

HOT CIDER

CIDER MILL PTA PUBLICATION – October 21, 2024

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

Important Dates

Oct 24	BOE Meeting, 7:00 pm, WHS Professional Library
Oct 27	Harlem Wizards vs. WPS Teachers
Oct 31	Walkathon!!! With Halloween Parade
Nov 4	Cider Mill Students Vote!
Nov 5	No School for Election Day
Nov 6	Picture Day Retakes
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Assembly/Turkey Trot
Nov 11	Cider Mill Family Forum, Building Safe Welcoming Schools Together
Nov 14	PTA Meeting, Multipurpose Room and Zoom, 9:15 am
Nov 21-26	Scholastic Book Fair
Nov 21-26	Shortened Day/Early Release
Nov 27-Dec 1	Thanksgiving Recess/No School

Dear Cider Mill Parents and Guardians,

We hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weekend! Another great day to get outside and enjoy.

The Cider Mill PTA has launched our single biggest fundraiser of the year, our **Walkathon**. This year's Walkathon is joining the Halloween Parade to provide some extra fiendish fun and minimize both out of class time and changes to school schedules.

Our students will circle the track in costume to the sounds of spooky songs and commentary from our enthusiastic gym teachers. Parents are more than welcome to come and cheer our children along!

Proceeds from the Walkathon fund many of our initiatives during the school year, including **enrichment programs, fun nights, visiting author, Veterans Day hospitality, 5th grade yearbooks, and more**. We ask that you please consider donating! Donations can be made [HERE](#).

Still to come we have our Veterans Day assembly, Turkey Trot, and our Scholastic Book Fair. Stay tuned for more information as those events draw closer.

We can't wait to see you at our next **PTA meeting on November 14th at 9:15 a.m.** Thank you for being such a vital part of Cider Mill—we truly couldn't do it without you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to giddingsmelissa@hotmail.com or cathleenfareed@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Melissa Reynolds, President
Cathleen Fareed, President-Elect

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/1Wg883jXBcWnTQOZNGLV746OvS6tnJaleYDL4q9d0lNY/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 2024-25 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

Cider Mill Walkathon Donations Open!

Support Our Students through the Walk-A-Thon!



The Walk-A-Thon is the PTA's largest and most impactful fundraiser for the 2024/25 school year, supporting a wide variety of student and school initiatives that enhance the Cider Mill experience. This year, on **Halloween**, all Cider Mill Students will walk the Wilton High School track—what better way to show your support than with a donation?

On average, the PTA invests approximately **\$75 per student, per year**, and the Walk-A-Thon provides the majority of these funds. The more we raise, the more we can give back to our students, helping to fund essential programs and activities!

Your donation this year will help support initiatives like:

- **Welcome Program** for new students in the district
- **Field Day** for all grades
- **Outdoor Learning Center**
- **5th Grade Yearbook**
- **Interactive Enrichment Programs**, including:
 - *3rd Grade: Drum Circle*
 - *4th Grade: Poetry in Motion*
 - *5th Grade: Brain Challenge*
- **Teacher Start-Up Grants** to equip classrooms
- **New equipment and instruments** for the school

And that’s just the start! With additional support, we can continue enriching the educational experience.

A percentage of Walkathon proceeds are donated each year to the charity that is chosen by our students. This year’s charities that are being voted on are:

Clothes to Kids of Fairfield County: Provides free, quality clothing to school aged children in need. <https://clothestokidsfairfieldcounty.org>.

Feeding 500: Feeds the homeless through fundraising and food donations. <https://www.feeding500.org>.

Kids Helping Kids: Develops leadership skills in youth through service projects. <https://kidshelpingkidsct.org>.

Plus, we’ll be hosting raffles with exciting prizes for strong participation—stay tuned for more info! We appreciate all donations! You can donate [HERE!](#)



Cider Mill PTA Meeting

Our next **Cider Mill PTA meeting** of the year will take place on **Thursday, November 14 at 9:15 am** in the multipurpose room. A Zoom link will be provided closer to the meeting.

We thank everyone who attended or joined by Zoom our October meeting. We hope the discussion with Bill Tomlinson from Chartwells helped.

We were fortunate to have Bill Tomlinson from Chartwells join us to give an update on the school lunch program and answer questions from our parents. He provided insight into what your child’s lunch looks like each day. Every meal includes a main entrée, fresh fruit or vegetables, and milk. Staff are trained to guide students in making healthy choices and ensuring appropriate portion sizes. If students are still hungry, they can request a second entrée or purchase a snack from the à la carte menu. Bill invited parents to visit and help out if they’d like to see the lunch program firsthand. If you have specific questions or comments, please feel free to let us know.

We hope to see many of you in November!



Voting Is Our Superpower!

On **Monday, November 4th**, Cider Mill students will have the opportunity to participate in a fun and educational voting activity where they can cast their votes for their favorite of three song choices. When students return on Wednesday, the school day will start off with a joyful movement break with the winning song played during the morning announcements!

Families are encouraged to speak at home about the importance of voting, how every vote counts, and the role it plays in decision-making processes within a community. Big or small, your vote matters!



Picture Day Retakes

Anyone wanting photo retakes can head to the gym on **November 6**. Simply bring your previous proofs with you.

2024-25 PTA Reflections Art Contest: Accepting Imperfection

We're excited to announce this year's PTA Reflections Art Contest, with the theme "*Accepting Imperfection*." Students can submit their creative work in categories like dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts.

Key Dates:

- October 1, 2024: Contest opens
- November 12, 2024: Submission deadline
- December 6, 2024: District awards ceremony
- April 1, 2025: State winners announced
- May 14, 2025: State & national awards ceremony

New this year: the 'Accessible Artist' division, for students with disabilities, entering through SEPTA. For details and submission instructions, visit <https://www.cidermillpta.org/reflections>.

Good luck to all participants—we can't wait to see your creations!

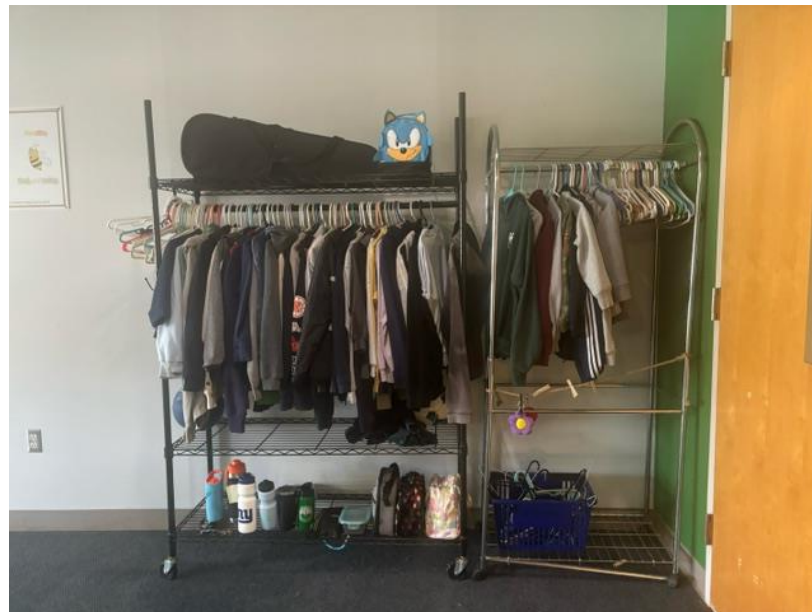
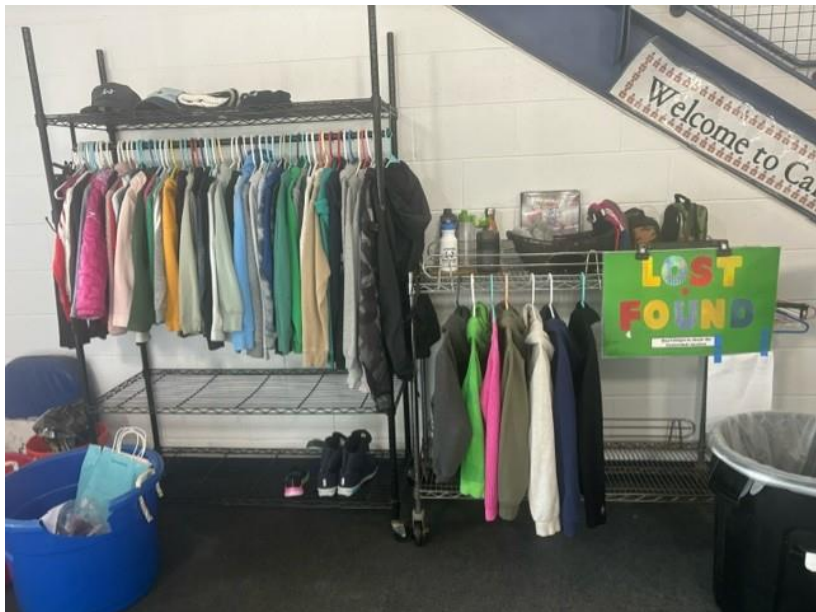
WHS Presents Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Our very own Wilton High School is proud to be selected as one of the very few first schools in the world to put on a theatrical presentation of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. And the High School students are excited to share this with Cider Mill students in hopes of showing them what exciting programs are available to them at the high school level. **Tickets went on sale October 1 and the High School wants to include Cider Mill in their celebration by having Harry Potter Day on opening day, November 8.** Students are invited to dress in Harry Potter inspired costumes (or their favorite Harry Potter house color) to school on Friday, November 8. Students are also welcome to dress up in costume if they attend the production. Tickets can be purchased from the high school here: wiltonhighschooltheatre.com/tickets



Lost and Found

Is your child missing a water bottle, a jacket, or a snack bag? Our lost and found is already overflowing! Please have your children look during the school day, or stop in! Our two locations are at the north entrance pickup near Cannondale and inside the door that faces the bus loop in Kent.



Middlebrook Science Fair Helper

Love science? Help make the fair amazing! We need someone to shadow the Science Fair chair this year at Middlebrook and take over next year. It's fun, the kids love it, and it's all after school and evening work. Contact Cathleen Fareed or Melissa Reynolds to learn more.

Lunch Monitor Wanted

Help out in the cafeteria! We need a lunch monitor on full school days from 9:45 am – 1:15 pm. Pay is \$17/hour. Contact Jeremy Cross (crossj@wiltonps.org) for more info!

Teacher Photocopying Aides Needed!

We need your support to keep things running smoothly! We're looking for volunteers to help make copies for our teachers and staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 10:00 am. If you can spare an hour of your time, please sign up using the link below. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and makes a big difference!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D49AEAF28A5FB6-51225341-cider#/>

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help our school community!

AtoZ Connect

PTA Membership and Directory ARE LIVE!

Our Membership Portal is now live and ready to accept members for the 2024/2025 school year!

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!

Sign up now! <https://cidermillpta.membershiptoolkit.com/story/364235>

Cider Mill Spiritwear

Get into the “spirit” and snag your Cider Mill swag! New tie dye and solid color house shirts are now available at <https://www.cidermillpta.org/spiritwear>.



CIDER MILL - SPIRITWEAR

****NEW**
TIE DYE
\$25**



****Order online**
www.cidermillpta.org**

****NEW PRICE**
CM Bee Plush
\$10**



**HOUSE COLOR TEE SHIRTS - \$20
Limited supplies available**

***NEW* Stock
Coming
Soon**

Wilton SEPTA

The Wilton SEPTA’s mission is to build compassionate, trusting, and collaborative relationships with all members of our schools and community. We strive to ensure that the diversity of all children receiving Special Education and related services will be supported, celebrated and socially embraced. Collectively, we will work to increase access to resources, empowering every child with the opportunity and inspiration to thrive.

Like our [Facebook](#) page and visit our [website](#) to join for the 2024-2025 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. Please stay tuned!

Community News

Wilton Rec Jr. Girls Warrior Basketball

Wilton Rec Jr. Girls Warrior Basketball evaluations start next weekend, 10/26, and another session is available on 11/2 in the Cider Mill gym. The practices are 1 hour during the week between 5:00 – 8:00 pm and one Saturday game, between 8:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Cider Mill gym as well. After evaluations there will be more details on teams and scheduling.

Sign up is here under Youth Leagues -> Jr. Warrior Girls Basketball Grades 3,4, & 5:
<https://secure.rec1.com/.../wilton-parks-and.../catalog>

Please note if your daughter does travel basketball they are not eligible to play in this league as well

Wilton League of Women Voters

The Wilton League of Women Voters is running a voting sticker design contest! All students in grades K-5 are welcome to create a nonpartisan "I Voted" sticker that represents the importance of voting! The winning design will be distributed on election day by the League of Women Voters outside of polling locations. To enter, find and turn in a worksheet at the children's section of the Wilton Library, or fill out a

copy of [this worksheet](#) and send a scanned copy of it to wiltonleagueinterns@gmail.com by Friday October 25th. Contact wiltonleagueinterns@gmail.com with any questions.

Wilton Youth Council

10/23 6:30-8:30 pm - A Community Conversation on Gambling: Learn more about the impact of problem gambling and how to help a loved one, family member, friend, or client. Register at <https://wilton.librarycalendar.com/event/hold-gambling-presentation-3394>. This program is brought to you by Wilton Youth Council and the Wilton Library.

10/25 9:30-10:30 am - Coffee, Community, and Conversation: Join WYC board members for an informal conversation. This is a great time to connect with and meet members of the Wilton community! We'll meet at Tusk & Cup in Wilton Center.

10/28 7-9 pm - The Gift of Failure and How it Leads to Success in Life with author Jessica Lahey: Lahey will be speaking at East Ridge Auditorium in the East Ridge Middle School, Ridgefield on Monday, October 28 from 7-9 pm. She will discuss:

- how to foster intrinsic motivation
- how every opportunity is an opportunity for growth
- the role of autonomy in self-efficacy
- the link between frustration tolerance and entitlement

Event admission is \$20 per person. This program is brought to you by Project Resilience, Ridgefield Public Schools, Ridgefield PTAs, Ridgefield Youth Commission, Ridgefield Library, Books on the Common and Wilton Youth Council. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/5e255420-7eb1-4e1c-9d99-ccfe76aa0b74>.

11/4 7-8 pm - Social Media: The Inside Scoop with Max Stossel: Max spoke to WPS students in grades 6-11 on Wednesday, October 16, sharing his experience as a former media strategist with a background in social media development who speaks on the impact of social media. Register for this virtual Q&A at <https://www.socialawakening.org/join-the-awake-kin>.

This event is brought to you by a partnership between Middlebrook PTA, SPED*NET, Wilton High School PTSA, Wilton Public Schools and Wilton Youth Council.

If you have questions or would like to get involved in [Wilton Youth Council](#), email Chandra Ring at cring@wiltonyouth.org. Stay tuned for more information about community events, parenting groups and programs on healthy families, building connections, transitions, and more!

The Harlem Wizards are Coming to Wilton!

NEW! WEF EVENT: Wilton Teacher & Staff vs. Harlem Wizards Update

Just a few more days to go until THE game day! WEF is thrilled to announce the WPS/Community players who will bring on the big Win against the Harlem Wizards on **Sunday 10/27, 4:00 pm at WHS Fieldhouse:**

Representing Miller Driscoll:	Representing Cider Mill:
Sal Giaimo	Eileen Montgomery
Conor LeBreck	Alyssa Peterson
Bella Porte	Sarah Arbucci
Jackie Moccio	Jen Falcone- principal
Bernadette Hess - assistant principal	Mark McAndrews
	Alex Justrabo
	Jeremy Cross- assistant principal
	Joe Pullia- COACH

Representing Middlebrook: Robert Foley	Representing WHS: Joel Geriak
Representing the Wilton Community: Toni Boucher	

The Harlem Wizards will face our very own WPS teachers and staff in an epic showdown! All proceeds will benefit Wilton Public Schools through Wilton Education Foundation grants. **Tickets are currently on sale.** You won't want to miss this inaugural event!

Date: Sunday, October 27

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: WHS Zeoli Fieldhouse

Tickets Link:

<https://pretix.eu/harlemwizards/wiltonct10-27-24-04-00pm/>



Wilton Education Foundation

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help out at the Harlem Wizards game and other events! If interested, please contact Jen Carvajal Jencarv@hotmail.com or join us at our next Board Meeting on **Nov. 21!**

Wilton SEPTA's Annual Touch a Truck and Treat!



Join the Wilton Special Education PTA and Wilton's First Responders for a sensory friendly Halloween activity! Tour emergency vehicles, meet first responders, enjoy a treat bag, and engage in lots of Halloween Fun. Costumes are optional, and this is a FREE event.

Date: Friday, October 25

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

NEW Location: Our Lady of Fatima Church Parking Lot

Please RSVP by October 21 at [Touch a Truck and Treat 2024](#).

Woodcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for the following fall *one day only* program for Grades 3 – 5:

Shelter Builders

In this drop-off program for students in grades 3 - 5, we will learn to build shelters using materials that nature provides! We'll gather everything we need, find an ideal place, and construct a temporary shelter that provides protection from the elements. Students will be able to test the effectiveness of their work by getting inside their shelter while educators shower the roof with water!

Limited to 12 students.

Date: Saturday, November 2

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Cost: \$45

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Ambler Farm

Junior Apprentice Program: Fall 2 Session

This 8-week program is designed for children in Grades K-5 interested in learning more about how the natural world and the farm come together through hands-on, engaging activities, games, and crafts. Our Junior Apprentices spend time visiting and caring for our animals every week.

Grades: 3-5

Dates: Mondays or Wednesdays, October 21 – December 11

Time: 2:45 – 4:45 pm

Sign-up Link: [Register Here](#)

Fright Nights

This is a drop off program for children in grades 3 – 5. Creepy sights and mysterious sounds abound when the moon rises at Ambler Farm. Join us for a not-too frightful evening of spooky stories, a haunted hayride, and some sweet treats. Choose from one of four nights! Enrollment is limited, advance registration required. Check out amblerfarm.org for more information, and registration is coming mid-September. You may also reach out to info@amblerfarm.org with any questions.

Dates: Fridays, October 18 and 25, Saturdays, October 19 and 26

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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/>.

IvyMath

Is Your Child on Track in Math?

[IvyMath](#) 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! **Sign up now at: IvyMath.com/Boost**

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Wilton NAMI-CAN: Free Parent Support Group

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.

Website: <https://namisouthwestct.org>

Fall Meeting Dates: Mondays, November 4, and December 2

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81998029176>

Meeting ID: 819 9802 9176

For the password and more information: 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 October 31, 2024.
The next issue of Hot Cider will be published on November 4, 2024.

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