



## RMU Trees Network November 2024 Newsletter

---



### Assistive Technology Funding Workshop

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6:00PM - 7:30PM**

Join us virtually on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM to learn how to get funding for Assistive Technology. Assistive Technology (AT) are the devices and/or equipment used by individuals with disabilities to improve their lives in education, employment, community recreation, and daily living activities. Paying for AT can be expensive, challenging, and overwhelming. We are pleased to have **Wendy Davis**, Director of Marketing and Outreach from PA Assistive Technology Foundation, **Jim Lilley**, Assistant District Administrator from PA Department of Labor and Industry/Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, **Bekah Nesbitt**, Assistive Technology Coordinator from Community Living and Support Services (CLASS), and **Mary Evrard**, Community and Communications Liaison Coordinator, Allegheny County Department of Human Services (AC DHS) Office of Developmental Supports (ODS), joining and sharing their experiences and expertise about assistive technology and the funding sources available for these impactful devices. To register for this free family/ parent workshop scheduled for **Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm**, please contact contact Vicki Donne at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu), or register at [Google Registration](https://forms.gle/EPBu3QVdEw1cvgwv8). (<https://forms.gle/EPBu3QVdEw1cvgwv8>) Upon registration, registrants will be sent a Google Meets calendar invitation.

---

### IEP vs. 504 Plan December Parent and Family Meeting

**Monday, December 2, 2024 7PM - 8PM**

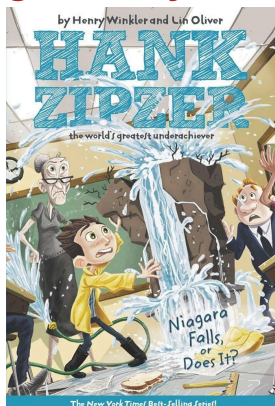
To register for this family/parent meeting scheduled for **Monday, December 2, 2024 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm**, please contact contact Vicki Donne at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu), or register at [Google Registration](https://forms.gle/EPBu3QVdEw1cvgwv8). Upon registration, registrants will be sent a Google Meets calendar invitation.



---

## Virtual Book Club for Kids

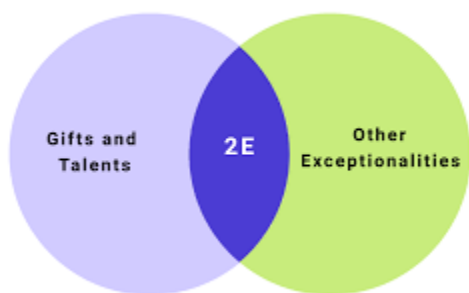
Starting Tuesday, February 4



We have picked the book **Niagara Falls, Or Does It?** by Harry Winkler and Lin Oliver for our next book club. The book is inspired by true life experiences of Henry Winkler whose undiagnosed dyslexia made him a classic childhood underachiever. The Hank Zipzer series is about the high-spirited adventures of a boy with learning differences. In **Niagara Falls, Or Does It?**, Hank needs to create a summer vacation project. He loves science, but he hates writing reports. Join us to read about the adventures of Hank as he navigates school, hobbies (magic), and friendships. This book is recommended for children ages 8-12 but is a great read for all ages. We will meet for four weeks **virtually Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. A hard copy of the book will be provided to all participants who register by Wednesday, December 18, 2024.**

Sign up by emailing Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu)

---



### Twice-Exceptionality Parent and Family Meeting Summary

On Monday, November 4 the Trees Network hosted a meeting on Twice-Exceptionalities. Dr. Jennifer Shuman, Director of Special Education and Student Services from Mt. Lebanon School District, along with her colleague Nicole Glover, Coordinator of Secondary Gifted Education, presented their

knowledge, experience, and personal background with working and advocating for students with two exceptionalities. Attendees got a lot of valuable information and resources. Some of the resources shared are included under the Resources for Parents and Educators section of the newsletter. You can also find these resources on our website.

---

## Upcoming Events Around the Area

The RMU Trees Network is a member of the Special Needs Consortium, a group of service providers in the Pittsburgh area. The consortium exists to provide a place where all service providers can network and opportunities can be shared, promoted, and advocated for to increase awareness of resources available to the community. The following is a list of events found through our contacts and/or were shared by members of the consortium. We hope you will find something of interest to you.

### **Caregivers' Yoga Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM at Open Up**

Caregivers' Yoga class is an experience curated for those who dedicate their time and energy to caring for others. This class emphasizes mindfulness and rest, and provides a supportive space for caregivers to take care of themselves. In this class there are optional opportunities to share experiences and find support among fellow caregivers. More than movement and mindfulness this class is a chance to pause, reflect, recharge, and nurture yourself. Through mindful awareness and community support, Caregiver's Yoga encourages self-exploration and personal growth, making it an ideal space for anyone looking to enhance their wellbeing. Register here

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

### **November 9th 12:00 - 3:00 PM Autism Caring Center: Friendsgiving**

Join for a luncheon with friends to celebrate the season. Bring dessert or a drink to share if able. Bring a \$10 or less prize to use for Bingo, if you are able to. Check in is 12-12:30PM. Lunch will be served from 12:30-2. Bingo 2-3 PM. Location: 1000 Horizon Vue Dr Ste 400, Canonsburg, PA 15317

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48A8A62FABFF2-52242308-friendsgiving>

### **November 10th 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sensory Sensitive Science hours at the Carnegie Science Center**

Sensory Sensitive Science Hours are held on select Sunday mornings. Exhibit lights and sound effects are adjusted and special hands-on activities are added to foster a safe, welcoming, and most of all, fun, environment for all visitors. As always, visitors can borrow a sensory backpack from the Ticket Counter and access a quiet space if you need a break. This event is included in Science Center general admission. For any additional questions about our sensory sensitive offerings or for any general accessibility questions, please email Emily Tremain at

[Accessibility@CarnegieScienceCenter.Org](mailto:Accessibility@CarnegieScienceCenter.Org)

### **November 16th 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Goalball Clinic - Envision Blind Sports**

RMU North Athletic Complex, 6001 University Blvd. Moon PA

Lunch, Snacks & Drinks provided. Cost is \$10. To sign up email or text Jillian Stringfellow [jstringfellow@envisionblindsports.org](mailto:jstringfellow@envisionblindsports.org) or 251-610-3244.

## **November 18th 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM OR November 19th 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM Parent Information Sessions - Include Me**

Join the Include Me team for an online series on transition. Learn about the steps to take after your student turns 14 and how to be engaged in their education and transition plans as a parent or guardian. Sessions will be held on zoom and recordings will be posted online. Register here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qERARYYsRoSDQN-vxA4-iw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qERARYYsRoSDQN-vxA4-iw#/registration)

## **November 23rd 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Friendsgiving Event - Exceptional Adventures**

American Serbian Club, South Side

Enjoy lunch, music and friendship to welcome the holiday season and give thanks.

Register here.

[https://travefy.com/website/ndvrxgjb6nqx24rznn-ywta32qstnhzq2?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1jl7zZ-O3DxffYohL7p1GqkzXyAx1OjWRiofptoz5LSH2nTgwAh5eAECI\\_aem\\_wPpA6D\\_xsHQWTWBOv16u2Q](https://travefy.com/website/ndvrxgjb6nqx24rznn-ywta32qstnhzq2?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1jl7zZ-O3DxffYohL7p1GqkzXyAx1OjWRiofptoz5LSH2nTgwAh5eAECI_aem_wPpA6D_xsHQWTWBOv16u2Q)

---

## **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](https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network) (<https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network>).

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 on twice-exceptionalities.



**Beast Academy** - Beast Academy is the elementary school math program created by Art of Problem Solving (AoPS), a global leader in advanced K–12 math education. AoPS trains the intellectual leaders of the next generation by preparing motivated students for college and career success. <https://beastacademy.com/>

**Belin-Blank Center** - From student programs to professional learning; psychological services to research; Belin-Blank operates one of the most comprehensive gifted and talented centers. <https://belinblank.education.uiowa.edu/>

**Bureau of Special Education - Gifted Education** - Gifted education is the shared responsibility of the Bureau of Special Education and the Bureau of Teaching and Learning Support. The integrated approach commits both Bureaus to providing support for Chapter 16. Learn more here:

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/education/programs-and-services/instruction/elementary-and-secondary-education/gifted-education.html>

**University of Connecticut** - Curriculum Compacting: A Research-based Differentiation Strategy for Culturally Diverse Talented Students

[https://gifted.uconn.edu/schoolwide-enrichment-model/compacting\\_for\\_at\\_risk/](https://gifted.uconn.edu/schoolwide-enrichment-model/compacting_for_at_risk/)

---

## **RMU Trees Network Contact**

6001 University Boulevard  
335 Patrick Henry Trees Network Office Suite  
Moon Township, PA 15108

**Vicki Donne**, RMU Trees Network Director,  
University Professor, Education Department,  
College of Health and Human Science

[donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu)

412-397-5465

**Deanna Hiltz**, RMU Trees Network Outreach Specialist, Part-Time Faculty

[hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu)

412-397-6058

[RMU Trees Website](https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network) (<https://donne94.wixsite.com/rmu-trees-network>)

[RMU Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/) (<https://www.facebook.com/RMUtrees/>)

