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|  |  PTA 2016-2017 |  |
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PTA Schoolhouse Scoop

January 29, 2017



Important Dates\*

**Ongoing:**  Reading Rocks Reading Period January 28-February 12th.

Box Tops Competition January 30-February 10th.

**Jan 30:** Last day to submit pajamas for PAJANUARY drive. Click [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8rSdN3qbGSKRWlfWjQ3dnFwZk0/view?usp=sharing) for flyer.

**Jan 30:**  Giving Tree opens. Click [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8rSdN3qbGSKWmxCUjk1UnN6Yms/view?usp=sharing) for information.

**Jan 31:**  Parents as Reading Partners for Pre-K & K. Starts at 9:30am.

**Feb 1:** Visiting Author book **order forms DUE**. Click [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8rSdN3qbGSKSmZGNTRSSHcwX1U/view?usp=sharing) for order form.

**Feb 3:**  School Spirit Day!

**Feb 8:** Library Volunteer Meeting. Starts at 9am in the Media Center.

**Feb 10:**  Last day to turn in Box Tops.

**Feb 12:** “Reading Rocks!” Reading Period **ENDS.**

**Feb 13:**  PTA Meeting & Principal’s Coffee. Starts at 9:30am in the Cafeteria.

**Feb 13:**  100th Day of School (subject to snow days)

**Feb 17:**  February Break. No School.

**Feb 20:** President’s Day. School and Offices Closed.

**Mar 1-2:**  Visiting Author Days: Elise Broach.

**Mar 1:** Parents as Reading Partners for Grade 1. Starts at 9:30am.

**Mar 2:**  Parents as Reading Partners for Grade 2. Starts at 9:30am.

\*While we do our best to accurately reflect dates and times of school meetings and events, it is possible that there are changes. Please check the [calendar on edline](http://www.miller-driscollschool.org/pages/wiltonmd/Calendar) for the most up to date information.

School News

✚ **Miller-Driscoll Giving Tree Opens Monday, January 30th!**

The Giving Tree is an online "donation store" created by the PTA to help teachers enhance their classrooms with items they have added to their wish lists. This tradition was started several years ago to harness the generosity of parents who would like to give directly to our schools. We have had tremendous success in the past and would like to continue this generous tradition.

This year, the Giving Tree will be available online beginning Monday, January 30th. Please take a moment to check out your child’s teacher’s wish list and consider making a donation of an item or a general donation to their classroom. Donations can be made safely and securely from our website using credit cards through Paypal. All donors will remain anonymous and teachers will not receive a list of donors.

If you would like to see all of the **Teacher Wish Lists** including school-wide wish lists for specials including art, music, reading, physical education, and the Outdoor Learning Center please check out [our site](http://sites.google.com/site/mdgivingtree/home).

If you have any trouble with the above link, please visit the Giving Tree at <http://sites.google.com/site/mdgivingtree/home> or contact Jackie Couch (jackie.couch13@gmail.com) or Jackie Shaw (jackielshaw@hotmail.com).

Thank you for supporting the Miller-Driscoll teachers!

✚ **Box Top Competition**

Miller-Driscoll’s 2nd Box Tops Competition of the school year will run from Monday, January 30, 2017-Friday, February 10, 2017. If you didn’t continue to cut and collect since our last competition, we are giving you a heads up. Start cutting!!

✚ **Visiting Author Days |Order Forms Due Wednesday, February 1**

On March 1-2 Elise Broach, author of many critically acclaimed children’s books will be meeting students at Miller-Driscoll to talk about the joy of writing. We are delighted to have Ms. Broach visit our school and are certain your children will enjoy the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with such a talented author. In preparation for her visit, our librarians and classroom teachers will be reading her books with the children. Pre-ordered books will be autographed by Ms. Broach on the days of her presentation in March. Sponsored by the PTA. Please return order forms by Wednesday, February 1st. Link to order form in Important Dates section.

✚ **Reading Rocks! ~ Reading Period January 28th-February 12th**

Wilton Education Foundation’s (WEF’s) very successful “Reading Rocks!” program is back for its 6th year! The Reading Period is now in process.

“Reading Rocks!” is a fun, non-competitive Read-A-Thon type fundraiser for students in Pre-K to 5th grades. Over the five years of this event, “Reading Rocks!” has raised more than **$200,000 for our Wilton Public Schools**! This year, with your support, we hope to attain 100% student participation.

“Reading Rocks!” pledge forms were sent home with students on Friday, January 6th. To be eligible for prizes students must have turned in completed pledge forms and pledge money to teachers on or before Friday, January 27th. For each individual pledge students get by Jan. 27 they earn a chance to **WIN AN IPAD OR KINDLE FIRE!** For example, if your child receives 20 pledges, he or she earns 20 changes to win! There will be one Kindle Fire awarded per K-2 grade at Miller-Driscoll and one iPad awarded across all grades PreK-5.\* Prize winners will be announced soon.

\*win an iPad or a gift card of equivalent value to the Apple Store

For questions please contact Julie Steckel at jjsteckel@gmail.com or Kiki Cross at kcross106@gmail.com. Many thanks to the Stroup family for generously sponsoring “Reading Rocks!”

Ongoing News at Miller-Driscoll

✚ **Show your School Spirit!**

The first Friday in each month is school spirit day where we all show our school spirit. The next spirit day is **Friday February 3rd.**

✚ **Miller-Driscoll Annual Letter of Appeal---**Click [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QVAwKxLLF6pdLtIy9JPaIluIAzdGiP7IH-fxZlfc-sw/edit?usp=sharing) for Annual Letter of Appeal

✚ **PTA Volunteer Opportunities for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Interested in helping the PTA with one or more of our great programs for students? Please click on the link to fill out the form and submit. Click [**here!**](http://goo.gl/forms/wHL0plQhQLdKmqcc2)

✚ **Miller-Driscoll PTA Membership**

Membership in the Miller-Driscoll PTA is now ONLINE and PAPERLESS! Just go to <https://wilton.mobilearq.com> and click Parent Registration (code on the next page is “wilton”) to become a Miller-Driscoll PTA member, pay PTA dues, make a Supporting Donation to our Annual Appeal, and view the Miller-Driscoll PTA Directory! Individual memberships will start at just $20 and includes immediate access to the online school directory! Enjoy the ability to edit your information in the online directory anytime, add email addresses and cell phone numbers to your family listing, and even download the MobileArq App on your Apple and Android devices for viewing on the go! Please contact Michelle Krupa (michelleakrupa@gmail.com) with any questions!

✚ **Lost Property at the Bus Depot**

Is your child missing a jacket, water bottle or hat? Check out the Bus Depot Lost Property Site and see if any of these items left on buses belong back in your house! http://wiltonlostproperty.blogspot.com/

**Community News**

✚ **NAMI-CAN Support Group for Parents**

Feel like you have no one to talk with about your child’s challenging behavior? You are not alone.

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 town in the surrounding area.

Our next meeting is Monday February 27th from 10-11:30, at G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. For more info, contact Beth at **203-984-0123** or Beth44es@gmail.com; or Vanessa at EliasVanessa5@gmail.com, or text **203-970-4130**. You can also visit <http://www.namiswconnecticut.com>

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.

NAMI BASICS New Canaan Start Date: Wednesday, March 1st. 6:30-9pm at Grace Farms, West Barn. 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan. Contact & Registration: Janet-203-517-9185 and Denise: 203-314-0208.

✚ **Wilton Little League Baseball and Softball—Registration Deadline Extended!**

Is your child interested in baseball or softball? Wilton Little League offers baseball for boys and girls and softball for girls in grades Kindergarten and up. The schedule typically includes one practice during the week and a game on Saturday. The registration deadline has just been extended to February 4th. You can use the link below to register your player.

<https://leagueathletics.com/Registration/Default.asp?n=95511&org=WILTONLITTLELEAGUE.ORG>

Questions can be directed to wiltonlittleleague@gmail.com

*Community News submissions are accepted from any Wilton organization wishing to notify the Miller-Driscoll community of events or opportunities appropriate for our students and families. Submissions may be edited at the discretion of the editor and are not intended as endorsements by the Miller-Driscoll PTA.*

Important Numbers/Websites

**Office:** 203.762.8678 and 203.762.3374

**Attendance Line:** 203.761-0364 (8:00 am - 4:30 pm). During non-school hours, call the school’s office.

**Student Transportation of America (Bus) Hotline**: 203.762.8600

**NEW!!! Looking for a Special Bus Assignment for the 2016-2017 school year?** Special bus assignments will now be listed on **School Dismissal Manager**. Previous lists are no longer valid.

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**Miller-Driscoll\*:** <http://www.edline.net/pages/wiltonmd>

**Miller-Driscoll PTA:** [HERE](http://www.miller-driscollschool.org/pages/wiltonmd/Our_School/Departments/Miller-Driscoll_PTA)

**Wilton School District**: <http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/pages/Wilton_School_District>

**PowerSchool:** <https://psapp.wilton.k12.ct.us/public/>

**MDTV** [**http://k2mdtv.blogspot.com**](http://k2mdtv.blogspot.com)(Use the MDTV link to view the morning announcement broadcast each day at 9:00am)

**MobileArq School Directory** [**https://mobilearq.com/schooldirectory**](https://mobilearq.com/schooldirectory)

**PTA Annual Appeal Letter** Click [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QVAwKxLLF6pdLtIy9JPaIluIAzdGiP7IH-fxZlfc-sw/edit?usp=sharing) for Annual Letter of Appeal

**PTA Membership** Click [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qR9vOZQAKypByHrXz-TL6JGWmowMxBwHF25NnA8Sp2o/edit?usp=sharing)for membership information

Calendars:

**Chartwells January Lunch Menu: Click** [**HERE**](http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/pages/Wilton_School_District/Our_District/Departments/Food_Services-_Chartwells)

**Chartwells February Lunch Menu: Click** [**HERE**](http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/files/_YaL0k_/90bc8ab9623ba8733745a49013852ec4/MD_Menu_Feb_2017.pdf)

**Wilton Public Schools 2016-2017: Click** [**HERE**](http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/files/_NKBzB_/224e6b1d52415c333745a49013852ec4/2016-17_revised_December_2015.pdf)

**Wilton Public Schools 2017-2018: Click** [**HERE**](http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/files/_WWB2r_/3718c8d69b1c7daa3745a49013852ec4/2017-18_Approved.pdf)

**Wilton School District Calendar (Monthly view): Click** [**HERE**](http://www.wilton.k12.ct.us/pages/Wilton_School_District/Calendar)

**Miller-Driscoll School Calendar (Monthly view): Click** [**HERE**](http://www.miller-driscollschool.org/pages/wiltonmd/Calendar)

Schoolhouse Scoop: Deadlines, Policies + Procedures

To submit **School News**, email kerryoray@charter.net. Please put “Schoolhouse Scoop submission” in your subject box.

The next Schoolhouse Scoop newsletter is scheduled for Sunday, February 12th. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, February 8th.

For deadline and publication dates, click [here](http://www.miller-driscollschool.org/pages/wiltonmd/Our_School/Departments/Miller-Driscoll_PTA/Schoolhouse_Scoop_Newsletter/Schoolhouse_Scoop_Publication_).

For previous issues, click [here](http://www.miller-driscollschool.org/pages/wiltonmd/Our_School/Departments/Miller-Driscoll_PTA/Schoolhouse_Scoop_Newsletter/Schoolhouse_Scoop)