Happy Thanksgiving!

**Future Problem Solving**

We are excited that all 5th graders, as well as students in Drew’s competition elective, will have the opportunity to participate in Future Problem Solving (FPS). This is an international competition where students work in teams of 3 or 4, using critical thinking skills to solve problems that humanity will likely face in the future. Topics for this year are: “It’s All in the Genes,” “3D Printing,” and “Identity Theft.”

Any 4th – 8th grade student may also choose to compete in the scenario writing competition, in which students write a futuristic story based on one of this year’s competition topics. Stories are submitted in mid-February. If your child is interested in Scenario Writing (registration cost applies), please have her or him contact Anne Wolf.

Barbara Washington, Drew Reynolds and Anne Wolf will be sharing coaching duties.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Ricks Center has two off-site storage units that need to be cleared out. Moving day will be Thursday, December 1 (weather permitting), 10:00am – 2:00pm.

We are recruiting parent volunteers to help load, unload, sort, inventory, etc. Most larger items will be returned to Ricks, and other items will be donated or disposed of.

If you are interested and available, please contact Alaina Archuleta, Operations & Office Manager at Alaina.Archuleta@du.edu.

**Occupational Therapy**

The school added a part-time occupational therapist (OT) to staff this school year. The role of the OT is to assist in identifying occupational therapy needs through observations and assessments. Assessments will only be conducted with parent permission and input, and in-class observations can happen informally. If short-term, targeted interventions are identified by the OT, the OT will assist in implementing these – either through small group work or by supporting the classroom teachers in implementing interventions that can take place in the classroom. When more intensive individual OT
needs are identified, parents will be asked to seek external occupational therapy for their child. Parents will be involved at all levels when there are concerns around a child's development – we appreciate your partnership!

**Grandparents and Special Persons Day**
Help our students celebrate all of the amazing things going on at Ricks Center with their Grandparents or other Special Persons (adults only please) at our third annual "Grandparents and Special Persons Day" on Monday November 28th, 9:30-11:00am. RSVP to Amy Jacobs.

We would like to capture the moments from our special day. If you are a photographer or just love taking pictures, we would love your help taking pictures during the event. Please contact Amy Jacobs if you are interested.

**2017-2018 Enrollment Planning**
As we are in the process of creating the budget for the 2017-2018 school year, we would like to get an idea of your plans for next year. Please complete this very brief survey.

The survey is non-binding and anonymous, however it will give us a better idea of how to plan for next year.

Thank you!

**RenWeb Update**
The Administrative team attended an extensive training to better understand our student information system. Renweb has enormous potential, and we will spend the upcoming months setting it up for full use. As an initial step, we request that if teachers are using their child's student email address (first.last@du.edu) as their parent contact address that this be changed to a parent email address. This is particularly important for our Middle School students, who will be able to access Renweb's learning management features. Student and parent access points are different, and the students will need to log on with their own email addresses. We will inform you when we are ready to make the switch from Edmoto, which has more limited capabilities.

**Creative Recycling**
Creative Recycling is now outside the art room, and no longer in the Early Childhood wing. When donating, please sort items into the labeled tubs. If you have any questions please contact Karie Wyckoff.
Welcome to Jake Hill, our Part-Time Front Desk Secretary

We have hired Jake Hill to be our Part-Time Front Desk Secretary. Jake will be on duty from 2:00-6:00pm daily, and he and Bobbie have already begun working closely together. See Jake's bio below. Welcome Jake!

"Hi everyone! Thank you so incredibly much for making me feel so welcome during my first week. I really am going to enjoy working here with you all.

A little about myself:
I moved here last year after meeting my wife online, and hearing that Police Officers make more in Colorado. I was also in a motorcycle accident last year paralyzing me from the waist down. Every morning I go to physical therapy to try and get feeling back in my legs.
I am into photography, making YouTube videos, video games, helping my wife with her dog training business, and always finding new hobbies and projects to work on."

Save the Date

- Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 21-25 (No school)
- Grandparents and Special Persons Day, Nov 28, 9:30-11:00 am
- National Geographic Giant Travelling Map of Europe, Dec 2-9
- Parent Workshop: Reflection on the Ricks Center Mission, Dec 15, 8:45-9:45 am
- Grade 8 Semester report cards distributed to families, Dec 23
- Half Day, Dec 23 11:45 am dismissal for EC and Primary, 12:00 Dismissal for MS
- Winter Holiday
- Semester 2 begins, Jan 9
- Grades 1-7 report cards distributed to families, Jan 13 (PS, PK and K development and learning reports sent in February – please note the correction)
- Parenting Safe Children Workshop hosted by Fisher, April 15, 2017

Outside Resources

*Ricks Center does not endorse these events/organizations. We are simply passing the information along to those who are interested.*

Western Academic Talent Search: WATS participants take the SAT, ACT or PSAT 8/9 examinations to evaluate their strengths, to gain experience, and to qualify for recognition and special programming. Students may also participate in summer programs at the Colorado School of Mines through the WATS. Read more at [www.centerforbrightkids.org](http://www.centerforbrightkids.org)

3rd Annual DU Night at Denver Zoo Lights (DU Event, register [here](http://www.centerforbrightkids.org) - Nov 29, 5:30-9:00 pm)

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**Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity**

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<tr>
<th>Ricks Center Website</th>
<th>Ricks Center for Gifted Children</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ricks Center Facebook Page</td>
<td>University of Denver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2040 South York Street <a href="http://www.centerforbrightkids.org">map</a></td>
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Phone: 303–871–2982
To support the annual National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation is a sponsor for the national poster contest, “Bring Our Missing Children Home.” All 5th graders are eligible to submit posters for the competition; information can be found here. Anne Wolf will submit any entries from Ricks to CBI. Feel free to contact her with any questions.