

Hot Cider
A Cider Mill PTA Publication
September 25, 2016

Important Dates

Sept 26	Day 3
Sept 28	Literacy/Math Night, 7pm-8:30pm Cafeteria, Details below
Sept 29	Literacy/Math Day, 9:15am-10:30am, Cafeteria, Details below
Oct 3	NO SCHOOL (Rosh Hashanah)
Oct 10	NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)
Oct 11	NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Day)
Oct 12	NO SCHOOL (Yom Kippur)
Oct 13	Board of Education Meeting, 7pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 18	PTA Meeting, 9:15am, Cafeteria
Oct 19	Walkathon, 7:45am, Wilton High School Track
Oct 20	PTA Meeting, 7pm, Wilton Library
Oct 27	Board of Education Meeting, 7pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 31	Halloween Parades, 3rd Grade - 9:30am-9:45am; 4th Grade - 10:00-10:15am; 5th Grade - 10:30-10:45am, Bus Loop Circle

Important Phone Numbers

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

Note from the PTA President

Dear Parents Guardians and Caregivers,

It's been a fabulous two weeks at school since our last Hot Cider; the school year is really underway now that open house and the first PTA meeting of the year are behind us. At our first meeting we were able to fulfill a grant request to 2 of our 5th grade teachers Erica Rome and Melissa Cirillo. I saw the Walkathon t-shirt in the hallway for the first time this week, it looks awesome and features our very own Buzzby the Bee. Please be sure to return your pledge form in time to receive your free t-shirt - forms are due by October 7th. We now have over 350 Cider Mill families who have a PTA member in them, this is great news. Joining is online and grants you instant access to the student directory. See 'Join the PTA' below for further details.

Here's to another great week ahead!
Nicola Davies PTA President

School News

Literacy/Math Night and Day~September 28th, 7pm-8:30pm & September 29th 9:15am-10:30am

Cider Mill Teachers and Administration will be providing a discussion on Math and Literacy. You will get an overview of how they approach instruction and their overall philosophy in these core curricular areas. Also, you will have the opportunity to have some hands on and simulated experiences that echo what your children do each day in these curricular areas. In addition, they will have a system in place for you to ask general questions about our curriculum and get answers to those questions.

Cider Mill PTA Ball Drive

Is your garage / basement / closet full of excess basketball and kickballs? The PTA is coordinating a ball drive to round up any spares that you may have at home. We hope to ensure that every classroom at school has their own balls for recess. A blue sterilite collection box will be at the entrance to the school for collection over the next 2 weeks.

Odyssey of The Mind

We are starting the process of forming teams to participate in this year's Connecticut State Competition. Information on Odyssey can be found on our [Cider Mill PTA Website](#). To register an interest in coaching a team, or having your child take part, please complete our google form [here](#). The deadline for registering an interest is Friday September 30th. Questions? Please email [Nicola Davies](#)

Cider Mill Walkathon ~ October 19th

On October 19th our 7th Annual Walkathon will take place on the High School track. All Cider Mill students will walk, dance and sing their way around the High School track 4 times. Pledge forms received by October 7th will receive a free Walkathon T-shirt featuring Buzzby! Additional copies of the pledge form can be downloaded from our PTA [website](#).

Cider Mill Library Learning Commons ~ Try out a Shift!

The Cider Mill Library is in need of volunteers to help fill vacancies in the volunteer schedule. Volunteers work an hour and a half shift in the library every week, or every two weeks. They check out books for students, shelve books and help students find books. Training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to try out a shift to see how the library operates, please contact Jen Fila at jennfila5@gmail.com or Jackie Couch at jackie.couch13@gmail.com for more information.

Join the Cider Mill PTA!

Cider Mill PTA is a powerful network of parents and teachers whose mission is to make 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 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 volunteer, school supplies, Hot Cider newsletter, etc.

Membership sign-up 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 follow this link wilton.mobilearq.com, code is 'wilton'.

Cider Mill PTA Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers to run the following committees. We warmly invite all parents to consider these positions, none require a time commitment during the working day. If you are interested in finding out more. Please contact Tara Snow tanda@optonline.net

Pizza & Paint Chair

Seeking one or two parents from any grade to work with art teacher Caroline Duggan to organize an evening of painting with refreshments. You will coordinate the purchasing of supplies, help with set up on the day, advertise the event in Hot Cider / Facebook and handle parent registration. This event began last year with an evening painting Van Gogh's Sunflowers.

Landscaping / School Beautification Committee

Seeking green fingered parents to form a committee that will manage and possibly develop the landscaping in front of the school (by the bus loop). This could be done during weekends.

Lost & 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 and 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 rewarding the CM PTA. Contact Amanda Mitchell for assistance at amandaNmitchell@gmail.com

School Spiritwear

Show your school spirit! Please visit the CM PTA website at www.cidermillpta.org to order your school clothing. Students are encouraged to wear their Spiritwear clothing for various days & events during the year. Proceeds benefit the CM PTA.

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: [Cider Mill Parent Community](#).

Community News

WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL (WYC) ~ Upcoming Events

You can find the WYC on Facebook or by visiting www.wiltonyouth.org The WYC has the following upcoming programs.

- **No Letting Go:** The WYC has No Letting Go - an award-winning feature film at Wilton Library. No Letting Go will be presented free of charge on Thursday, September 29 at 10:00 AM at the Wilton Library. This poignant film honestly depicts the potentially devastating impacts of mental health disorders which affects one in five people (21.4%) in the United States every year. Randi Silverman, the film's writer and producer will lead a Q&A session following the screening.
No Letting Go is a compelling drama based on Ms. Silverman's family journey to understand and to cope with the erratic behavior and emotional instability of their middle son, Tim. The family's world starts to unravel as they discover that their son's increasing fragility is due to mental illness. His family must play an integral role in finding the help he needs, but will it be too late? Will love, strength and courage prevail to reveal the resiliency of the human spirit. Registration recommended. Register at www.wiltonlibrary.org or call 203-762-6334.
- **How to Talk so Kids Will Listen:** A six-part workshop for parents with Susan Bauerfeld, PhD. In this workshop based on the book How to Talk so Kids will Listen, you will learn specific skills and strategies that you can apply right away for positive changes within your family. This class uses exercises to understand the adverse impact of many of our default parenting/communication styles. Participants will learn alternative and effective methods of interacting with children through lessons, role play and practice. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM on Mondays 10/17, 10/24, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, and 12/5 at the Wilton Library. Register at www.wiltonlibrary.org
- **Save the Date - Dr. Suniya Luthar:** Dr. Luthar will speak to parents -Oct. 21, 2016 at 10:00am at the Wilton High School Little Theater. Suniya Luthar, Ph.D. is a Foundation Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University and Professor Emerita of Columbia University's Teachers College. While she was on the faculty at Yale University, Dr. Luthar conducted a groundbreaking study of students in Westport, CT that found that affluent teenagers have the elevated levels of anxiety and depression that most people associate with children in poverty. Dr. Luthar will explain this phenomenon to parents and school staff, and educate us on strategies to foster strength and resilience in our youth. She will also touch on her more recent research on motherhood and the challenges facing mothers of adolescents today.

NAMI SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS

School is back in session and for many children, so is the academic and social stress 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 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 meetings are Mondays September 26 and October 24, from 10-11:30am, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at 203-984-0123 or beth44es@gmail.com OR Vanessa at 203 970-4130 or eliasvanessa5@gmail.com.

Parent Advisory Board News ~ Fall Parent Social, September 30th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

The Wilton Public Schools Parent Advisory Board for Special Services and 504 is hosting its annual Fall Parent Social on Friday, September 30th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Wilton Public Library. The event is for parents of children receiving services in the district and is a great opportunity to gather information, learn about helpful resources and meet other parents. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Please RSVP by emailing PABWilton@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 October 9, 2016. The deadline for submissions is October 4, 2016.