

Rocky River Early Childhood PTA

Message from the President

November 2017

Jen Rieker rockyriverecpta@gmail.com

Maybe it is because the hot weather literally just left Cleveland last week, but I cannot believe that we are already in November and planning for the Holidays. I truly love the holiday season. Even with all the hustle and stress that accompanies it, I love getting together with family and friends, being thankful for what we have been given, and celebrating! Some of my favorite PTA events also fall during the holidays. Check out the newsletter for all the information you need to enjoy this time of year.

Preschool/Kindergarten information night will take place instead of our regularly scheduled meeting on November 14th. It will begin at 7:00 pm at the RRMS Commons. We are partnering with Fairview Park's ECPTA and Megan Rin and Lauren Chaney have been working hard to bring over 20 schools to the event. We will still have field trip sign ups and volunteer sign ups that night as well. I'm also looking forward to seeing everyone at the Auction on November 17th. It takes a lot to shock me, but I am amazed by the amount of donations and great packages that Lauren Negrey and her team have pulled for the auction. It is not only our biggest fundraiser, but also one of our most fun nights! It's a great kick off to the holiday season.

Speaking of the holidays, Wendy Hanna has arranged for us to take a magical trip to the North Pole on the Polar Express; Kelci Cotter and Krystal Massey are scheduling Santa Visits; and I'm working with Kelly Frindt on All Aglow.

We will not be having a December meeting, but instead we will have our Mom's Holiday Party on December 14th. More details to follow!

As we transition from fall to winter, I have to thank all of our amazing committee chairs and volunteers for the great fall events. Katie Galla and Colleen Pallet planned an amazing Boyert's farm trip. Erin Arra and Cathleen Grossman made sure that our kids kicked off Halloween with a fabulous Halloween Party, and Laura Smith and Deanna Calabrese planned a great Halloween Community Service Event at Rockport Senior Living. Kelci Cotter and Maggie Male helped us clean out our closets with Kids Klose, and Amy Ewing and Katie Kuhn are making sure we take some time for ourselves with awesome Adult Wellness Events.

The holidays remind me of all that I have to be thankful for, and I am truly thankful for all of your support and dedication to the ECPTA. Together we have planned amazing events for our families and made great memories. I am thankful for the friendships I have made within this group, and I am humbled by your involvement. Thank you for all that you do.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season!
Jen Rieker



NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30p: Healthy RR Thanksgiving Dinner at Heinen's	3 7:00p: AW 9Round Fitness	4
5	6 5:30p: Field Trip to Young Chef's Academy	7	8	9	10	11 11:00a: Community Service at RRPL
12	13 Santa Visits Begin	14 7:00p: Pre-School Information Night	15	16 12:00p: Field Trip to Pat Catan's	17 7:00p: Auction	18 11:00a: Field Trip to Barnes & Noble
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2017

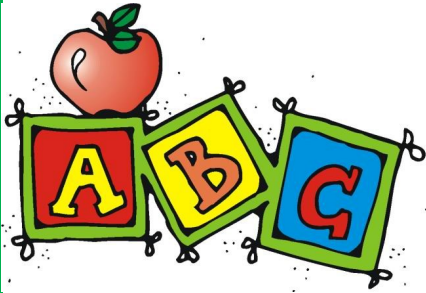
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00p: All Aglow	2
3	4 10:30a: Field Trip to Peace, Love, and Little Donuts	5	6	7 7:00p: Healthy RR Rest and Refresh at RRPL	8	9
10	11	12	13 6:00p: Field Trip to Carlisle Reservation	14 7:00p: Mom's Holiday Party	15	16
17	18	19 4:30p: Field Trip to Gymbo-ree Play & Music	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 10:00a: Field Trip to Fairview Lanes	29	30
31						

VP of Programs

Emily Richmond rrecptavpprogramsgmail.com

We will be hosting our annual Preschool and Kindergarten information night on **Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm**. This event will be held in the Rocky River Middle School Commons, where we normally have our general meetings. Whether you have a toddler getting ready for preschool, or have a preschooler getting ready for kindergarten, we have something for you! This is a great opportunity to check out a variety of schools in the area and help make your decision.

Babysitting will be provided at the Pre/K night, so please let me know in advance so I can provide them with adequate numbers. Even if you are not attending the Pre/K night, we will still have field trip signups at 7:00. There are some great trips planned and they fill up quickly so don't miss out!



Just a reminder: We will not be having a general meeting in December (stayed tuned for information about our holiday party). Our 2018 schedule is **January 9, February 13, March 13, and April 10 (and end of year party and scholarship announcement, May 8)**. We have some great speakers lined up so stay tuned!

VP of Parties

Emily Szy rrecptavpparties@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who came to Boyert's Farm. It was a perfectly warm fall day and is always a favorite for RRECPTA families. Many thanks to Katie Galla and Colleen Pallett for planning!

Our annual Halloween Party will be a blast, thanks to our planners Cathleen Grossman and Erin Arra. It is always so much fun to see everyone's little ones dressed up for Halloween!

Please mark your calendar for our Mom's Holiday Party on **Thursday, December 14th at 7:00pm**. The party will be held at River Dog Cafe and is sure to be a great time!



Website

CC Zerbey cqcalfee@gmail.com

Have you been to <https://www.rrecpta.org/> lately? The page has been given a much needed facelift!

We are working to make this website a much better resource for the RRECPTA new and potential members. We want to bring you great information about RRECPTA, family resources, and the community.

Have a suggestion for content? Have feedback on the website? Please send your comments to:

rrecptanewsletter@gmail.com

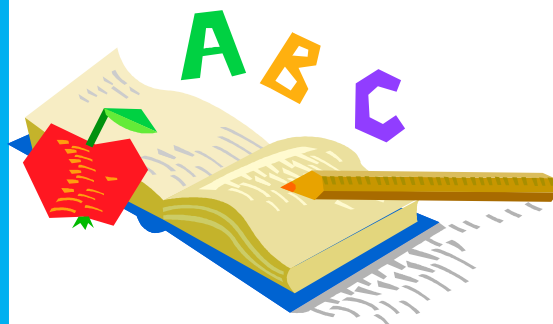


Preschool & Kindergarten Information Night

Megan Rin meggsmu@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Rocky River Middle School Commons

Join us for Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night on **Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00pm** at RRMS. You'll have a great opportunity to learn more about over 20 preschool, kindergarten, after-care and supplemental programs in the area. Explore resources, talk with staff and ask questions!



This event is open to the community so please spread the word - all are welcome!

Treasurer

Jennifer Barnes
rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com

Beginning Balance on Hand – 9/1/17
\$ 5,771.47
Receipts (+)
\$ 808.00
Disbursements (-)
\$ 3,691.10
Ending Balance on Hand – 9/30/17
\$ 3,400.11

**Further Detail of Account
Available Upon Request.**
Email Jennifer Barnes at
rrecptatreasurer@gmail.com



Happy Birthday!

Leah Martello	November 16	Carolyn Castrovine	December 3	Lindsey O'Neill	December 17
Maria Manco	November 20	Bridget Hollingsworth	December 3	Noel Allender	December 19
Brooke Niehaus	November 20	Cheryl Tournoux	December 4	Lauren Kerr	December 20
Ellen Polston	November 23	Katy Serrianne	December 5	Ashley Kilbane	December 23
Stephanie Spremulli	November 27	Michelle Fritz	December 8	Katie Edwards	December 24
Jessica Paprzycki	November 28	Melissa Mayer	December 10	Suzanne Sylvester	December 25
Amy Ewing	November 28	Teresa Dolinar	December 11	Stephanie Saks	December 25
Dawn Russo	November 29	Carrie Smith	December 12	Jessica Wilson	December 28
Lena Baran	November 1629	Laura Hummer	December 13	Torrie Giovinnazzi	December 28
Brooke Gallucci	December ??	Katie McCann	December 14	Kristen Haning	January 2
Jennifer Lewis	December ??	Katie Kuhn	December 15	Laura Hood	January 5
CC Zerbey	December 2	Stephanie Helman	December 15	Ann Butler	January 9
Megan Rin	December 2	Erin Clark	December 17		

November & December Field Trips

rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Get ready to mark your calendars! Listed below are field trips planned for November and 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/>.

Thanksgiving Craft at Pat Catan's

Thursday, November 16th from 12:00-1:00pm

@1499 Columbia Rd, Westlake, OH 44145

We will be making a Thanksgiving Craft.

-Cost is \$5/child. Limit 20 children.

Sign-up by November 9th.



Barnes & Noble Storytime

Saturday, November 18th from 11:00-11:30am

@198 Crocker Park Blvd, Westlake, OH 44145

Join us for this special Thanksgiving Storytime. When Bear decides to throw a feast to thank his friends, they show up one by one with different platters of delicious food to share.

There's just one problem: Bear's cupboards are bare!

-Cost is FREE. There is no limit.

Sign-up by November 9th.



Peace, Love, & Little Donuts

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

@3786 Rocky River Dr, 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 & February Field Trips

rrecpta.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Save the Date! RRECPTA will be headed to Disney on Ice on **Sunday January 14 at 11:00am** at the Q! Tickets will be \$20-30 per person.

Look for more information, including how to reserve your tickets, in the coming weeks!



All Aglow

Jen Rieker

rockyriverecpta@gmail.com

The All Aglow tree-lighting ceremony is a great way to kick off the Holiday Season with your family! This is a community event, sponsored and staffed by ECPTA volunteers. This event is FREE and open to the public.

Festivities will begin **Friday, December 1st at 6:00pm** at the gazebo with a tree-lighting ceremony, with a performance from the RRHS Choir. Then, enjoy festive winter treats, carols and visits with Santa at the Senior Center. Bring your kids to make magical "Reindeer Food" and other crafts.

We will need volunteers to help serve cookies, assist with crafts, set up and clean up. If interested, contact Jen Rieker or Kelly Frindt.



Winter Pool Party

Laura Johnston

lauraejohnston@gmail.com

Melissa Sahnd

melissa.sahnd@gmail.com

SAVE THE 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 19th from 5:00 to 8:00pm.**



Community Service

Laura Smith

Deanna Calabrese

rrecptacommunityservice@gmail.com

Please join us at the Rocky River Public Library on **Saturday, November 11th at 10:00-10:45am** to do an activity for our Veterans! To honor Veteran's Day, the kids will have story time with Mrs. Fisher and then do a craft that will be given to our Veterans to thank them for their service. Hope you can join us!

Address: Rocky River Public Library, 1600 Hampton Road, Rocky River

Upcoming effort for December: We are tentatively looking to bring some cheer to Laura's Home again this year during the holiday season. Please stay tuned for details!



Auction 2017

Lauren Negrey

rrecptauctioncoordinator@gmail.com

Auction is approaching fast!! I want to give a huge shout out to our own! I am humbled by the number of people who stepped up to help me with such a huge endeavor. And I am truly grateful. So thanks a ton to...

- ♦ Jennifer Rieker (donated Browns tickets)
- ♦ Heather Ferguson (donated an amazing Youth Golf basket from Westwood Country Club)
- ♦ Noel Allender (donated CAVS tickets),
- ♦ Lyndsey Needham (donated two bottles of superb champagne),
- ♦ Emily Richmond (scored us a sweet donation from MTEC),
- ♦ Katie Berne (used her spectacular relationships to get us gift cards from Arthur's Shoe Tree, Raw Esthetics, and Lularoe),
- ♦ Brigid Gast (offered a wonderful donation from her own business Be Our Gast Home Furnishings),
- ♦ Kristin Ferguson (scored us gift cards from her dad at State Farm and her mom gave us some wonderful baby gear from her Etsy shop To the Moon and Back),
- ♦ Jen Ciepiel (got a teeth whitening service and a diamond Sonicare toothbrush from her employer Dr. Be-tor, DDS.),
- ♦ Kelly Frindt (donated an amazing Arbonne basket as well as an awesome NESTLE basket),
- ♦ CC Zerbey (used her charm to get us a donation from Banyan Tree),
- ♦ Brittney Dean (offered us a sweet donation from DoTerra),
- ♦ Steph Spremulli (used her sweet connections to get donations from GV Art and Springvale Golf Course),
- ♦ Kelly Crews (donated a photography package from her amazing self),
- ♦ Katie Kuhn (gave us an absolutely awesome wine basket),
- ♦ Kelci Cotter (scored us a set of signed books by her brother in law, author Bill Cotter),
- ♦ Danielle Stuhr (generously gave us a package from Harness Cycle accompanied by a donation from lululemon athletica),
- ♦ Tracy Geagan (offered a photography package from her amazing self),
- ♦ Kristin Post (gave us a gorgeous donation from Stella & Dot),
- ♦ Jennifer Barnes (so generously donated a RDC gift card accompanied with RDC wine),
- ♦ Julie Patton (came through huge with a gold sponsorship from Patton Painting as well as a Painter for a Day package),
- ♦ Maggie Watson (donated an amazing package from Lake Erie Nature & Science Center),
- ♦ Carolyn Billick (gave us an excellent package from Liquid Lifestyles),
- ♦ Kim Crane (huge score for us as she donated a gold sponsorship from her realtor group with Howard Hanna),
- ♦ Jacke Wiedemer (so generously gave us a golf package at Westwood Country Club),
- ♦ Meredith Miller (gave us an outstanding relaxation basket),
- ♦ Colleen Pallett (scored a donation from Miss Jean Ann Corrigan Ballet),
- ♦ Mandy Copeland (got an amazing basket from Caruso Coffee Roasters).

And I am still adding to this list!

These people, in conjunction with the absolutely AMAZING group of people on the ground who worked so hard calling businesses again and again and again then going all over town and beyond in some cases to pick up the goods, are the reason that this will be an amazing and successful Auction! So my endless thanks go to Mindy Lang, Tana King, Mallory Kulesza, Jen Ciepiel, Lyndsey Needham, Bridget Baumgartner, Jessica Dessoify, Maggie Nash, Brandy Chittester, and Jessie Brent. And a final HUGE shoutout of thanks and appreciation goes to Jessica Wise, Cathleen Grossman, and Gina Hydrew. These three took whatever businesses I threw at them and were the epitome of the term Closer. :)

And thanks to everyone who gave me baskets, and paper, and more baskets! I hope to see you all at Auction!! 11/17/17 at 7pm at Around the Corner! Go to the new auction page on our website (<https://www.rrecpta.org/>) or <https://rockyriver.wufoo.com/forms/holiday-auction-2017/> to buy your tickets today!



Healthy Rocky River

Alice Pratt 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, November 2nd at 6:30pm

Nutritious, Delicious Thanksgiving Dinner
Rocky River Heinen's (30 min)
440-356-4362 to register

Thursday, December 7th at 700pm

Rest and Refresh
Rocky River Public Library
440-333-7610 ext 5501 to register



Adult Wellness & Networking Committee

Katie Kuhn ktkuhn@yahoo.com

Amy Ewing

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 5-7pm. 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.

Sunshine Committee

Andrea McGannon & Katherine Lehtinen

rrecptasunshine@gmail.com

Congratulations to the RRECPTA families who welcomed little ones in recent months:

- ◇ **Kim and Alex Hickey welcomed Hannah Therese on June 8**
- ◇ **Lyndsey and John Needham welcomed Jude on July 27**
- ◇ **Danielle and Matt Dillon welcomed Corrine Ayla on September 28**
- ◇ **Annie and Mac Banas welcomed Audrey Rose on September 29**
- ◇ **Andrea and Dan Nunney welcomed Daniel on October 7**



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: Melissa Kolenc

SPOUSE'S NAME: Jordan

BIRTHDAY: August 25

KIDS NAMES AND AGES:

◇ June Monroe - 3

◇ Baby #2 due May '18

Pets: 3 cats - Sugarbush, Charlie, and Goose

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP: Philadelphia, PA

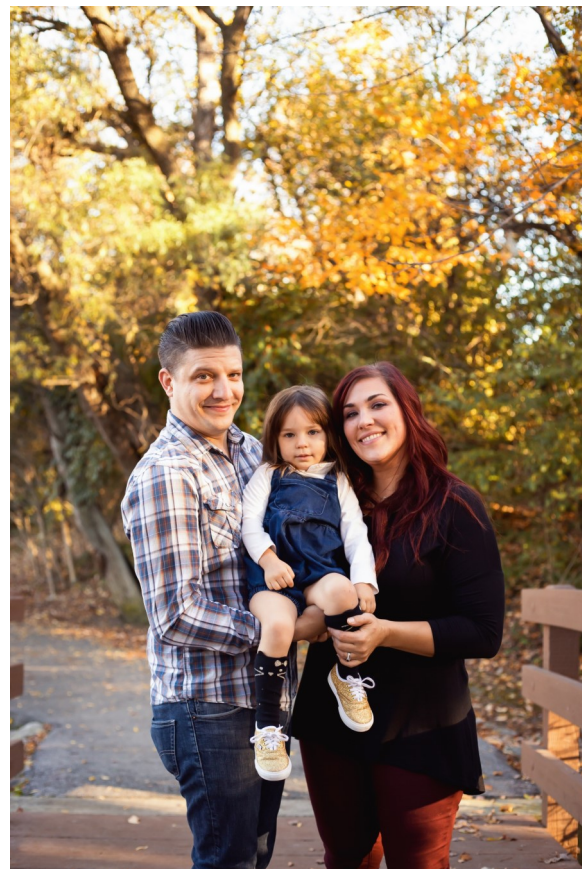
NUMBER OF YEARS IN ROCKY RIVER: 2.5

NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE PTA: Just joined!

CAREER (EITHER BEFORE KIDS OR CURRENT): Social Work, but now Stay-At-Home-Mom

SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT

YOU: When I was 25, I played roller derby for two years on a banked track league in Phoenix, Az. My derby name was "Jackie O'nasty"



FAVORITES:

MOVIE: Easy Money (Rodney Dangerfield and Joe Pesci)

TV SHOW: Gilmore Girls

BAND: Social Distortion and Bruce Springsteen

CHILDREN'S BOOK: Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

KID REARING BOOK: Beyond the Sling by Mayim Bialik

GROWN-UP BOOK: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt

VACATION SPOT: Tulum, Mexico

RESTAURANT: Luchita's Mexican Restaurant

FOOD: Mexican, Italian, and cheesesteaks!!

DRINK: Dirty Martini and Spicy mango margarita

PLACE TO SHOP: Sephora

BOARD/CARD GAME: Cats Against the World

ENTERTAINMENT:

WHAT IS ON YOUR IPOD RIGHT NOW? Shhhhhh!!! I heart Kesha!

WHAT DO YOU DO TO UNWIND BEFORE BED? Watch Online shop!!!!

LAST CONCERT YOU WENT TO? Queens of the Stone Age

LAST MOVIE YOU SAW? Maleficent

WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL DATE NIGHT? When not pregnant - Porco Lounge and Tiki Room. While pregnant - a dang nap and some ice cream with the cats.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY WITH YOUR KIDS? Our recent summer vacation. We took June down the shore just as I did growing up - taking her for custard with rainbow "jimmies" on the boardwalk at night, Funland for the rides and games - then back to the city to watch Fourth of July fireworks at the Philadelphia Art Museum.

FAVORITE RECIPE TO TAKE TO A PARTY: Homemade guacamole and salsa