



miller-driscoll

PTA

2018-2019

## PTA Schoolhouse Scoop

November 4, 2018



Dear Miller-Driscoll Families,

Hello November! Did you remember to turn your clocks back?! I hope everyone had a great week last week celebrating Halloween. October had a lot of fun and exciting changes in store for us but unfortunately the weather was not on our side. A huge thank you to our parent community for being so understanding as the Carnival Committee and I had to make the difficult decision to postpone our annual carnival. The Committee had been working and planning up to the very moment and is continuing to work as we secure our new dates for Spring 2019. Once we have the dates secured we will make an announcement. As a reminder all pre-sale ride bands will be honored during the rescheduled dates; however, if you would like to request a refund, you may do so on or before November 9 [here](#).

### October Thank You! Corner:

- **Carnival Committee** – Chairs Melissa Rotini, Jen Alesia, Nina Bologna, Shannon Presta
- **Hospitality** – Chairs Caroline Hoffman, Jennifer Jaehnig, Sun Semel, Elisabeth Foley for putting some Halloween treats in the mailboxes of our teachers and staff.
- **Outdoor Learning Center** – Chairs Kristy Ripp and Abby Schulten for making bird feeders out of cheerios and pipe cleaners with our preschoolers in the OLC.
- **Box Tops** – Thank you to our Chairs Cynthia Dempster and Michelle Baranowski as well as ALL of our Room Parent volunteers for collecting and tallying our October Box Tops. We raised over \$800 so far for the school this year from our September and October collections. Keep on clipping!
- **MD Green Team** – Chairs Tammy Thornton and Vivian Lee-Shiue along with our volunteers who joined us during our [Zero Waste Week](#) to support our students in the cafeteria: Nicole Walberg, Jelueh Peck, Jill Kidd, Amy Tobey, Lenore Eggleston-Herbst and Beth Cooper

**PTA Behind the Scenes:** Realizing that many of our programs and events the PTA supports may not always be visible to our parents this section highlights what your continued support of the PTA helps us do.

- Monthly subscriptions Time for Kids for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- High Touch High Tech “Weather or Not” program for Kindergarten
- Greg Tang math puzzles for all grades

Thank you,

Tammy Thornton

[Tammythornton1112@gmail.com](mailto:Tammythornton1112@gmail.com)

## Important Dates\*

<b>Nov 4:</b>	<a href="#">Meet Peppa, George, Catboy, Owlette and Gekko at Sound Tigers!!</a>
<b>Nov 6:</b>	No School for Students. Professional Learning for Staff.
<b>Nov 8:</b>	Board of Education Meeting. 7:00-9:00 pm, WHS Professional Library.
<b>Nov 8:</b>	Community Budget Workshop hosted by BOE. 6:30 pm- 7:30 pm, WHS Library. <a href="#">All Community members are welcome!</a>
<b>Nov 15/16/19:</b>	<a href="#">Scholastic Book Fair</a> to Benefit the Miller-Driscoll LLC, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.
<b>Nov 20:</b>	<a href="#">Scholastic Book Fair</a> to Benefit the Miller-Driscoll LLC, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.
<b>Nov 15:</b>	Family Fun Night at the Book Fair, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
<b>Nov 15:</b>	MD PTA Meeting NEW!! 6:30 – 7:00 pm Small Gym
<b>Nov 16:</b>	Photo Retake Day. Pre-K through 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade.
<b>Nov 15/16/19/20/21:</b>	MD Shortened Day 1:15 (Parent Conferences).
<b>Nov 22/23:</b>	Thanksgiving Recess.

\*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 school calendar for the most up to date information.

## School News

### + MD School Family Fun Day at the Sound Tigers!!! Come Meet Peppa, George, Catboy, Owlette and Gekko!

- *When:* Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm (Doors Open 2:00 pm)
- *What:* Bridgeport Sound Tigers Hockey Club vs. WB/ Scranton
- *Where:* Webster Bank Arena | 600 Main Street | Bridgeport
- *Tickets:* Only \$21 per Person!!!

A portion of each ticket supports the Miller-Driscoll PTA!!! For more information please [check the flyer](#).

### + Volunteer Opportunities with the PTA for the 2018-2019 School Year!

Miller-Driscoll art teachers could use some extra hands to help with supply and portfolio preparation for our students. Other projects include putting up and removing displays and t-shirt prep for painting. The group of volunteers will be meeting every other week on Tuesdays from 2:00 – 3:15pm during non-art class hours. Contact Tess Nimirowski if you are interested in volunteering [teresanimirowskil@gmail.com](mailto:teresanimirowskil@gmail.com)

### + GYM Class Heroes with Coach Kear!

[Gym Class Heroes](#) through Wilton Parks and Recreation is a fast paced after school activity program that highlights some of the most popular games played in Physical Education Class at Miller-Driscoll School. Kids arrive in the gym right after dismissal and typically 3-4 different games are played each day. Class is run by Coach Kear, Miller-Driscoll Physical Education teacher with 14 years of teaching experience. Coach Kear selects games that have been the most popular in the past few years and you never play the same game twice in a session. The students will often get an opportunity to vote on their favorite game and play it that day. It is 90 minutes of fast, fun exercise, great for the late Fall and Winter when it is tougher to get outside. Children play right up until the 5 pm dismissal time. Discounts available if you want to sign up for multiple sessions.

- *Who:* Boys and Girls grades K-3
- *What:* Physical Education Games and More!
- *When:* [Thursday Afternoons 3:30-5:00 pm](#)
- *Where:* Miller-Driscoll School Gym

- 5 Dates per Session, \$145 per Session
- Session 2: Starting Week of 11/26
- Session 3: Starting Week of 1/14
- Register at: <http://www.wiltonparksandrec.org/>

#### **+ Wilton Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA)**

Wilton Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) is open to all who want to support Special Services in Wilton Public Schools. For general questions, inquiries about membership and Executive Board positions please contact: [wiltonsepta@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonsepta@gmail.com)

#### **+ Miller-Driscoll PTA Meetings**

Miller-Driscoll PTA Meetings are held one Monday a month from 9:30 – 10:30am in the MD cafeteria. All PTA Members are welcome! Mark your calendar and join us!

**Nov 15 6:30 – 7:00 pm Small Gym (NEW!!)**

Jan 14

Feb 11

Mar 18

Apr 22

May 20

June 10, last meeting of the school year

#### **+ Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture**

##### **A Community Conversation: CHARTING THE COURSE**

Monday, November 12, 2018, **NEW LOCATION: Wilton High School's Clune Center**

*Admission is free; registration is recommended. Follow the links below to register.*

Two opportunities to participate!

10:00 AM – [RaceToNowhereWiltonAM.eventbrite.com](http://RaceToNowhereWiltonAM.eventbrite.com)

7:00 PM – [RaceToNowhereWiltonPM.eventbrite.com](http://RaceToNowhereWiltonPM.eventbrite.com)

**\*\* Although EventBrite may continue to show the old location for a few days, the event will be held at the Clune Center. \*\***

##### **Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture**

Wilton Public Schools, Wilton Youth Council and Wilton Youth Services invite you to the first of a special 3-part series to explore the purpose of education, the importance of childhood and our hopes for our children as we work as a community to chart the best course for their future.

From preschool to college, kids are being pushed, coached, sculpted, scheduled and reviewed in an effort to compete in today's high-stakes, high-pressure achievement culture. *Race to Nowhere* examines the pressures faced by young people, educators and parents, calling upon us all to challenge current assumptions and come together to chart the best course for their future.

*Join us for this 85-minute documentary followed by a brief panel discussion. This is the first of a 3-part series. Parents, educators, concerned members of the community, and students in middle school and up are encouraged to attend.*

The series continues in February, with screenings of the movie *Beyond Measure*, and a Community Conversation. For more information visit [wiltonyouth.org](http://wiltonyouth.org).

Please contact Genevieve Eason at [Genevieve.Eason@gmail.com](mailto:Genevieve.Eason@gmail.com) with questions.

Sponsored by: Wilton Public Schools, Wilton Youth Council, and Wilton Youth Services

### + Movie Night!

Bring the kids for a free screening of "[Swim Team](#)" on Friday, November 30th @ 7 pm in The Little Theater at Wilton High School. This important documentary explores the theme of inclusion in sports and is being co-sponsored by Wilton Public Schools, SPED\*NET Wilton, Swim Angelfish, and Wilton SEPTA. Discussion panel to follow featuring the director, Lara Stolman, Coach Mike, and Swim Angelfish co-founder, Ailene Tisser. Please RSVP through Eventbrite as seating is limited.

### + A Message from Our MD Green Team

We are excited to continue to have a Bay State Textile collection bin at our school. As part of our mission we want to make sure there are many ways to help our families divert "waste" from landfills and incinerators and that includes textiles.

"In the process of diverting textiles from the waste stream, Bay State Textiles' job is to collect the textiles. We send what we collect to people all over the world, and they're the ones who decide what happens to it. These companies sort the clothing into three different grades. 45% of the textiles can be reused as clothing. 30% gets turned into wiping cloth. 25% is converted into fibers that are used to make things like stuffing for stuffed toys, or the insulation in the seats of your car. Only 5% of what's collected can't be recycled, because it is contaminated."

Our MD Green Team earns \$100 per ton (2000 lbs) collected from our box and that money will be used to support our programs.

The bin is located in the main parking lot at school. **All donations need to be bagged.** Check out the "[Acceptable Items](#)" flyer before donating.



### + Online PTA Membership and Directories

Please join the Miller Driscoll PTA! While we would love for you to get involved, you do not have to volunteer! **Your membership and donation dollars fund valuable programs at Miller Driscoll**, including: Fine and Performing Arts performances, Visiting Author, Women in History, Outdoor Learning Center, Science Enrichment, Field Trips, Bingo Nights, 2nd Grade Picnic, Teacher & Staff Appreciation, Teacher start-up grants, PTA Grants, and many more.

PLUS, when you join the PTA, you gain **instant access to our online directory!**

Visit <https://mobilearq.com/schooldirectory/>, choose parent or teacher registration, and enter your email, name and the code "wilton" to join. When you pay your membership dues, **please consider making a tax-deductible donation; our programs are only possible with the additional support of our members!**

Please add [support@mobilearq.com](mailto:support@mobilearq.com) to your address book to ensure delivery of the confirmation email with temporary auto-login link. If you have any questions please contact Kaylie Vo Pham ([tokvoj@gmail.com](mailto:tokvoj@gmail.com)). Click [here](#) for FAQs and registration information. [Numerous PTA benefits are available to members!](#)

## Other Ways to Support the PTA

### + Use AmazonSmile to Donate to the Miller-Driscoll PTA

If you don't already know about AmazonSmile, you should! When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. The Miller Driscoll PTA is now set up to receive donations from AmazonSmile!

Here's how to help us:

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Search for and select "Miller Driscoll PTA" as your charity of choice
3. Start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) every time you shop on Amazon

**Pro tip:** Search for “AmazonSmile plug-in” and the name of your browser (like Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.) to find and download a browser plug-in that will redirect you to AmazonSmile every time you go to Amazon. Even if you’re not technically inclined, it’s easier than it sounds!

This is a simple and free way to increase funding to our PTA. Thank you for taking a few minutes to get set up!

### + Save Our Lost and Found!!!! Label Your Child’s Items!!!!

Introducing MABELS LABELS - A fundraiser for the Miller-Driscoll PTA that can save your child’s items!

**Step 1:** Your first step is to visit our website, [mabelslabels.com](http://mabelslabels.com), click the “Support A Fundraiser” button located on the top of your screen, and then select **Miller Driscoll PTA (Wilton)** from the drop-down list.

**Step 2:** Once your organization has been selected, you will be directed to a landing page that will say “**Miller Driscoll PTA (Wilton)** Welcomes You To Our Page > Click here to buy”

## Ongoing News at Miller-Driscoll

### + Lost Property at the Bus Depot

Is your child missing a jacket, water bottle or hat? Items left on buses can be found at the Bus Depot Lost and Found. The bus depot is located at 130 School Road. If your child has lost or left something of value, other than clothing, on a bus, please contact the bus company directly. They will ask you for the child’s bus number, date lost, and a description of the article. Dispatch Office 203-762-8600

## Community News

### + Community Conversation: Starting the 2019-20 Budget Process

**Superintendent Kevin J. Smith** would like to invite all parents and community members to a Community Conversation with Board of Education members, principals and other members of the town on Thursday, November 8, 2018. The purpose of the conversation is to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their thoughts, questions, suggestions and concerns regarding the schools at the start of developing the 2019-20 School Budget. The forum will be held in the WHS Library before the Board of Education Meeting. The conversation will be from 6:30– 7:30pm.

And please join us at our January PTA meeting on Monday, January 14th at 9:30am as our special guest speaker will be Superintendent Smith.

### + Medication, Not Magic: Making Wise Choices for Kids with ADHD

**with Kevin T. Kalikow, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, New York Medical College**

Thursday, November 8, 2018, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton

Free; registration recommended - [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or 203-762-6334

Join us for a thorough and balanced presentation of a thorny topic. Kevin T. Kalikow, MD, will help untangle the complexities of pharmacological treatments for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and co-existing conditions. He will discuss indications for medication; whether or not to give psychiatric drugs to your child or adolescent and, if so, when; potential benefits and risks; and ethical dilemmas.

Sponsored by SPED\*NET Wilton, Wilton Library, Wilton Youth Council, and Wilton Youth Services

### + ISlides and New Wilton Swag - Must-See New Arrivals

Just in time for holiday shopping and coaches gifts, visit [our online store](#) for all your shopping needs!

New items available to order:

- ISlides are back! We sold 158 pairs during our first sales window! Don't miss your chance to get your pair. Great for before/after games, around the house, coaches and holiday gifts. Create your own custom pair.
- Cooler weather brings cool new Wilton merchandise. Check out our new arrivals of Wilton apparel, including sweatshirts and hoodies, sweatpants and pj pants - *perfect for anyone in your family* - featuring exclusive new designs.

Go online to make your purchases **November 5-18** by clicking [here](#).

### + Class Project 2023

Show your support with 2023 T-shirts, shorts and our **brand-new** apparel - hoodies, pj pants and sweatpants! Be sure and check out our new designs on our [Wilton 2023 Online Store](#).

Visit our [Wilton 2023 website](#) and join our Facebook [WYC Class Project 2023](#) for more Class Project 2023 information. To become involved with the Project 2023 planning group, email [warriorclass2023@gmail.com](mailto:warriorclass2023@gmail.com).

### + Wilton Youth Council (WYC) – [wiltonyouth.org](http://wiltonyouth.org)

WYC promotes and protects the social, emotional and mental well-being of Wilton's students by educating and empowering youth, parents and the community. Find us on FB or visit [wiltonyouth.org](http://wiltonyouth.org) for more information and to sign up for our monthly newsletter. [Click here for an overview of this year's events!](#)

Looking to Get Involved?

Wilton Youth Council needs you! We have many programs running and this is a great time to get involved! Questions? Email Vanessa Elias at [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com). Interested in volunteering? Email Courtney Boucher at [Courtney.v.boucher@gmail.com](mailto:Courtney.v.boucher@gmail.com)

### + The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) Support Group

School is back in session and for many children, so is the academic and social stress 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 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.

Our next meeting is Monday November 26th, from 10-11:30am, G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. Information: Beth at [203-984-0123](tel:203-984-0123) or [beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:beth44es@gmail.com) OR Vanessa at [203-970-4130](tel:203-970-4130) or [eliasvanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvanessa5@gmail.com). [Click here](#) for more information.

*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 or 203.762.8678 (option 1)

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

**Looking for a Special Bus Assignment for the 2018-2019 school year?** Special bus assignments will now be listed on School Dismissal Manager.

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**Miller-Driscoll\*:** <https://www.wiltonps.org/miller-driscoll>  
**Miller-Driscoll PTA:** <https://www.millerdriscollpta.org>  
**Wilton School District:** <https://www.wiltonps.org>  
**PowerSchool:** <https://wilton.powerschool.com/public/>  
**MDTV** <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>

## Calendars:

**Chartwells Nov Lunch Menu:** Click [HERE](#)

**Wilton Public Schools 2018-2019:** Click [HERE](#)

**Wilton School District Calendar (Monthly view):** Click [HERE](#)

**Miller-Driscoll School Calendar (Monthly view):** Click [HERE](#)

## Schoolhouse Scoop: Deadlines, Policies + Procedures

To submit **School News**, email [sonalvats@gmail.com](mailto:sonalvats@gmail.com). Please put "Schoolhouse Scoop submission" in your subject box.

The next **short version** newsletter, containing dates and important numbers only, is scheduled for Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The next **long version** newsletter is scheduled for Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

For deadline and publication dates, click [here](#). For previous issues, click [here](#)