



RMU Trees Network February 2023 Newsletter



March 3rd ESY Parent Meeting

Join us on Monday, March 6 for our newest parent meeting focusing on Extended School Year (ESY). Dr. Melissa Holler, Allegheny Valley School District's Special Education Director will be talking about ESY services that are provided to students with a disability beyond the regular school year. This presentation will meet LIVE virtually from 7PM-8PM. Parents, caregivers, teachers,

and anyone interested in learning more can register for the meeting by contacting Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu or completing the following form: [ESY Registration Form](#)

Individual IEP Meetings or Conferences

February's parent meeting was all about Individual Education Programs (IEPs). To further help and assist parents, we have set aside 9AM-3PM on Mondays in March to meet with individual parents who still have lingering questions. Any question is welcome and encouraged! If you want to know more about what should be included specific to your child, timelines, how to read assessment data, goals, etc., we are here to help you. Please email Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu for an afternoon time or Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu for a morning meeting.

Scholarship Opportunity

The RMU Trees Network has a \$5,000/year scholarship to full-time freshman students pursuing special education teacher certification. Scholars awarded will dedicate 10 hours a week to the Network, which serves families of students with intellectual disabilities by sharing community resources, newsletters, workshops, and direct services.

Follow the link to access the application and its details. [RMU Trees Network Scholarship Application](#)



February's IEP Collaboration Parent Meeting SUCCESS

On Monday, February 6, we had our monthly parent meeting. Mrs. Carla Antoniades, Cornell's Special Education Supervisor, presented about IEPs that outline the education program designed to meet individual needs of children. She provided our audience with so much information, knowledge, expertise and personal experiences that we all left knowing a lot more about IEP development and processes than we did going in. Thank you so much, Mrs. Carla Antoniades!



Virtual Book Club

Tuesdays from January 17 - March 14 from 6PM-7PM

Each week students have been reading and watching picture slides along with a read aloud put together by the scholars and staff on our Trees YouTube page to read Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling. The group meets weekly to discuss the chapters and provide engaging activities while promoting social interactions. We relate Aven's strengths and weaknesses to real life experiences and bridge connections among group members. Our goal is to get children and young adults together virtually to establish connections, friendships, and comradery. It is not too late to sign up. Join now!

Sign up by emailing Deanna Hiltz at hiltzd@rmu.edu

Make Time to Create



Our RMU Trees Network Scholars, Bre and Zoe used the University's Makerspace to create a fun craft for our readers. Follow them on our YouTube channel as they give step-by-step instructions on how to make a stencil to create a Valentine or special work of art using paper, scissors, and paint! <https://youtu.be/eDZO8OwhD0A>

Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Wix Site](#). 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>.

Also, in each newsletter we try to 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. On the next page are some resources framed around questions and input from our IEP Collaboration meeting.



Educational Rights and IEPs from Peal Center [Educational Rights and IEPs](#)

Frequently asked questions about Special Education from PA Families, Inc. [FAQ special education](#)

IEP Accommodations, Modifications, and Strategies [Specially Designed Instruction](#)

Medical Assistance Loophole

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx>

Office of Behavioral Health

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/About/Offices/Behavioral-Health.aspx>

Parent Guide for Special Education for School-Aged Children from PaTTAN [Parent Guide](#)

PROGRESS Center provides information, resources, tools, and technical assistance to support local educators and leaders (kindergarten through transition age) in developing and implementing high-quality educational programs. [Promoting Progress](#)

Staunton Clinic Outpatient Program provides confidential mental health psychiatric, psychotherapy and case management services for adults, and children in the local communities, schools and surrounding regions.

<https://www.heritagevalley.org/locations/staunton-clinic-edgeworth/>

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[RMU Trees Wix Site](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>

