



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Erin Currie Holzaepfel (President)

Avon Lake Early Childhood PTA COVID-19 Update

Members,

We understand that this is a very difficult time, and just a little over a week ago, we were all planning on making cookies and cupcakes to share at our biggest fundraiser this week, find our favorite bargains while shopping at kids closet, and asking our kids which princess or superhero they would like to be this year. I ask that you read this press release in its entirety to provide you with an update on ALECPTA.

As your leader and President, I can honestly say it pains me to be ending the most successful year ALECPTA has had on record at 188 families strong this way, it was unforeseen, but we will not let it impact long term. Prior to writing the first press releases that were sent out just under a week ago, we were confronted with the reality that tough decisions were going to have to be made, and today I received an email from our State PTA saying that they had many PTAs reaching out to understand how to move forward.

I am writing to ensure you that ALECPTA has a strong organizational structure in place that has allowed us to mobilize in less than a week to address everything that a small business in Ohio also had to face. During this time, our board not only rose to the challenge, they did so at such a fast rate that we are now able to officially say we are providing answers to all the here and now information we can give. The rest will have to be a wait and see.

The good news is we will continue to operate the way we always have, just without our in-person events. General and Board Meetings will take place virtually until they can return to in-person (more to come). We have leadership in place for our 2020-2021 year and plan to continue down our path of transitions and planning on the same timelines that have always given this organization great strength. Therefore, when everything does return to normal, our organization can look back and just see a time period where we were missing our events as opposed to having a future impact. My hope is that we can all look back at this in a few weeks from our end of the year party and celebrate all the achievements we have had this year, but for now I will provide you the important information you need regarding our organization below and what we need to share with you for the time being:

Cancelled Events and April 6th General Meeting:

As of March 18, 2020, we have cancelled all ALECPA events to the date of April 12, 2020, **with the exception of April 6th general meeting at 7pm, which we plan, at this time, to hold virtually (details to come)**. A list of these events is provided below:

March 12 – Bowling at Bay Lanes
March 13 – Summit Racing Equipment I-X Piston Power Auto-Rama
March 13 – Squeaky Sneakers
March 13 – CIC Playdate at McDonalds
March 15 – Donuts with your Favorite Dude
March 16 – Screenagers – The Next Chapter
March 20 – Family Yoga
March 20 – Sing and Swing 9:45 and 10:45
March 21 – 2020 Spring Kids Closet (refunds for this will be issued by 3/27/20)
March 23 – CIC playdate at Fairview Park Library
March 27 – Little Explorer Indoor Playground
March 28 – Princess Superhero Ball
March 30 – CIC Playdate at Rocky River Nature Center
March 26 to April 19 – IX Indoor Amusement Park
April 2 – Flippers Gym Program
April 3 – Mitchell's Ice cream Tour and More
April 4 – Play CLE Parent's Outing
April 6 – Babysitting at General Meeting
April 9 – Craft Club – April

*** In addition, we have also opted to not purchase the April 18th Music Explorers at Severance Hall Event. This event is not cancelled by Severance Hall. Therefore, our members may purchase their own tickets if they would like to attend.

We also have updated event titles on our website to identify which events are cancelled and have a page for COVID-19 press releases on our homepage if you need to reference back to these.

Your account will still show you as registered for these events to allow us to get financial records, however, they are cancelled.

Refunds:

As of March 17, 2020, refunds have been issued for every person who was enrolled in the events listed above. Refunds are issued back to your PayPal account. Please review that you have received your refunds and contact us no later than March 25, 2020 regarding questions on your refunds.

Future Event Registration:

We have closed down all event registration for the remainder of the 2020 events already planned. **These events are not cancelled**, we simply closed registration to limit potential future administrative work. Our plan is to reopen these events as soon as we are given the go ahead by the local officials. Therefore,

please ignore registration dates on the website and watch for an update for when those events that we are having in later April and May are able to be opened back up. For those who are already enrolled in the event, should they be cancelled, we will issue refunds at a later date.

We will monitor other events in April and May with an abundance of caution. If the event is not on the list above, then please assume it is still on until we formally release otherwise.

Volunteer Hours:

All members who were previously signed up for a volunteering engagement (i.e. spring kids closet, superhero princess, babysitting, meal trains), we will still be providing you with the credits you would have earned for these volunteer slots. As we were able to get all sign ups out for the year for our events, total volunteer credits required for the children's scholarship will remain at 2.

Your volunteer credits were not cancelled out of the sign-up genius system so that we have them for our records. You may get reminders, please ignore them.

Stay tuned for information about earning credit for our April 6th meeting. We will continue to evaluate the opportunity for credit at our May end of year party and required credits for meeting attendance based on how COVID-19 plays out.

Meal Trains:

Due to the recommended guidelines of social distancing, we have made the tough decision to suspended meal trains for our families in need. This decision was not made lightly, but it was made with the safety of our members in mind. We will announce when meal trains are able to resume. We are happy to provide meals for families who are welcoming a new family member during this time in the future. Please continue to let us know about this happy news by emailing us at alecpta@yahoo.com, and we will put you on a list for the future.

Financial Impact of Kids Closet and Other Events:

Over the last few years, our board has done a remarkable job of controlling their spending while delivering incredible events. We have carefully planned for the event that we may need a reserve, and also monitored spending this year on our budget to actual. Even with the loss of spring kids closet, our organization will continue to operate as fiscally stable. We also had some vendors who were willing to shift our deposit to future events for our 2020-2021 year.

If you have a question that was not answered in this message please reach out to us at alecpta@yahoo.com

Thank you for your time and continued support

Erin Currie Holzaepfel

ALECPA President 2017-2020