



RMU Trees Network September 2023 Newsletter



October 2 Family Support Meeting Strong Steps for Back to School



Join us on Monday, October 2 for a parent meeting focusing on transitioning from Extended School Year (ESY) back to school in another grade and/or building. Dr. Lynn Utchell, Hopewell Area School District's Director of Special Education will be talking about successfully getting students back into school after summer and the accommodations and modifications that can be tailored to best support students in the new school year. Anyone interested in learning more can register for the virtual meeting by contacting Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu or completing the following form: [Registration Form](#)



September 11 Social Opportunities Parent Meeting

We had a wonderful turnout for our first parent meeting of the 2023-2024 school year on Monday, September 11. We had six incredible organizations talk and present about some amazing activities, events, and opportunities available for kids and adults both with and without disabilities. We had representatives from Autism Caring Center, Band Together Pittsburgh, Miracle League of Moon

Township, Open-Up, PA Connecting Communities, and P.A.L.S. of North Fayette. All of their information is listed below under resources.

Special Education Conference

On Monday, October 9, 2023, the RMU Trees Network will be holding its annual virtual Special Education Conference. To register complete the following registration form:

[Special Education Conference Registration Form](#)



RMU TREES NETWORK SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

PATHWAYS OF POSSIBILITIES

Monday, October 9, 2023

8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Morning Keynote - Special Education Pathways of Possibilities: Paula Schmidt, PaTTAN and PDE

Afternoon Keynote – Unified Sports: Michael Bovino, Special Olympics

Session Topics: Transition Employment Options, IEP Process, ESL and Special Education, Best Practices in Dyslexia, Incorporating Disability Literature, Innovative Technology, STEM, and Effective Practices in Autism

Session Presenters: RMU, IUP, AIU, Duquesne SD, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Greenville Area SD, Glade Run, Provident Charter School, and PEAL Center

Act 48 Hours Awarded

Contact Vicki Donne donne@rmu.edu or Deanna Hiltz hiltzd@rmu.edu

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network Website](#). Information on RMU Trees is also posted on the RMU website and the previous newsletters can be read and viewed at <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees>. In

each newsletter we provide links to resources of topics discussed in our parent meetings and workshops as well as other information that may be helpful to families, schools, and the community. Below are some links to resources provided by our presenters at our parent meeting on social activities and events.



Autism Caring Center: Autism Caring Center's mission is to enhance the lives of individuals and families by working diligently to provide support, resources, advocacy and offer training to community businesses to raise awareness and acceptance. In addition to advocacy and training, Autism Caring Center hosts family activities held at various locations throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. The events bring families together to share and are offered for all age groups and free of charge.

<https://autismcaringcenter.com/>

Events - <https://autismcaringcenter.com/events>

Contact - Kelly Cain kcain@autismcaringcenter.com ; 412-235-8929

Band Together: Band Together Pittsburgh believes that music has the power to unify the world. They envision using music to inspire and enrich the lives of those on the autism spectrum, enabling integration with family, friends, and society as a whole. They provide innovative programming, experiences, and vocational opportunities to enhance the lives of those on the autism spectrum.

<https://bandtogetherpgh.org/>

Events - <https://bandtogetherpgh.org/events/>

Contact - Carol Howard cmhoward705@gmail.com

Miracle League of Moon Township: The purpose of the Corporation is to build and maintain a Miracle League baseball field and adaptive playground, along with a handicap-accessible restroom, to allow individuals with disabilities play baseball, regardless of their ability, with their peers in an inclusive environment. Further, their purpose is to provide a place for inclusion, family and community for children of all abilities to have the opportunity to be part of a team and promote outdoor and social activity.

<https://miraclesinmoon.org/>

Fall Registration -

<https://miraclesinmoon.leagueapps.com/leagues?fbclid=IwAR09pHMVMM8E7MEYIzUPhCpxJCe53hLcg8n1Mq-VMIayycCJY7BWxt7-COk>

Contact - Christina Magulik - miraclesinmoon@gmail.com ; 412-849-2811

Open Up: Open Up's mission is to teach mindfulness tools through movement practices and interactive arts while centering people living with disabilities. They want all people to be able to have ease of access in finding avenues for increasing their sense of overall well-being. Open-Up believes that all people should be able to experience joy in community with others.

<https://www.open-up.org/>

Events and Classes - <https://www.open-up.org/events-and-classes>

Contact - Megan Sicheri msicheri@open-up.org

PACC: PA Connecting Communities empowers individuals with disabilities and provides opportunities to improve their quality of life. PACC offers services to meet the diverse needs of individuals with a variety of disabilities including intellectual and autism difficulties. Their mission is to support individuals according to their needs by listening to the unique voices of their participants, their families, and caregivers and providing programs that meet their needs and choices.

<https://paconnectingcommunities.org/>

Events from Yellow Book - <https://paconnectingcommunities.org/events-2022/>

Contact - Tammy Rose trose@pacc.org ; Bethany Slater, Transition Specialist
bslater@pacc.org 724-831-6138

P.A.L.S. of North Fayette: Providing Assistance, Love, and Support (PALS) is a community based, volunteer organization dedicated to developing and facilitating structured opportunities for children and youth with special needs in their community. PALS offers participation in recreational activities in order to build a community where all citizens are treated with compassion and respect.

<https://north-fayette.com/202/Providing-Assistance-Love-Support-PALS>

Contact - Darlene Hildebrand hildebrandd@northfayettepa.gov

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[RMU Trees Website](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>