



## What's the Buzz at Cider Mill School (Family Update for 3/31/21)

We made it to Spring Break! This month we celebrated Silver Linings and students engaged in various activities designed to keep spirits up throughout the month of March. Unfortunately, last week brought a terrible tragedy to one of our own Cider Mill families, the DuBrocks. We are so fortunate to live in this wonderful community that has embraced and supported Emily and her children during this horrific time. The DuBrocks will continue to need our love and compassion in the months and years ahead. I have had several inquiries requesting how to help the family. For now, here is a [GoFUNDME page](#) started by family friends. The small acts of kindness and love they receive from old and new friends will help the family heal little by little.

Wednesday's [New York Times' The Morning](#) headline heralded, "**Caution vs. Optimism.**" As we surpass our year anniversary with CoVID, everyone longs for "normal"- family gatherings, raucous sporting events, and travel to warmer environments. As you make decisions for your family, we ask that you please continue to be cautious and follow the Connecticut Travel Advisory. Although the Executive Order has been lifted, **Connecticut Travel Advisory protocols still include testing and quarantine after travel.** Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in CoVID cases this month. Additionally, for the first time in a year, a couple cases appear to be "school spread" scenarios (student - teacher, teacher - student or student - student). We want to finish out this school year with our students on-site. If you opt to travel with your family over spring break, you can find a summary of the Advisory below and the full website here: [Connecticut Travel Advisory](#). **If you travel, your child(ren) should participate remotely until they receive a negative test result and/or their quarantine period has ended. Thank you for doing your part to keep us all safe.**

Whatever you choose to do over vacation, we hope you enjoy and have the opportunity to rejuvenate your mind and body. Warmer weather is right around the corner! Thank you for your continued partnership, and as always, please contact us directly with any questions at [falconej@wiltonps.org](mailto:falconej@wiltonps.org), [okeefec@wiltonps.org](mailto:okeefec@wiltonps.org), and [birdl@wiltonps.org](mailto:birdl@wiltonps.org). Below are the BookMark hyperlinks that will take you directly to particular sections of the newsletter.

[Connecticut Travel Advisory](#)

[Spring Events & School-wide Celebrations](#)

[Wilton Reads & Equity/Inclusion Work at Cider Mill](#)

[Wednesday Lunch - Civil Discourse](#)

[Math Homework & Upcoming Forum](#)

[Student Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Cider Mill Placement Letter & Middlebrook Information](#)

[Arrival: Late Drop-Offs](#)

[Up-coming Dates](#)

### **Connecticut Travel Advisory:**

1. Review [CDC guidance for post-travel quarantine and testing](#)
2. Get tested 3-5 days after travel AND self-quarantine at home for a full 7 days after travel.
  - a. Continue to stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if your test is negative.
  - b. If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.

3. If you do not get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for a full 10 days after travel.
4. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of CoVID-19 while in quarantine. Self isolate and contact a health care provider to seek testing if you develop symptoms.

**Spring Celebrations:** It is our hope that some of the fun we have planned for Trimester 3 will bring joy to our students and our entire community. Below is a summary of spring events:

- **Wrap-up of March Onward & Upward:**
  - It has been a fun couple of weeks at Cider Mill as we have led up to our latest surprise which is happening today! Students are enjoying a PTA-sponsored popsicle and some “Drop Everything And Read” time either in their desk-fort or outside (weather permitting). We hope these clues, spirit days, and special events have made the last month a fun and engaging experience for students.
  - Today, April 1: **Spirit Day: “Dress like a BEE Kind Day”**
  
- **Kindness Rocks: The Kindness Rock Project** is a project, started by Megan Murphy from Cape Cod, MA, where people paint pebbles or cobbles and leave them for others to find and collect. Notes, symbols and messages that promote kindness are added to the rocks. Photos of the painted rocks and hints of where to find them are sometimes shared on social media like Facebook and Twitter. The project started in the U.S. and has spread to the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand as well as other countries.
  - This year we will be painting and creating our kindness rocks in art class! Students will put them in a special place outside of Cider Mill School to celebrate how we *ROCK* with Kindness!
  - **Cider Mill School Art Department and PTA needs your help!** Please collect 1 or 2 rocks that you can paint. A good rock should be about the same size as the palm of your hand and very smooth on at least 2 sides. Please bring your rock in washed and in a sandwich baggie, before April 30th when we begin our project.



**Wilton Reads Author Visits & The Celebration of Racial Equity & Inclusion:** In conjunction with the Wilton Public Library, the Wilton Public Schools are excited to engage in the Wilton Reads 2021 program. The Community Read, *Memorial Drive*, and all of the texts that have been chosen throughout each school celebrate race, reading, strength, equity, and hope. These themes have been discussed in the District and Cider Mill’s Equity & Inclusion committees. We are excited to have not one, but three special author events for our students. Here is the [link to the District-wide](#) Wilton Reads school events flyer.

- On April 1, 2021, **Jerry Craft** ([website](#)) will visit with our 5th grade students to celebrate writing techniques and themes within his graphic novels, *Class Act* and *New Kid*. This book is about a young boy who starts over in a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real. Students will join a whole school Zoom Webinar at 1pm at the following [link](#). You are welcome to join as well!
  - Additionally, our fifth graders will have the opportunity to participate in a **New Kid book club** co-led by staff from Cider Mill and the Wilton Public Library. Students who participate will receive a signed copy of a Jerry Craft book! The dates for this book club will be April 14, 21 and 28. Please go to [this link](#) on the Wilton Library website to register your child.



Gerundo ([gerundow@wiltonps.org](mailto:gerundow@wiltonps.org)) since he will be the 6th grade guidance counselor next year. Principal Higgins asked that I share this information with 5th grade families:

*Dear parents, we look forward to welcoming your children to Middlebrook next fall as our newest sixth graders. Please refer to the website for important dates to remember: Under the Middlebrook School link and MB information tab: [Middlebrook Course Registration](#).*

**Arrival- Late Drop Off:** If you are dropping your child off late to school, please park in the parking lot and walk them in. Unfortunately, staff must be in their classrooms for the students and are unable to stand at the doors after 7:45. Additionally, during the day, the bus loop is off-limits. We post orange cones out there to prohibit cars driving through since the area becomes a play area for our students. Please do not pull up into the loop any time before 2:30. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Up-coming Dates:**

- April 2 ~ Placement Letters Due
- April 2 ~ No School for Good Friday
- April 5-9 ~ No School for Students - Spring Break
- April 13 ~ PTA Meeting
- April 19-23 ~ Earth Week
- April 29 ~ Visiting Author Andrea Davis Pinkney

Have a fantastic break!

*Jen, Catherine, and Lauren*