

**Hot Cider**  
**A Cider Mill PTA Publication**

**February 19, 2017**

**Important Dates**

Feb 20	NO SCHOOL (February Recess)
Feb 22	Town Forum with Superintendent Dr. Kevin Smith, 7pm, Middlebrook Media Center
Feb 23	Board of Education Meeting, 7pm, WHS Professional Library
Feb 25	5th Grade Fun Night
Feb 27	5th Grade Parent Information Session, Middle School Math Courses, Cafeteria, 7-8pm
Mar 3	Deadline to re-register Fourth Graders for Fourth Grade Fun Night
Mar 10	Fourth Grade Fun Night (Rescheduled due to snow day)
Mar 10	Deadline to RSVP for Pizza and Paint Night
Mar 14	PTA Meeting, 9:15am, Cafeteria
Mar 15	TWO HOUR DELAY (Professional Learning)
March 23	Pizza and Paint Night, 6-8pm, Cider Mill Cafeteria

**Important Phone Numbers**

Cider Mill Main Office: 203-762-3351  
Report an Absence: 203-834-4950 or [fallonk@wiltonps.org](mailto:fallonk@wiltonps.org)  
Bus Transportation: 203-762-3381  
Chartwells: 203-834-4990 x5221

**Note from the PTA President**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Last week, Superintendent Kevin Smith and Assistant Superintendent Chuck Smith attended our PTA meeting and answered questions from parents concerning the coaching model, MAP testing, and changes in curriculum. Dr. Kevin Smith talked at length about the District Management Committee's 2015 report findings and how they have been implemented to improve educational practices across the district. A community wide evening meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, 7pm, at the Middlebrook Media Center. This is a great opportunity to be a part of a constructive dialogue on our schools.

Box Top competition season is upon us. Please return box tops to your child's classroom by the end of this week. The winning class in each house will receive a no-homework pass! Currently in the lead are Ms. Sakamoto for Belden Hill, Mrs. Lappa for Kent, Mrs. Levenhertz for Cannondale and Ms. Lewis for Nod Hill. Ten more box tops could make all

the difference.

Warmly,

Nicola Davies, PTA President

### **School News**

#### **Town Wide Community Forum with Dr. Kevin Smith ~ Wednesday, February 22, 7pm, Middlebrook Media Center**

Please attend this district-wide community forum to hear from Superintendent Dr. Kevin Smith about instructional coaching, MAP testing, Universal Design for Learning, and other programs being implemented in your schools.

#### **Fifth Grade Fun Night ~ Saturday, February 25, 8-10pm, Wilton YMCA, Registration Deadline: Monday Night, February 20**

Fifth graders will be set free to visit several different fun stations — an obstacle course, mat ball, a magic show, a photo booth, and much more! Snacks will be provided, and there will be a raffle for each house at the end of the night. Students also have an option for swimming, which is the only activity organized by house. Spots are limited. We ask that only experienced swimmers sign up; there will be a lifeguard on duty, but no lessons will be provided. Each house will have 25 minutes in the pool, and kids can change before and after in the locker rooms (remember to bring a towel, goggles, and flip-flops — but no pool toys). There is a \$5 charge per student for this event, which can be paid at check-in the night of the event. Registration is closing Monday night, February 20.

Snow dates: Saturdays, March 4th and 11th. To register, please email the House Contact below for your student and include the following information:

First and last name of student

Teacher name

Parent email

An emergency contact number (for the night of the event)

A note if your child would like to swim (the first 50 replies for each house will be registered to swim that night).

House Contacts:

BELDEN HILL — [imacraftyrn@hotmail.com](mailto:imacraftyrn@hotmail.com)

KENT — [kumqwat@gmail.com](mailto:kumqwat@gmail.com)

NOD HILL — [treehanson@yahoo.com](mailto:treehanson@yahoo.com)

CANNONDALE — [proneill@yahoo.com](mailto:proneill@yahoo.com)

Thanks to everyone who registered to help out the night of the event. We have filled nearly every slot! We still need a few more dads to help out as Boys' Locker Room Monitors, with two shifts each at two different locations in the building.

Also, we are adding another shift: two helpers for the raffle at the end of the evening. The link to sign up is: <http://signup.com/go/WHi4ts> . Any questions should be directed to Kathy Jones at [kumqwat@gmail.com](mailto:kumqwat@gmail.com).

### **Box Tops ~ Contest to Bring in the Most Box Tops Runs Through February 22!**

The Competition is on. Which classes can bring in the most box tops and win a homework free night!? This year's contest runs through February 22nd. 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.

### **Donating Birthday Celebration Goods to Wilton Food Pantry ~ Deadline February 24**

Fifth Grade Girl Scout Troop #50876 is collecting donations for items to give to the approximate 70 families who use the Wilton Food Pantry, as part of their Birthday Bag bronze award project. They are asking for new and unopened donations of: cake and brownie mix, tape, candles, frosting, birthday themed plates/napkins, birthday banners, balloons, streamers and vegetable oil (a small size). Donations can be left in the decorated birthday boxes at Cider Mill from now until Friday, February 24th. Please contact Amy Palma at [amypalma@gmail.com](mailto:amypalma@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### **Fifth Grade Yearbook ~ Purchase Your Ad Before February 24!**

Attention 5th grade parents! Did you know at the end of 5th grade every student receives a copy of the Cider Mill 5th grade yearbook? This book is packed with photos and memories. The PTA funds the yearbook, but your ads offset the cost of producing the book. We invite you to place an ad in the 2016-17 yearbook. Last year over 200 ads were placed. The children will treasure the words you add to this book that is a keepsake for all time. Purchase an ad for \$10, or purchase an ad and receive a 5x7 of the 2023 class photo for \$15. You should have received a flyer in your child's backpack. Please return that form and a check for either \$10 or \$15 made out to Cider Mill PTA, in an envelope to the attention of Yearbook Ads, and put it in the Yearbook box in the school office. All ads and checks must be received by February 24th. Grandparents and other relatives can add a little congratulations to your 5th graders, too! Questions? Please contact Veena Dzik at [dziknpaws@yahoo.com](mailto:dziknpaws@yahoo.com).

### **Fifth Grade Yearbook! Sports Photos Needed**

If any 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents have photos of their children playing sports, please send them to

[gradsof2024@yahoo.com](mailto:gradsof2024@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the yearbook.

**Fifth Grade Parents: Information on Middle School Math Courses, February 27, 7-8pm**

Please join us at the Cider Mill School Cafeteria on Monday, February 27 from 7-8 pm for an information session to give you an overview of the progression of math courses, the differences between the courses, and the math placement process. Presenting the program will be Julie Wojciechowski, K-8 Math/Science Coordinator, and Damien Whelan, Middlebrook Assistant Principal. For questions, please email [wojciechowskij@wiltonps.org](mailto:wojciechowskij@wiltonps.org).

**Fourth Grade Fun Night Rescheduled to Friday, March 10 ~ *Deadline to Register: March 3***

Important! If your child plans to participate in the rescheduled Fourth Grade Fun Night, ***you must re-register him or her***, using the link below. For planning purposes and to enable us to create balanced teams, registration will close on Friday, March 3rd. If you are interested in volunteering as an Activity or Team Leader, please register using the same link. If you have any questions, please contact either Susan Price ([sprice14@optonline.net](mailto:sprice14@optonline.net)) or Jackie Couch ([jackie.couch13@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.couch13@gmail.com)). Thank you! Link to re-register (also the volunteer link): <http://signup.com/go/H6Ru98>.

**Pizza & Paint Night ~ March 23, 6-8pm, Cider Mill Cafeteria, Deadline to RSVP: March 10**

The Second Annual Family Pizza & Paint Night is coming up! Art teacher Caroline Duggan will help you paint your masterpiece. Each painter will be provided with a blank canvas. All supplies and food provided. \$15 per participant. This is not a drop off event. Please plan to attend with your student(s). Download the registration form at [www.cidermillpta.org](http://www.cidermillpta.org), and return completed form with payment to PTA mailbox in school office, before March 10. Questions? Please contact Carol Faherty at [carolmfaherty@gmail.com](mailto:carolmfaherty@gmail.com).

**Join the Cider Mill PTA Board in 2017-2018!**

Below is a list of open positions for next year's Cider Mill PTA. So many fun and special positions are available and we are looking for volunteers. The PTA is a great way to get involved with the school and with other parents. Many of these programs will not happen if we are not able to find a volunteer. There are opportunities for everyone, no matter how much time you can volunteer. You can find descriptions of many of the roles at <http://www.cidermillpta.org/committee-descriptions>.

The role of President will be open next year. The best part of this role is that the only requirements are time and willingness to fulfill the role and make it your own. It is a great role for someone with an ability to work well with a wide range of people from volunteers to the Principal and Superintendent and a passion for working for the betterment of the

school and its community.

Additionally, both the Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Fundraising will be open next year. Other roles that are open:

3rd grade Fun Night

3rd grade Field Day

3rd grade Great Books

3rd grade River Study

3rd grade Science Volunteer Coordinator

3rd grade Room Rep Coordinator

3rd grade World Language

4th grade Great Books

5th grade River Study

5th grade Yearbook

Box Tops

Webmaster

Reflections

Children's Enrichment

Turkey Trot

Marketing

Volunteer coordinator

If you have any questions about any of the roles, please contact Tara Snow at [tanda@optonline.net](mailto:tanda@optonline.net) or at 203-563-0866.

### **Ongoing Cider Mill News**

#### **Join the Cider Mill PTA!**

The Cider Mill PTA is a powerful network of parents and teachers whose mission is to make every 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 child's education. It shows you want to be involved, engaged and informed. It is not a commitment to volunteer for anything!

It does not 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, get to know your school and administrators, have a voice and be heard at the school and 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, Walkathon, Book Fair, Spiritwear, library volunteers, and the Hot Cider newsletter.

Membership signup 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 visit this link: <http://wilton.mobilearq.com> and use code 'wilton'.

### **Buy Name Labels at Mabel's Labels**

Last year, over 300 sweatshirts, 100 winter hats, 50 pairs of gloves, 50 lunch boxes, and 10 winter jackets were left in our Lost Property areas at school. The overwhelming majority had no owner information marked in them. To raise funds and reduce this immense amount of loss, we have teamed up with Mabel's Labels to run a fundraiser. Mabel's Labels adhere to your child's clothing and will not come off in the wash. You will get your missing property back and Cider Mill will earn money! Please visit [www.mabelslabels.com](http://www.mabelslabels.com). Click on 'Support a Fundraiser.' We are listed as Cider Mill School (Wilton). Cider Mill will receive a 20% donation based on the cost of your order. Thank you!

### **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](#).

### **Lost and 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 or 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 going to the Cider Mill PTA. Contact Amanda Mitchell with questions, at [amandaNmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:amandaNmitchell@gmail.com).

### **School Spiritwear**

Show your school spirit! Please visit the Cider Mill PTA website at [www.cidermillpta.org](http://www.cidermillpta.org) to order your school clothing. Students are encouraged to wear their Spiritwear clothing for various days and events during the year. Proceeds benefit the Cider Mill PTA. Please contact Annemarie Aronowitz at [annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com) or Amanda Mitchell at [amandanmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:amandanmitchell@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **Community News**

#### **Wilton Youth Council (WYC) ~ Upcoming Events**

Find us on Facebook or visit [www.wiltonyouth.org](http://www.wiltonyouth.org). We are very pleased to announce that we have launched our new and improved Wilton Youth Council website! We hope you will

find it to be helpful in finding out more about our programs, as well as providing you with resources. Check it out at [www.wiltonyouth.org](http://www.wiltonyouth.org)! Our February WYC Newsletter contains all the events you might be interested in - be sure to sign up if you don't receive it in your inbox: <http://conta.cc/2lvqV6R>.

**NAMI CAN ~ Monday, February 27, 10-11:30am, 49 New Street, Wilton**

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) Support Group is for parents of children with behavioral, emotional and mental health issues. The meeting is free, confidential, safe and led by trained and certified 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. For more info, contact Beth at 203-984-0123 or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com); or Vanessa at [EliasVanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:EliasVanessa5@gmail.com), or text 203-970-4130. You can also visit <http://www.namisouthwestct.com>.

**NAMI Basics ~ Wednesday, March 1, 6:30-9pm, Grace Farms, West Barn**

NAMI Basics is a FREE, six-session program designed for parents (and other family caregivers) of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral difficulties. NAMI Basics helps parents and other family caregivers of children to understand the illnesses that are causing those behavioral difficulties, and the critical role families play in the treatment of those illnesses. The program is taught by trained teachers who are also the parents or family caregivers of individuals who experienced emotional or behavioral difficulties prior to age 13. Location: Grace Farms, West Barn, 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan. Contact & Registration: Janet, 203.517.9185 and Denise, 203.314.0208.

**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/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 March 5, 2017. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2017.