



## Rocky River Early Childhood PTA

### Message from the President

December 2017

Jen Rieker [rockyriverecpta@gmail.com](mailto:rockyriverecpta@gmail.com)

When I was younger, I use to hate birthdays and New Year's Eve celebrations. I was always so worried that the next year wouldn't be as good as the year before. My parents would assure me that the next year would be even better. Now, my husband gives me the same assurances on each of my birthdays, my girl's birthdays, and every New Year's Eve. Looking back at this past year and heading toward New Year's, I have that same apprehension. How can the ECPTA possibly top the last few months that we have had? Our fall activities were nothing short of amazing, and this year's auction completely blew me away. Lauren Negrey and her team put together such an amazing night, and so many amazing baskets. All Aglow was a great start to the Holidays, Community Service has a great event planned for December 17th, and I know my family is eagerly awaiting our Santa visit and Polar Express.

Although we had a great start to the year, I am confident that 2018 will be just as great! Adult Wellness has a wine tasting planned mid-January, and the pool party is set for January 26th. In February we have Winter Wiggles, and so many more events and field trips throughout the year. We are so lucky to have so many excellent committee chairs who have a whole calendar of activities!

As you and your family celebrate the Holidays, I hope you, too, can look back on 2017 with fond memories. As great as 2017 was, I can only imagine how fabulous 2018 will be.

Love,  
Jen

Season's Greetings  
&  
Happy New Year



# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00p: All Aglow	2
3	4 <a href="#">10:30a: Field Trip to Peace, Love, and Little Donuts</a>	5	6	7 <a href="#">7:00p: Healthy RR Rest and Refresh at RRPL</a>	8	9
10	11	12	13 <a href="#">6:00p: Field Trip to Carlisle Reservation</a>	14 7:00p: Mom's Holiday Party at River Dog Cafe	15 7:00p: The Polar Express on the CCVR	16
17 <a href="#">6:30p: Community Service at Rockport Senior Center</a>	18	19 <a href="#">4:30p: Field Trip to Gymbo-ree Play &amp; Music</a>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <a href="#">10:00a: Field Trip to Fairview Lanes</a>	29	30
31						

# JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 6:00p: Execu- tive Meeting 7:30p: General Meeting at RRMS	10	11	12	13
14 <a href="#">11:00a: Field Trip to Disney on Ice</a>	15	16	17	18	19 <a href="#">5:00p: AW Wine Tasting at Whole Foods</a>	20
21	22 <a href="#">10:00a: Field Trip to KidsPlay Indoor Fun</a>	23	24	25	26 <a href="#">5:00p: Winter Pool Party</a>	27
28	29	30 <a href="#">10:00a: Field Trip to Dewey's Pizza School</a>	31			

## VP of Programs

Emily Richmond  
[rrecptavpprogramsgmail.com](mailto:rrecptavpprogramsgmail.com)



Just a reminder: There will be no general meeting in December.

Our 2018 schedule is **January 9, February**

**13, March 13, and April 10 (and end of year party and scholarship announcement, May 8).** If you want to be in the running for the end of year scholarship, make sure you attend at least 4 general meetings in addition to volunteering for at least two RRECPTA events. We have some great speakers lined up, so stay tuned!

## Winter Wiggles Party

Jill Uhl [jillss100@yahoo.com](mailto:jillss100@yahoo.com)

Liz Kasnekaw  
[elizabeth.kasnekaw@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.kasnekaw@gmail.com)

### SAVE THE DATE:

RRECPTA Winter Wiggles Party at Rocky River United Methodist Church.

Join us for Bounce House fun on **Friday, February 16th** from 5:30 to 7:30pm.



## VP of Parties

Emily Szy [rrecptavpparties@gmail.com](mailto:rrecptavpparties@gmail.com)

Thank you to Cathleen Grossman and Erin Arra for planning and executing the Halloween Party!

Please note the new date for the Pool Party....**Friday, January 26, 2018.**

Hope to see everyone at the Mom's Holiday Party at River Dog on **Thursday, December 14th.** Please remember to bring a small gift (\$10 value) for the gift exchange.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Treasurer

Jennifer Barnes  
[rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com)

Beginning Balance on Hand – 10/1/17  
\$ **3,400.11**

Receipts (+) \$ 7,432.00  
Disbursements (-) \$ 4,811.09

Ending Balance on Hand – 10/31/17  
\$ **6,097.47**

**Further Detail of Account  
Available Upon Request.  
Email Jennifer Barnes at  
[rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com)**



# Community Service

Laura Smith  
Deanna Calabrese  
[rrecptacommunityservice@gmail.com](mailto:rrecptacommunityservice@gmail.com)

Join us to spread some holiday cheer at Rockport Senior Living!

Address: 20375 Center Ridge Rd, Rocky River on  
**Sunday, December 17th at 6:30pm**

Our children will join the residents of Rockport for cookie decorating, hot chocolate, and maybe some crafts and caroling. Oh what fun!



Watch for a Facebook event and let us know if you're coming!

# Winter Pool Party

Laura Johnston  
[lauraejohnston@gmail.com](mailto:lauraejohnston@gmail.com)  
Melissa Sahnd  
[melissa.sahnd@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.sahnd@gmail.com)

## NOTE THE NEW DATE:

Dig out your swimsuits for the RRECPTA indoor Pool Party at the Rocky River Rec Center.

Join us for free pizza and water fun on **Friday, January 26th from 5:00 to 8:00pm.**



# Happy Birthday!

Brooke Gallucci	December ??	Lauren Kerr	December 20	Meg Lecavelier	January 20
Jennifer Lewis	December ??	Ashley Kilbane	December 23	Lauren Chaney	January 26
CC Zerbey	December 2	Katie Edwards	December 24	Lindsey Glavin	January 28
Megan Rin	December 2	Suzanne Sylvester	December 25	Courtney Hanzal	January 28
Carolyn Castrovine	December 3	Stephanie Saks	December 25	Lauren Negrey	January 29
Bridget Hollingsworth	December 3	Jessica Wilson	December 28	Kellie Jeffers	January 30
Cheryl Tournoux	December 4	Torrie Giovinazzi	December 28	William Overko	January 30
Katy Serriane	December 5	Kristen Haning	January 2	Emily King	February 2
Michelle Fritz	December 8	Laura Hood	January 5	Sarah Siebert	February 2
Melissa Mayer	December 10	Ann Butler	January 9	Carli Allendorf	February 5
Teresa Dolinar	December 11	Carla Thompson	January 10	Agata Niemojewska	February 5
Carrie Smith	December 12	Mallory Kulesza	January 11	Stephanie Harris	February 9
Laura Hummer	December 13	Tina Millane	January 14	Katie Berne	February 10
Katie McCann	December 14	Deanna Calabrese	January 15	Susan Hartung	February 10
Katie Kuhn	December 15	Jessica Dessoify	January 15	Kate Watson	February 10
Stephanie Helman	December 15	Kathryn Keckan	January 16	Kate Svala-Patrick	February 11
Erin Clark	December 17	Allison Martin	January 16	Liz Sylvain	February 12
Lindsey O'Neill	December 17	Erin Meisenzahl	January 29		
Noel Allender	December 19	Kristen Nagle	January 19		



# December Field Trips

[rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com)

Get ready to mark your calendars! Listed below are field trips planned for December. Sign-ups start at the PTA general meetings and can be paid for with cash or check. The trips with limited space available on a first come, first serve basis. After the meeting, you can sign-up and pay at <http://rrecptaevents.bigcartel.com/>.

## Peace, Love, & Little Donuts

**Monday December 4th from 10:30-11:30am**

@3786 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, OH 44111

We'll visit this groovy donut shop and learn how they're made! Each child will get to hand dip and decorate their own donut.

-Cost: \$6 (Includes 2 little donuts and a drink) - limit 20 children

**Sign-up by November 27th.**



## Holiday Lights at Carlisle Reservation

**Wednesday, December 13th from 6:00-8:00pm**

@12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050 - Visitor Center

We will meet and walk the half mile paved loop to see decorated trail stations with classic holiday movie themes and songs. The Little Green Choo Holiday Express will be offering rides through another decorated trail.

-Cost is free (bring one non-perishable food item for Second Harvest Food Bank).

**RSVP by December 12th.**



## Gymboree Play & Music

**Tuesday, December 19th from 4:30-5:30pm**

@26131 Detroit Rd, Westlake, OH 44145

We have an open gym for one hour of open and structured play and music.

-Cost: \$5/child - limit 20 children

**Sign-up by December 14th.**



## Fairview Lanes

**Thursday December 28th from 10:00-11:30am**

@21847 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, OH 44126

Get the kids out and enjoy a round of bowling! We will have a dino dragon ramp for little ones.

-Cost: \$4/child (Includes one game and shoe rental)- no limit

**Sign-up by December 21st.**



# January Field Trips

[rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com)

Get ready to mark your calendars! Listed below are field trips planned for January. Sign-ups start at the PTA general meetings and can be paid for with cash or check. The trips with limited space available on a first come, first serve basis. After the meeting, you can sign-up and pay at <http://rrecptaevents.bigcartel.com/>.

## Disney on Ice

**Sunday January 14th from 11:00-1:00pm**

@Quicken Loans Arena, 1 Center Ct, Cleveland, OH 44115  
Ticket orders were due November 29th. Attendees received tickets via email. If you did not receive the email, contact Jessica Wilson.



## KidsPlay Indoor Fun

**Monday January 22nd from 10:00 am - ???**

@32864 Pin Oak Parkway, Avon Lake, OH 44102

Come play with us starting at 10:00am until you're ready to leave.

-Cost is \$8/child over the age of one (children under one are free) - limit of 20 children.

***Sign-up by January 22nd.***



## Dewey's Pizza School

**Tuesday January 30th from 10:00-11:00am**

@18516 Detroit Rd, Lakewood, OH 44107

Come tour the Dewey's kitchen and make your own mini pizza! Includes kitchen tour, an 11 inch pizza, and a drink for each child.

-Cost is \$5/child - limit of 20 children.

***Sign-up by January 30th.***



## Healthy Rocky River

Alice Pratt [alice.mackintosh@gmail.com](mailto:alice.mackintosh@gmail.com)

The "Healthy Rocky River" Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) is a collaborative effort between Cleveland Clinic and community partners to promote optimal health and wellness. HCI programs are customized in three core areas: education, nutrition, and physical activity. Events are open to Rocky River residents and non-residents. Upcoming events:

**Thursday, December 7th at 7:00pm**

Rest and Refresh

Rocky River Public Library

440-333-7610 ext 5501 to register



## Adult Wellness & Networking Committee

Katie Kuhn [ktkuhn@yahoo.com](mailto:ktkuhn@yahoo.com)

Amy Ewing

[amyewing200@yahoo.com](mailto:amyewing200@yahoo.com)



Please join us for our January Adult Wellness event for a wine tasting at Whole Foods on **Friday,**

**January 19th. The tasting starts at 5pm, but you are welcome anytime between 5:00-7:00pm.** Cost is \$5 per person, which includes 5 samplings of wine and 5 food pairings. Payment taken by Whole Foods that day. Whole Foods will also be setting out a few cheese platters for RRECPTA to enjoy in a reserved section of the bar area after the tasting. RSVPs appreciated in order to give Whole Foods a head count. You are welcome to bring a spouse or friend. You can email Katie Kuhn at [ktkuhn@yahoo.com](mailto:ktkuhn@yahoo.com).

## Sunshine Committee

Andrea McGannon & Katherine Lehtinen

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

Congratulations to all of the RRECPTA families who welcomed little ones this past month!

- ◇ Brian and Melissa Sahnd welcomed Clara Elizabeth on October 24
- ◇ Kevin and Melissa Mayer welcomed Anthony James on November 1
- ◇ Patrick and Jaci Bloom welcomed Jay Vernon on November 3

If you are someone expecting a baby and would like a meal delivered to you and your family OR if you are someone who would like to deliver a meal to a family with a new baby in their home, please let us know using our new form: <https://www.rrecpta.org/sunshine-committee/>!





# Meet a Member

## BIOGRAPHICAL:

**NAME:** Megan Rin

**SPOUSE'S NAME:** Sinit

**BIRTHDAY:** December 2

**KIDS NAMES AND AGES:** Theo

(almost 4) and Eliza (19 months)

**WHERE DID YOU GROW UP:** The amazing city of Cincinnati where this question would be answered with the high school I attended. Which was Kings. Go Knights.

**NUMBER OF YEARS IN ROCKY RIVER:** 3

**NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE PTA:** 3

**CAREER (EITHER BEFORE KIDS OR CURRENT):** Pre-kids: Sales Now: Rehabbing houses

**SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU:** I spent a year traveling in an RV to 49 of the 50 states, sleeping in many Wal-Mart parking lots, and even got to call in to a Dr. Phil Show



## FAVORITES:

**MOVIE:** Can't Buy Me Love

**TV SHOW:** House Hunters Renovation

**BAND:** Fleetwood Mac

**CHILDREN'S BOOK:** I'd Know You Anywhere, My Love by Nancy Tillman

**KID REARING BOOK:** Yikes, I didn't read any and it probably shows.

**GROWN-UP BOOK:** Tara Road by Maeve Binchy

**VACATION SPOT:** Key West

**RESTAURANT:** Mazunte (in Cincinnati)

**FOOD:** All things Tex-Mex

**DRINK:** Fountain Coke

**PLACE TO SHOP:** Nordstrom Rack

**BOARD/CARD GAME:** What do you Meme?

## ENTERTAINMENT:

**WHAT IS ON YOUR IPOD RIGHT NOW?** Lots of blue grass, classic country, and uncensored old school rap

**WHAT DO YOU DO TO UNWIND BEFORE BED?** Pin things on my "Dream House" board on Pinterest

**LAST CONCERT YOU WENT TO?** Garth Brooks

**LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?** Sing (every day. EVERY. SINGLE. DAY)

**WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL DATE NIGHT?** Laying in bed eating egg rolls while watching Dateline or 48 Hours with my husband

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY WITH YOUR KIDS?** The moment we introduced Theo to Eliza.

**FAVORITE RECIPE TO TAKE TO A PARTY:** My mother-in-law's pad thai. No ones wants me to cook, trust me.