

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – December 4, 2023

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

Important Dates

Dec 8	Helping Hands Toy Drive Ends
Dec 9	SONO Ice Skating
Dec 10	Snowflakes & Songs
Dec 10	Feeding 500 Holiday Hustle
Dec 11-15	Penguin Patch Holiday Shopping
Dec 12-15	Winter MAP Testing (Makeups on 12/18-19)
Dec 14-16	Willy Wonka JR. Performances
Dec 14	BOE Meeting at 7:00 pm
Dec 20	Fifth Grade Yearbook Cover Contest Deadline
Dec 22	Early Dismissal, School Spirit Day, Winter Singalong
Dec 25-Jan1	Holiday Recess

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We had an amazing turnout at our Scholastic Book Fair and we hope everyone is happy with the items their child(ren) brought home! A huge thank you to our many volunteers! Without you, it could not have run as well as it did.

Our fall spirit wear was well received, and the orders have gone in. They will be distributed to students when they arrive at the school. If your order is meant to be a gift, please notify us ahead of time and we can make other arrangements.

The Cider Mill PTA is full of great ways to get ready for the holidays. Our Penguin Patch fundraiser will allow those children interested to shop for family and friends during the week of December 11 from 1pm to 4pm. Classes will not be signing up to shop, so all shopping should be done after school. The market will be located upstairs in the multi-purpose room. We only accept cash for the market. Little Pub gift cards are also still on sale, so please see below for more details!

We hope everyone is looking forward to a fun night of skating at the SONO Ice House! We hope to see many of you there. Thank you again for all of your PTA 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/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9doINNY/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>

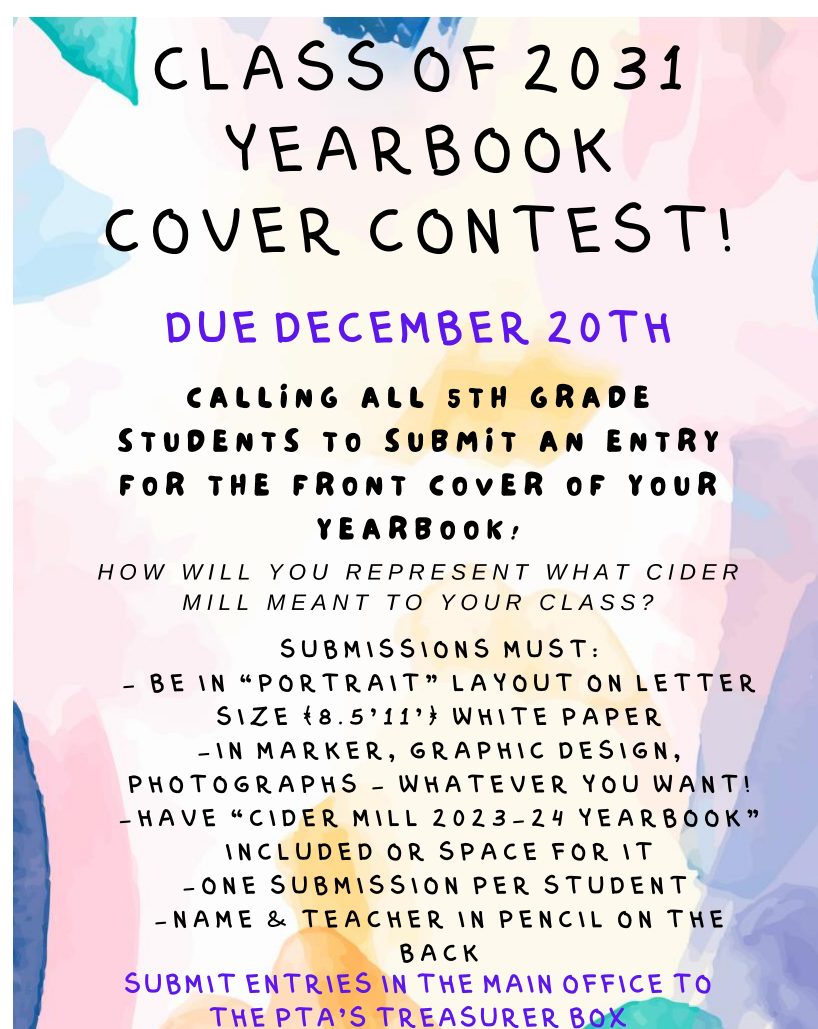
Join Wilton SEPTA: <https://www.wiltonsepta.org/>

School News

Fifth Grade Yearbooks

Class of 2031 Yearbook Cover Contest:

Calling all 5th grade artists! Please see below to submit your artwork for cover consideration. We look forward to seeing all of your entries!



Submit Photos for the Fifth Grade Yearbook:

Attention fifth grade families and teachers! You are invited to submit photos of your fifth graders for the yearbook! We plan to feature photos from the first day of school, events such as the Walkathon and Halloween parade, classroom activities, recess, assemblies, and much more. You will simply need to create a new Lifetouch account, then you can use the link or QR code below, along with the invite code, to upload your images. Be sure to tag them with the appropriate labels (first day, walkathon, etc.) so we know what's what. Thank you for your participation in making a fabulous yearbook for our students to treasure for years to come!

<https://community.lifetouch.com/invite?code=CIDERMILLYEARBOOK-24>

Invite Code: CIDERMILLYEARBOOK-24



Reflections 2023 - 2024 has Launched!

Please see below for details on registering for this year's **Reflections** competition. The theme this year is **I Am Hopeful Because...** For more information, please scan the QR code below or see the website for details. Good luck to everyone!



The poster features the National PTA Reflections logo on the left, a sun and cloud illustration on the right, and a row of colorful flowers at the bottom right. Each flower contains an icon representing a different art form: a video camera, a camera, a pencil, a musical note, a person dancing, and a person using a wheelchair. The text on the poster includes the competition title, theme, call for entries, submission deadline, and registration instructions.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS
2023-2024
CALL FOR ENTRIES!

I am Hopeful Because...

Explore the arts and express yourself!

All submissions are Due January 10th, 2024

All students are welcomed to register in the Reflections competition. To register please use the QR code that applies to the student's school.

Students submitting as "Special Artists" can see guidelines for additional information.

Miller Driscoll Cider Mill Middlebrook Wilton High

SEPTA Special Education PTA everychild.onevoice.

Learn more and get involved!
PTA.org/Reflections

Helping Hands Toy Drive

Helping Hands is in need of additional members! We meet on Monday afternoons from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. If you would like to register your child, please contact the front office. The purpose and mission of Helping Hands is to support the Cider Mill community, as well as our local community. Recently, students worked on cards welcoming new staff to our school. **Helping Hands is also supporting a Toy Drive that will benefit families working with the Center for Empowerment and Education. Unwrapped toys will be collected for babies, young children and teens through**

December 8. Donation boxes are now available outside the front office. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SONO Ice Skating

Tickets are currently on sale for a night of Cider Mill skating at the SONO Ice House. **Please join us on December 9 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm!** There are a limited number of tickets due to ice capacity. Tickets include ice time and skate rentals. Tickets can be purchased [HERE](#) and pizza and drinks can be added at the time of purchase; but please note that *this is the final call, as tickets and food/beverage orders will close on Tuesday the 5th.* We hope to see many hitting the ice!

Snowflakes & Songs!

Come see the Cider Mill 5th Grade Chorus perform at *Snowflakes & Songs*, a winter concert presented by the Wilton Singers, a local community choir here in Wilton, along with singers from Middlebrook! The concert will be a festive celebration of winter and a fun way to make music with the Wilton community. All are welcome to attend! Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family, and all donations go directly to a scholarship fund for graduating Wilton High School Singers! For more information, please reach out to Mrs. Bakst (bakstb@wiltonps.org.)

Sunday, December 10 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm at the Middlebrook Auditorium

PJ Day for Kids to Support Kids with Cancer

We have organized our Cider Mill School team and hope to raise money for this important cause. Students and families are encouraged to donate \$1 (or more!) to **wear their PJs (and a crazy hat!) to school on Friday, December 22 to show their school spirit.** Our PTA will also treat our students to some hot cocoa and peppermint sticks. [Please go to this link to donate.](#)

There will also be a **Winter Singalong** the kids won't want to miss!

Penguin Patch Holiday Shopping!

From **December 11 – 15** Cider Mill students will have the opportunity to shop for their families for the holidays with Penguin Patch <https://penguinpatch.com/>. The shop will run from 1:00 – 4:00 pm after school (cash only), and a sign-up for volunteers will go out next week. Stay tuned!

Little Pub Gift Card Sale

If you're looking to treat family or friends to a fun meal this holiday season, look no further than the Little Pub! Gift cards are now available for purchase on the PTA website. Go to Fundraising/Special Events or click on this link: <https://www.cidermillpta.org/special-events>.

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!

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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 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>.

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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. Tables 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>

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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>

Community News

Wiremill Academy Presents Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR.

Welcome to Willy Wonka's wondrous world! These shows will most likely sell out, so please plan accordingly. There's no need to print tickets; simply provide your name at the door to be allowed admission. Purchase your tickets using the following link, and click the "Show Program" button to view both casts and their performance times: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/78529>.

Performances will take place at the Wilton Playshop, 15 Lovers Ln, Wilton:

Thursday, December 14 and Friday, December 15 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, December 16 at 4:00 and 7:30 pm

Feeding 500 Holiday Hustle

Feeding 500 (a Wilton student run group that supports Open Doors Shelter in Norwalk) is having their annual 5K Holiday Hustle fundraiser on December 10 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at Comstock. Please consider joining to walk/run – bring your kids, dogs, strollers! It's a fun event (last year Buddy the Elf kicked off the race!) with all proceeds going to Open Doors.

Sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/CT/Wilton/Feeding500HolidayHustle>

Woodcock Nature Center

Wreath Festival Fundraiser 2023! **Now – December 10**

This popular annual event pairs decorating a 24" balsam wreath using unique materials with relaxing by a roaring fire among friends. The festival welcomes nearly 600 guests and raises over \$80,000 for the nature center's programs in environmental education.

This year, you'll have the option to choose from group tickets in our pavilion or pondside tent and individual tickets in our pond side tent. **We will also be offering a limited number of to-go decorating kits and two days to celebrate as a family.** Please visit the following website for date and time options: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/wreathfestivalinfo>

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.

Winter Waterfowl and Birding at Shadow Lake: **Saturday, December 16 from 9:30 - 11:00 am**

This program is being run in partnership with the Ridgefield Conservation Commission.

Ever heard of a Hooded Merganser? Or a Bufflehead? The winter months are a great time to look for and learn about waterfowl species that may not live here year-round! If you tend to assume every duck you see is a Mallard, this walk will change that! Binoculars are recommended, as well as supportive shoes – the trail passes through some rocky areas alongside the pond. This program is geared towards adults, although kids are still welcome. This event is free, but registration is required (registration is coming soon, so be sure to visit our website in the coming weeks to sign up).

Afterschool Programs:

Winter Registration for Grades 3-5 begins Thursday, December 7 at 10:00 am

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 pm, January 23 – March 12, 2024

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 pm, January 24 – March 13, 2024**

Register here: <https://www.woodcocknaturecenter.org/3-5afterschool>

Wilton Historical Society

Model trains, holiday cheer, and family fun return with one of Wilton's favorite winter traditions, the Great Trains Holiday Show! Explore the Wilton Historical Society's 18th and 19th century historic buildings – charmingly decorated for the holiday season – to find multiple layouts of model trains that wind their way through miniature snowy landscapes, vibrant towns, and mountain tunnels, as well as some unexpected characters! The interactive displays and model holiday village are perfect holiday fun for all ages. Whether a model train builder or collector, young wannabe train conductors, or a family looking for a delightful seasonal experience, the Great Trains Holiday Show has something for everyone.

The Great Trains Holiday Show will run through January 15, 2024. Wilton Historical Society Hours during this event are Wednesdays – Saturdays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Sundays, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Admission is free for members, \$5 per non-member child and \$10 per non-member adults.

Special holiday programming occurs on select Saturdays in December, including a singalong with Music on the Hill on December 2 and a visit from Santa Claus on December 9! While you are visiting the Train Show, don't miss shopping at the Betts Store Museum Shop for holiday treats and treasures!

[Our website](#) has more details, including 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

Wilton Youth Council presents the following upcoming events:

"Medication, Not Magic: Making Wise Choices About Pharmacological Interventions":
Join us on Tuesday, December 5 from 10:15 am – 12:15 pm at the Wilton Library for "Medication, Not Magic: Making Wise Choices About Pharmacological Interventions" with Kevin Kalikow, MD.
Register at <https://wiltonlibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=8985>.

Please join SPED*NET for a thorough and balanced presentation of a thorny topic. Dr. Kevin Kalikow will help untangle the complexities of pharmacological treatments for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and co-existing conditions, by addressing whether or not to give psychiatric drugs to your child and, if so, when. He will discuss indications for medication, potential benefits and risks, and ethical dilemmas.

Dr. Kalikow, a child psychiatrist in private practice for 30 years, speaks widely on the use of psychiatric medication in children and adolescents. He is the author of *Your Child in the Balance: Solving the Psychiatric Medicine Dilemma* and *Kids on Meds: Up-to-Date Information About the Most Commonly Prescribed Psychiatric Medications*, a guide to psychiatric medication for non-medically trained mental health professionals. Presented by SPED*NET in partnership with Wilton Library and Newtown Sped PTA.

Please register online or call 203-762-6334. For more information, you may contact info@spednet.org or asato@wiltonlibrary.org.

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.

Wednesday, December 6 from 9:30 – 10:30 am
Tusk & Cup, Wilton

Wilton Youth Field Hockey

Wilton Youth Field Hockey is offering Winter Clinics to new and returning players in the WHS Field House. Registration and complete details can be found at https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/?fbclid=IwAR1aLK7O-cnvqzrKMMzl4hcaJBDYzBOyy0OUI_eV1bYpgQeeNLTqqSU-U4.



The poster features a blue background with white and light blue text. At the top, it reads 'WILTON YOUTH FIELD HOCKEY' in large white letters, followed by 'WINTER CLINICS' in light blue. Below this, it lists 'Sundays starting 12/3' and 'Grades K-4 5-6 pm' on the left, and 'Grades 5-8 5-7 pm' on the right. A central circular logo contains a stylized 'W' and 'F' with hockey sticks. To the right of the logo, it says 'No experience necessary' and 'Held in WHS Field House'. At the bottom, it says 'Register today!' and provides the website URL <https://www.wiltonyouthfieldhockey.org/>. The bottom edge of the poster shows a grassy field with a hockey stick and puck.

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>

Our winter meetings will be held on the following Monday mornings over zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am: December 4, 2023 and January 8, February 5 and March 4, 2024.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83775421936>

Meeting ID: 837 7542 1936

In the meantime, for password and more information please contact 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 December 14, 2023.
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on December 18, 2023.

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