



What's the Buzz at Cider Mill School (Family Update for 10/25/20)

We hope you enjoyed the weekend and that this email finds you healthy and rested for the new week. This past week was a reminder that we need to continue to take care and follow the District and Town safety procedures and precautions for COVID-19. It is important to know that our custodians work very hard to maintain the cleaning protocols and that all of our staff help to model safe and healthy practices with your children and implement all of the safety guidelines we have put in place. Since we need to continue to work as a team, please remember to take your child(ren)'s temperature at night before bed and again before coming to school each day. This is a topic that our teachers and our school nurse will speak to our students about as we review with students the various precautions we all need to take to remain safe at school. Here is the direct link to the [District's COVID-19 Update Page](#) for more information. Below you will find the topics for this week's newsletter. As always, please contact us directly with any questions at falconej@wiltonps.org, okeefec@wiltonps.org, and catalanoc@wiltonps.org.

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Thought-Exchange Family Survey: the District has designed a survey to learn about what has been going well, what has not been going well, and what can be done to support you in the area of teaching and learning. We are using **Thought Exchange** which uses artificial intelligence, crowd-sourcing and an ability to provide actionable information based on open-ended feedback. Please take a few moments to complete the [Cider Mill Family Thought Exchange at this link](#). You will have the opportunity to write your thoughts and then interact with others' thoughts (ratings 1-5 stars). There is a video demonstration to view for more information when you click on the link. **IMPORTANT: When discussing the various blended learning models, PLEASE be specific with your responses.** For example: "while we were in Hybrid...", or "now that we are 100% on-site, ...", or, "now that my child is in 100% full remote...". This will help to provide more targeted, and actionable feedback!



Halloween is around the corner and will look a little different this year but we are excited to make it a fun day for all! Due to outdoor crowd limitations and overall safety precautions we cannot have a parade this year, however we are inviting students to attend school (in-person and virtually) in their Halloween costumes on Friday, October 30th. If your child would like to wear his or her costume, please ensure to follow these guidelines:

- The costume should be comfortable and your child should be able to wear the costume for the duration of the day. If your child's at-home Halloween costume is more "involved" (example: blow-up T-rex, or box robot), your child should wear a different dress-up costume to school.

- Your child should come to school wearing his or her costume - bathrooms cannot be used for changing costumes at all. We don't want any students disappointed that they can't wear costumes.
- As always, please choose costumes without weapons or fake blood/gore. Please also ensure the costume isn't too scary.
- There will be no candy distributed by any one. Due to safety guidelines we ask families to please send your child (and your child only) in with a special snack.
- All students must still wear a CDC approved face mask - a costume mask does NOT meet CDC guidelines.

Classroom teachers have a variety of activities and crafts planned for students during the day! We will even have a virtual parade to share with all of our families! Thank you for your help in making Halloween 2020 a success!

Peanut-Free Foods & the Cider Mill Cafeteria: There are different protocols for nut allergies in the classroom and cafeteria in consultation with our nursing staff. Cider Mill classrooms remain nut free as there are nut allergies on every team. This allows for movement between classrooms as needed for different subjects or activities. Now that we are back in the cafeteria, and students are sitting at individual desks (not tables), Students may bring lunches that contain nuts. Students that require nut free areas for health and safety purposes will sit at desks marked "nut free" for their enhanced safety.

COVID Procedure & Travel Update: *We anticipate the District to provide an extensive update to COVID-related procedures within the next week.* In the meantime, in order to return on site from a state on the travel advisory, you must take the RT-PCR COVID-19 test, and the person had it either in the 72 hours prior to returning or after returning to CT, the person may return back once the negative result comes in AND once the person shares it with the State DPH. Here's the overview: To take advantage of the testing alternative, the traveler must meet the following conditions:

1. Must have had a test for COVID-19 in the 72 hours prior to arrival in Connecticut or at any time following arrival in Connecticut;
2. The result of such COVID-19 test is negative, and
3. Must provide written proof of such negative test results to the Commissioner via email to DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov or via facsimile to (860) 326-0529

Lost & Found: Cider Mill School PTA is hosting a Lost & Found Return Afternoon on Wednesday, October 28 for student belongings left at Cider Mill last Spring. Please wear masks and gloves. All belongings have been quarantining since last spring in plastic bags. PTA volunteers wore/wear gloves when organizing belongings.

Where: Cider Mill School Bus Loop - under the canopy

When: Wednesday, October 28

Last Name - A to L 1:00 - 1:45 pm

Last Name - M to Z 2:00 - 2:45 pm

Veteran's Day Celebration! Our annual Veterans Day assembly is on Wednesday November 11, 2020. As this is a distance learning half day, the activities will be available online for everyone to view. We are excited to have the opportunity for Veterans near and far to "take part" in our assembly. Please click on this [link](#) for more information!

Math Club Parent Letter: Please see the attached letter if your child is interested in participating in the VIRTUAL [Math Club](#). Registration due no later than Thursday, 10/29/20.

Arrival/Dismissal Updates



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|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| (from Kristine Lilly Way/ Route 7 Only) | Last Names A-Le | Last Names Li - Z | Last Names A-Le | Last Names Li - Z |
| Busses | 7:20 - 7:40 | | 2:00 - 2:30 | |

Buses: There are still many buses with limited numbers of students on board. We want to be careful and maintain social distance and safety, but we can definitely fit more students on some of our buses. Fran Williams (williamsf@wiltonps.org) is able to review your bus route and share how many students are on your bus. This can help you determine if switching to the bus might be an option for your family.

Up-coming Dates:

- Bus Evacuation Drills upon Arrival in the am (for bus riders only) - 10/27 & 10/29
- Lost & Found Family Pickup - 10/28 from 1:00 to 3:00
- Halloween - 10/30 (Students wear costumes to school-see above)
- No School for Students ~ Tuesday, 11/3 - Election Day & Teacher Professional Learning
- Fall Photo Days: South ~ Monday, November 9; North ~ Tuesday, November 10
 - Remote Learners: both dates (11/9 & 11/10) - after school Time - TBA
- PTA Meeting - Nov. 10 at 10:00 am
- Conferences ~ Shortened Day Schedule (11:45 dismissal begins) ~ 11/19-11/24
- No School for Students and Staff ~ 11/25-11/27 for Thanksgiving Break
- No School for Students - 12/24 - 1/3/2021 for the Holiday Recess
- School Resumes - January 4, 2021

Take Care!

Jen, Lauren & Catherine