

# ROSA LEE CARTER ELEMENTARY PTO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

Dear RLC PTO Members,

The month of December is often a busy time for all of us between school events, get-togethers and holiday shopping mixed in with our already hectic schedules. As we move into the weeks ahead, don't forget to take a moment to enjoy this time of year. While we are often caught up in the hustle and bustle, it's a great time to spend quality time with our children and extended families. We should also not forget to remember those less fortunate. RLC and the PTO will be offering a few opportunities throughout the month to help those in need. We hope that you will participate as much as you are able.

We look forward to the fun events we have planned this month and wish our RLC families a joyous holiday season!

~The RLC PTO Board

## SAVE THE DATE

December

Dec 7 and 8: Holiday Shop (school hours)

Dec 8: Family Movie Night, 6:00 pm

Dec 12: Chopathi Spirit Night

January

Jan 8: PTO General Mtg, 7:00 p.m.

Jan 20: RLC Ice Skate, 3:40 p.m.

Jan 23: Chuck E Cheese Spirit Night

## SNOWFLAKE SHOP



Our annual holiday shop will be open during school hours on Thursday, Dec 7th and Friday, Dec 8th. Students will have an opportunity to shop with their class on one of these days to purchase holiday gifts for friends and family. All gifts are \$5 or under. If a student plans to shop, they should bring CASH in an envelope marked 'Holiday Shop'. It is also helpful for our younger students if they have noted on their envelope those special people for which the child should be shopping. Teachers will send communication home as to which day their class is assigned to shop. The holiday shop during school hours is for student shopping only. Any parents wishing to volunteer to help with this event, please see the RLC website ([www.rlcpto.org](http://www.rlcpto.org)) Volunteer tab. We are in need of shopping assistants, cashiers and gift wrappers!!

## JOIN US FOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

We are hosting a viewing of 'Despicable Me 3' Friday, December 8th in the RLC gym. Doors will open at 6pm and the movie will begin at 6:30pm. Concessions will be available for purchase. **In lieu of charging admission we ask that you bring non-perishable food items or size 4/5 diapers for Mobile Hope of Loudoun.** Mobile Hope is a non-profit organization that helps children and young adults who are precariously housed, homeless or are living at risk in Loudoun County. More information can be found at [www.mobilehopeloudoun.org](http://www.mobilehopeloudoun.org). Additionally, our holiday shop will be open during the event for students to do some extra shopping.

## #1 COYOTE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Our volunteer of the month is, **Erika Madison!** Erika has helped the PTO in so many ways this year and in the past. She has coordinated our spirit nights for Rosa Lee Carter and has also planned our amazing teacher appreciation weeks for the past three years. Erika's time and dedication to our school community is a blessing and we are so thankful for her commitment to RLC. Thank you Erika for all you do!!!

## MATH OLYMPIAD

Over the past few years, the PTO has received numerous questions regarding why our Math Olympiad (MO) after school program allows for limited students. For the past 10 years, RLC's MO program has been one of the best in the county. This is because we provide the opportunity to students to learn rather than test them without any instruction. Our program provides specific instruction that introduces students to the skills and tools required to succeed in competition math. We use the grade level math concepts as foundation and teach them how to apply it to problem solving strategies. There are different models followed by different schools. Some allow the testing of all students (Newton Lee for example), some limit it like RLC (and Dominion Trail). Our school differs from others in that we provide specific instruction, rather than simply just offering the ability to take the test. It is this framework that has allowed RLC students to succeed.

Since we provide instruction we must limit the number of students into our ASA MO program to make it most effective. MO's rules require students to take the contest on the same day and time. For this reason we cannot add another class on a different day. While we recognize that we must turn away many students interested in participating in MO at RLC, there are other opportunities that can be pursued such as participating in the MO tournament at Dominion Trail Elementary School, Math Kangaroo, or RLC's Virginia Math League (VML). RLC's VML provides the students self paced differentiated learning before they participate in the contest. If you have questions, about the MO please reach out to Shalini Pochiraju at [shalini@pochiraju.org](mailto:shalini@pochiraju.org).

## ICE SKATING

Please SAVE THE DATE for the Ice Skating Event

sponsored by the 5th grade graduation committee. It's January 20th, 3:40-4:40 pm.



Enjoy ice skating, a fully stocked hot chocolate bar, and an exciting silent auction. Bid on a chance to ride on a fire truck! All proceeds support the 5th grade graduation party.

Keep in mind there will be volunteer opportunities for 5th grade parents. During the graduation party only parents volunteering at the event are allowed to attend. Those coveted volunteer spots will go to parents who have helped with planning throughout the year.

## GETTING TO KNOW MS. INSARI



We would like to welcome our new principal Ms. Diane Insari to our RLC PTO family!! We are looking forward to working with her on our future PTO events and initiatives. Since Ms. Insari has only been with us a short time and likely many have not have an opportunity to meet her yet, we asked if she would mind sharing some information about her herself by answering a few questions:

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up on a dairy farm in Bradford County, PA. It was a lovely place to grow up, however a bit too rural for me. After college, I moved to Maryland to start my teaching career and have lived in the DC area ever since. I've been an Ashburn resident since 1995.

**What is your educational background?** I have a BS in Elementary Ed from Lock Haven University of PA and MEd in Educational Leadership from George Mason University. Over 12 years, I taught all grade levels 1-6 in Prince George's County, MD. After moving to Virginia, I taught second grade at Ashburn ES until 2010 when I became the Dean then Assistant Principal at Liberty ES in South Riding.

**What do you like to do when you aren't working?** I enjoy spending time with my adult children. My daughter is a graduate of VCU Arts. She lives in Richmond with her fiancé. We are planning her wedding for October 2018. My son is a graduate of VA Tech. He currently works in the area and lives at home. I am very much a nature lover and spend a lot of time hiking the fantastic trails this area has to offer. I also love music and can often be found at concerts or small venues enjoying live performances.

**What is your favorite book?** "Oh the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss and "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio

**What is your favorite food?** I love seafood and spicy ethnic food (Thai, Chinese, Indian, Mediterranean).

**What word best describes you?** Busy! I get my energy from interacting with people and staying busy. I enjoy engaging in interesting conversations and making new friends. I'm not one to sit around!

**What is your favorite color?** (none... or all)

**What type of pets do you have?** I have two cats.

**What is one interesting thing you would like the RLC community to know about you?** Travel is a passion of mine and I enjoy learning about other cultures. Three of my most interesting trips have been to Pakistan, China and Turkey. I have plans to visit Croatia and Italy this summer.

**What is one goal you have as Principal for this school year?** My main goal for the remainder of this school year is to get to know the staff, students and families of Rosa Lee Carter! I can already see what a fantastic community this is and I am so proud to be a part of it!

## CONTACT US

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RLC PTO Website: [www.rlcpto.org](http://www.rlcpto.org)