



## *Middlebrook PTA Messenger* Sept 16, 2018

### Middlebrook Quick Calendar

Wednesday	Sept	19	NO SCHOOL- District Offices Closed
Friday	Sept	21	MB PTA Meeting- First of the Year at 9:00 am
Monday	Sept	24	6th Grade Parent Open House 7:00-8:30 pm
Tuesday	Sept	25	7th Grade Parent Open House 7:00-8:00 pm
Thursday	Sept	27	Lockdown Drill
Thursday	Sept	27	8th Grade Parent Open House 7:00-8:00 pm

### Middlebrook Six Day Cycle

Monday	September	17	Day 3
Tuesday	September	18	Day 4
Wednesday	September	19	No School
Thursday	September	20	Day 5
Friday	September	21	Day 6

#### Note from the President:

Is it just me or does it feel like September is taking forever? There are many events in the weeks ahead at Middlebrook including Open Houses, Visiting Author, and our first PTA meeting of the year this Friday. Be sure to attend to hear about the many things the PTA does at school, our budget for the year and a big project in the works! Also, if you plan on volunteering as a chaperone for field trips or other events, be sure to complete the Volunteer Vetting process- it only takes a few minutes online at <https://www.wiltonps.org/departments/human-resources/volunteer>

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## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Online PTA Membership and Directories**

Join the PTA and show your support for all of the programs and activities we organize each school year. Student Assemblies, Outdoor Classroom, Media Center Supplies, Activity Nights, Science & Engineering Fair, Social Opportunities, Weekly Messenger, Photo Day, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Events and Soaring Ahead are just a few of the programs our PTA supports. When you join, you will gain instant access to our online directory that is desktop and mobile device friendly, just download the app.

Join here, and use the code - 'wilton'

[https://mobilearq.com/schooldirectory/school\\_directory\\_parent\\_register.html](https://mobilearq.com/schooldirectory/school_directory_parent_register.html)

Parents: please update your profiles to include email and cell phone numbers! One easy spot to register for all your kids' PTAs and make a donation at the same time! Questions? Email our **Membership VP Laura Rowley at [rowleylg@gmail.com](mailto:rowleylg@gmail.com)** .

### **Volunteer!**

Volunteering is a great way to know your child's school and be a part of the Middlebrook community. **We currently are in need of co-chairs for 7th Grade Activity Night on October 26.** If you're interested in helping with any event, email Meire Mouracade at [mouracadefamily4@gmail.com](mailto:mouracadefamily4@gmail.com)

### **6th Grade Activity Night: Friday October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

\$5 entrance fee at the door with DJ, Snacks, Open Gym, Games and Fun with Friends! PARENTS: We need chaperones! If you would like to volunteer, contact Artie Rokkam at [artierokkam@gmail.com](mailto:artierokkam@gmail.com)

### **Attention Sixth Grade Band Students:**

The Sixth Dimension is the advanced Sixth Grade Band. Its meets on Mondays after school from 3:15-4:15 p.m. and is open to sixth grade band students by audition. The audition music is now available so students can take it home to practice. Auditions will take place September 21st-27th for five minutes at lunch or before or after school. The first rehearsal will be Monday, October 1st after school.

See Ms. Ginsberg in room 149 for more information or extra help with the audition music.

### **Stop and Shop A+ Rewards Program**

Those families who frequent Stop & Shop can support Middlebrook through the Stop & Shop's A+ Rewards program. The program gives money to our school based on all of your purchases made September 7, 2018- March 16, 2019. It does not cost you anything and does not impact your gas points. You can sign up directly online at [www.stopandshop.com/school-rewards/](http://www.stopandshop.com/school-rewards/) --spread the word

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to friends and neighbors that we would love to have them support Middlebrook through this program. Even extended family that does not live in Connecticut can sign up if they shop at Stop & Shop. The funds raised will be used for projects that help Middlebrook feel like a fun and friendly place through groups including Team Change and Kindness Club. Of course, we are not asking anyone to change their shopping habits or switch stores! This is just an easy way to take advantage of no-cost fundraising with folks who already use Stop & Shop.

### **Box Tops for Education**

Please Support This Effort! Please donate your Box Tops to Middlebrook School. Box Tops for Education can be found on hundreds of everyday products from companies like Food Should Taste Good, Yoplait, Kleenex, Scott, Ziploc, Hefty, Old El Paso, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, and Hanes. Collection boxes are located in the front reception booth, the media center, and the teachers' lounge. Proceeds from Box Tops go directly to the school to help buy new equipment and supplies. Last year we raised over \$1,000! That works out to just 10 box tops per student! If you would like more information about this program, including participating brands, visit [www.btf.com](http://www.btf.com), or contact Jennifer Acerra- Markey at [jtm4jla@optonline.net](mailto:jtm4jla@optonline.net).

### **Odyssey of The Mind**

This national competition fosters teamwork and divergent thinking. Teams of seven students work from September to March to solve a long term problem and work on their spontaneous problem solving skills. Visit [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org) for more information about Odyssey. To get involved with a Middlebrook team, please email Nicola Davies - [nicoladavies@outlook.com](mailto:nicoladavies@outlook.com).

### **Science & Engineering Fair Tuesday January 22 (snow date January 31)**

The Fair invites students to explore and expand their understanding of a science or engineering related topic. Students, working independently or in teams of two, will:

- develop a hypothesis
- conduct their own experiment
- draw conclusions
- organize results into a visual display
- present their project to judges

**Registration packets** and a list of important dates will be made available on the PTA website [www.middlebrookpta.org](http://www.middlebrookpta.org) **on October 15**. A number of help sessions conducted by our science teachers and volunteers will be available both before and after school. **Entry forms are due Friday, November 30th**. The Middlebrook Science & Engineering Fair is sponsored by the Middlebrook PTA

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and the Wilton Education Foundation. For questions or additional information contact Madhavi Sharma Vallabhajosula → [madhavi\\_sharma@hotmail.com](mailto:madhavi_sharma@hotmail.com)

### Media Center Volunteers

The media staff would greatly appreciate your help in the school Media Center to assist with a variety of projects. Shifts are extremely flexible- you can pick the time and day that works best for you! Can be weekly/ biweekly/monthly, or just periodically throughout the year! Please contact Claire Carbonier at [carbos@optonline.net](mailto:carbos@optonline.net)

### Project Adventure is Looking for Project Adventure Volunteers!

Project Adventure is one of the only opportunities available to volunteer at Middlebrook and work with your child! Middlebrook's PE Department offers students a chance to climb, swing, and belay on an outdoor ropes course in Fall and an indoor course in Winter. Adults are needed to assist students- the more volunteers the more opportunities the students have to climb! You can sign up for as little or as much time as you like, but you must take a belay training course and become certified (Rock Climb Fairfield works great). If you are interested in Project Adventure or have any questions please contact Renee Rafferty at [raffertyrenee@gmail.com](mailto:raffertyrenee@gmail.com) or Margo Silvian at [margosilvian@me.com](mailto:margosilvian@me.com)

### School Sponsored Events in Partnership with Wilton Youth Council: **How to Talk So Kids Will Listen And Listen So Kids Will Talk**

Wilton Public Schools is again running a **six-week workshop** called "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk." The program, developed by the authors of the book by the same name, uses lessons, role-play, and practice to help parents develop more effective skills for communicating with their children.

In this workshop, participants will learn how to:

- Engage your child's willing cooperation
- Deal with your child's negative feelings - frustration, disappointment, anger
- Express your anger without being hurtful
- Set firm limits and still maintain goodwill
- Use alternatives to punishment that promote self-discipline
- Encourage positive relationships between your children
- Resolve family conflicts peacefully

There are **3 sessions** in the fall. To register, please call Wilton Youth Services at (203) 834-6241.

**TIME & LOCATION: 10:00 -11:30 AM at Comstock Community Center**

#### **Session 1 – Tuesdays (Please note for Pre K - Grade 2 parents only)**

Facilitated by: Jim Martin, Elena White

Sept 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

#### **Session 2 - Thursdays**

Facilitated by: Nicole Mok, Bonnie Schnitzler

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Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1

### **Session 3 – Mondays**

Facilitated by: Kim Zemo, Kathy Weiss

Oct 15, 22, 29 , Nov 5, 12, 19

This enormously successful program was introduced last year with funding provided through a joint initiative of the Wilton Woman’s Club and Wilton Youth Council.

If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Kim Zemo at [zemok@wiltonps.org](mailto:zemok@wiltonps.org).

### **Children Do Well When They Can: Identifying & Collaboratively Solving the Problems That Cause Challenging Behavior**

Mon., Oct. 8, 2018 at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wilton High School’s Clune Center

*Admission is free; registration is recommended at [RossGreeneWilton.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)*

**Parent presentation by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D., Author of *The Explosive Child*; *Lost at School*; and *Raising Human Beings***

Children do well when they can; when they can’t, it is because of lagging skills and unsolved problems. Whether a child responds by whining, sulking, or crying, or in ways that are more concerning - hitting, swearing, or biting - the goal of parents and caregivers is to identify and solve the underlying problems that cause the behavior. Join us to learn from child psychologist Ross W. Greene, Ph.D., how to understand children’s challenging episodes, identify unsolved problems and begin to solve problems. Dr. Greene is the originator of the innovative, empirically-supported approach to children’s behavioral challenges known as Collaborative & Proactive Solutions.

In the 2018-2019 school year, the Wilton Public Schools will be learning more about Dr. Greene’s model. The district has worked with Dr. Greene to create a plan to help teachers, faculty, administration, staff, and parents learn how to help students with effective self-regulation and problem-solving strategies. This will begin with keynote addresses for elementary, middle and high school faculty on October 8, which is a professional development day for district staff. In addition to working with faculty, Dr. Greene will also present to parents and other concerned adults to share this model with our community.

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

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Class Project 2023**

The CLASS OF 2023 online store is OPEN!

<http://www.warriorclass2023.wixsite.com/mysite/store>

Just in time for back to school shopping, these shorts and t-shirts are great for school, sports and gym clothes!

Items available to order:

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- NEW Boys & Girls 2023 logo shorts
  - 2023 T-shirt, now with 3 color options: Carolina Blue (new!), White, Navy
  - 2023 magnet, great for cars and lockers!

All items are available to order online and pick up at the Wilton Sport shop when you receive a call that the order is ready.

Over the next five years, Project 2023 will have informational, social, community service and fundraising events, culminating in senior year when the Class Project parent volunteers organize a Post-Graduation Party (PGP) for the students. The purpose of the PGP is to have an all-night event where all students are entertained, fed and most importantly included and safe. It is a parent-driven event that fosters community and is accessible to all. Please visit our website (<https://warriorclass2023.wixsite.com/mysite>) and join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=WYC%20Class%20Project%202023%20-%20Closed%20Group%20-%20Parents%20only>) for more information.

To become involved with the Project 2023 planning group, email [warriorclass2023@gmail.com](mailto:warriorclass2023@gmail.com).

### **WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL (WYC)**

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)

### **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**

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. These groups are free, confidential, safe and led by trained and certified volunteer facilitators who themselves have had personal experiences raising children with these concerns.

The Wilton based support group meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Our next meetings are Monday, September 17th, and Monday, October 22nd, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the G&B Cultural Center, 49 New Street, Wilton. For more information, contact Beth at [203-984-0123](tel:203-984-0123) or [Beth44es@gmail.com](mailto:Beth44es@gmail.com); or Vanessa at [EliasVanessa5@gmail.com](mailto:EliasVanessa5@gmail.com), or call 203-970-4130.

### **MB Messenger Announcements:**

Have an important announcement to post in the MB Messenger? Please note that the messenger alternates bi-weekly between the "LITE," calendar based Messenger and the fuller edition. Requests must be in by Wednesday at Noon to be included in the next FULL Messenger. To submit a request for a non-profit, school related announcement in the messenger, email [middlebrookmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:middlebrookmessenger@gmail.com)