so important!](#)

Original artwork should be submitted by November 15, in the collection box located in each school's lobby or the vestibule at Town Hall starting mid-October.

We are excited to see the inspiring messages our students create this year!

Questions? Email our Town Coordinator, Tammy Thornton, at tammy@wiltongogreen.org.

Community News

Election Day News!

Election day is coming up on **Tuesday, November 7th** and local offices are on the ballot!

Find out more information about the candidates and their platforms via:

[Good Morning Wilton Election Coverage](#)

[Wilton Democrats](#)

[Wilton Republicans](#)

[Sara Sclafani \(Independent\)](#)

There were three candidate debates/forums held over the last few weeks. The first two events were sponsored by the Wilton League of Women Voters, Wilton Library, and Good Morning Wilton. Recordings of these forums are available on Good Morning Wilton. The third forum was sponsored by SEPTA, and the Miller-Driscoll, Cider Mill, Middlebrook, and WHS PTAs

Tues. Oct. 24th, 7-8:30 PM, Board of Education, [Recording](#)

Thurs. Oct. 26th, 7-8:30 PM, Boards of Finance, [Recording](#); and Selectmen, [Recording](#)

Mon. Oct. 30th 7:30-9:30 PM, Cross-PTA Candidate Forum, [Recording](#)

To check your voter registration status [click here](#).

To learn about how to register to vote [click here](#).

To request an absentee ballot [click here](#).

Sample ballot, [click here](#)

Polls are open 6 AM - 8 PM on Nov. 7th, find polling location info [here](#).

Woodcock Nature Center

Woodcock Nature Center

Nighttime Wonders - Owl Prowl!

Grades 3rd-5th

Friday, November 17 from 6 pm - 8 pm

Come and experience Woodcock Nature Center after dark in this special drop-off program! Educators will lead students on a night hike, along which we will learn about native owls and listen to the sounds they make. This time of year, it is not uncommon to have wild owls respond to recorded calls! Upon returning from our hike, we will play games, gather around a campfire, and make s'mores before heading home! \$45 per child. Register and info at woodcocknaturecenter.org/nighttimewonders

Woodcock Nature Center - Wreath Festival Family Days!

December 9 and 10 between 10 am - 5 pm

Enjoy festive wreath decorating with the whole family in support of your favorite nature center! You choose your 24" balsam wreath and we'll provide some sweet treats, kid-friendly decorating materials, music, a warm fire and of course, a festive atmosphere. Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck will be onsite for all your beverage needs throughout the day. And stay tuned for some additional outdoor activities to enjoy if the weather permits! Purchase a ticket for your desired date and arrive anytime between 10 am - 4:30 pm. \$75 per wreath (max of 4 family members per wreath). Tickets for adult-only decorating times are also still available! More info at woodcocknaturecenter.org/wreath-fest-familyday

Wilton Land Trust

Sunset Lantern Walk

Registration & Info: <https://www.wiltonlandtrust.org/sunset-lantern-walk-2023/>

Corner of Nod and Pipers Hill, Wilton, CT

Sunday, Nov. 05

3:00 pm.

Wilton Historical Society

The Great Trains Holiday Show at the Wilton Historical Society is opening the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 24th, 2023) and runs through January 2024. Visitors can explore the Society's historic 18th and 19th century buildings full of interactive model train layouts. Perfect for families, train collectors, hobbyists, or anyone looking for a little holiday spirit!

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

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/>

Wilton Youth Council



Join Susan Rappaport, Vanessa Elias & Kerianne Fanelli

Roundtable Discussion on Mattering

Thursday, November 9th 7-8:30 PM

Comstock Community Center

Continue the conversation! Join us for a follow up discussion on the best-selling Jennifer Wallace book "Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic – And What We Can Do About It." This is intended to be an interactive discussion, giving an opportunity for parents and caregivers to discuss their experiences and thoughts around mattering (breaking down the correlation between achievement and self-worth).

Mattering is about how we treat ourselves and how we treat each other. It's a research-backed mindset and a skill set that can be learned.

Susan Rappaport, LCSW is a Psychotherapist in private practice in Wilton, CT and on the Board of Directors of Wilton Youth Council. Using an empowering, solution-focused approach, she encourages self-awareness, coping skills, problem solving, boundary setting, self-acceptance, assertiveness, and creating a healthy balance in life and relationships. Susan has over 20 years of experience working in mental health and specializes parenting issues and working with Adolescents and Adults that struggle with Anxiety, Depression, and ADHD.



Vanessa Elias is a Certified Parent Coach and founder of Thrive With a Guide. Vanessa was recently selected for The Aspen Institute's Weave Speakers Bureau. Vanessa is a mental health activist, speaker, and writer specializing in whole-family synergy and well-being. She serves as a group facilitator for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) as well as a board member of NAMI Southwest CT. Block Party USA is her passion project. Vanessa helps parents achieve healthier family relationships and lasting, meaningful connections.



Kerianne Fanelli is a Licensed Master Social Worker and has worked in therapeutic foster care, outpatient mental health and aviation disaster work. She has been involved with Wilton Youth Council since 2018 and joined the WYC Board of Directors in 2019 as Co-Chair of Parent Education. She has served the Wilton Presbyterian Church in several capacities, including the organization of community mental wellness events. She has particular interest in working with mothers to foster connection and build resilience and recently launched MomCircle, LLC.

Register at: <https://WYCRoundtableMattering.eventbrite.com>

PRESENTED BY WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL, WILTON LIBRARY & THRIVE WITH A GUIDE



Wilton Youth Council offers the following upcoming programs:

Wilton Youth Council presents Coffee - Community - Conversation. Building relationships leads to less stress, a greater sense of self and healthier behaviors. Grab a cup of coffee and come meet some fellow Wilton residents, ask (and answer!) questions, and help build community during this informal opportunity for connection! No registration required.

Saturday, November 11 from 9:30 - 10:30 am
Nova Café, Wilton (located at 200 Danbury Road)

December 6, 2023 @ 9:30-10:30 am
Location TBD

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Wilton Children’s Theater

Come on a journey to a magical world and embrace your inner “elf” with the Wilton Children’s Theater (WCT) student production of ***Elf The Musical JR.*** The show, featuring 53 students, in grades 4 - 8, is ideal for families and friends of all ages.

WCT will present *Elf The Musical JR.* on ***Friday, November 17 at 7pm, Saturday, November 18 at 4pm,*** and ***Sunday, November 19 at 2pm*** at the Middlebrook School Auditorium, 131 School Road, Wilton, CT. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and are available [here](#) and at the door (if not sold out).

Secure your seat, believe in the impossible, and let your heart sing along with the enchanting tunes of this delightful musical. It’s time to embrace your inner elf!

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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.**

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IvyMath

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

<https://ivymath.com/> 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. 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](https://ivymath.com/Boost)**

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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 remaining fall meeting is **Monday November 6 over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am.**

<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.

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 November 16, 2023. The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on November 20, 2023

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