Happy St. Patrick’s Day to You!

While Denver does not have as much fun as Chicago does (like dyeing the river green) we had a great time with the Irish dance company today. Thank you to Brendan May’s family and the RCA for helping us arrange the special assembly for the students.

Parent Involvement at Ricks
A Message from the Director

Since my arrival at Ricks, I have been working closely with two parent groups, the Ricks Community Association (RCA) and the Advisory Board. Both groups have been through change processes over the past several years. The RCA recently developed and mission and purpose statement, with input from the current Administration, and has chosen to focus on community building and fundraising at Ricks -- ultimately with the goal of supporting the school in fulfilling its mission. The Advisory Board was recently reconstituted after several years’ break. Its goal has been to serve as a sounding board for the Director in decision-making. The past several months, the RCA and Advisory Board have held joint meetings. After conducting a crosswalk between the two groups, and despite somewhat different charges, we uncovered a good deal of overlap in the groups. Therefore, moving forward, we will have a single parent association, which will carry on as the RCA. I would like to thank the Advisory Board for their support and dedication throughout the school year. To Walter Weining, Jeni Halingstad, Jennifer Miller, Esra Utku, Laurie Liddick, and Barbara Washington (teacher representative), your ongoing advice and care for the school are so appreciated!

Parents who are interested in getting involved in supporting Ricks can look out for several opportunities. The RCA will be hosting an open meeting next week, and will be electing new officers as needed this spring for the following school year. The RCA also offers several low-intensity volunteer positions, which will be shared with parents. Additionally, parents may choose to become Room Parents, or to assist the classroom teachers as needed with special events. See the RCA section in this newsletter for more information.

2017 YEARBOOK ORDERS

Congratulations to the Yearbook Committee and Photographers - the Yearbook is finished and on its way to print. We have a very short window to finish ordering. If you have not had a chance to order your yearbook, please contact Karie at karie.wyckoff@du.edu by April 1st for instructions to order online.
National History Day
Ricks was well represented at the regional NHD competition last weekend. Angelina Akdis qualified in her division on the topic “Taking a Stand in History” and will represent Ricks at the State National History Day competition on May 6 at the University of Colorado-Denver Auraria Campus. We wish her the best!

Summer Fun at Ricks - now expanded to include 6-year-olds
Summer at Ricks blends fun summer activities with rich learning experiences. Children ages 3-6 will get a chance to play outside, explore DU and the surrounding community, participate in special enhancements, and much more.

Camp will run from June 12-August 4 from 8:30am-3:30pm. You can register by the week or by the session (4 weeks.) Click here for more information or to register. For questions, please call 303-871-3715.

Camp is more fun with friends! You do not need to be a current Ricks Center student to attend camp, so feel free to share with anyone who might be interested.

More FPS news
Congratulations to the fourth grade students who submitted scenarios for the Future Problem Solving Scenario Writing competition: Alessa, Elan, Quinn, Willa, and CJ! Each student chose one of the year’s topics – Educational Disparities, 3D Printing, Identity Theft, or It’s All in the Genes – did some research on the topic, then wrote a 1500 word short story set at least 30 years in the future. The scenarios were submitted to Colorado FPS for evaluation in the junior division; results and awards will be presented at the State Bowl held here at Ricks on April 8. The Awards Ceremony begins at 4:30 pm if you would like to attend.

Robotics at DU
The State Robotics Competition will be held in Magness Arena this weekend. Attendance is free and will very exciting. AS we look at integrating tech into our curriculum, using the Lego robotics kits and the Lego League completion are intriguing. The high school robotics competition is the final level of First Lego League.

This Week in the Classrooms

In sticking with our mission to educate the whole child, seventh grade students worked together to create their own Public Service Announcements. Today's PSA presentations included "Stop Bullying," "Hey Kids Stay in School, By the Way Litter Isn't Cool," "Stop Air Pollution," "Peer Pressure," and "Equal Rights to Education."

Student's in Ms. Odette's class have spent the last few months studying Quebec. During this time, they have learned about the history of Quebec, the geography, the food, and much more. They are working on finishing up their bulletin board that displays all of the information they learned. The students in charge of the board had to gather the information and pictures from their classmates. One of Ms. Odette's students, Callie, mentions that her favorite part about the board was getting to see all of the information that they learned displayed in one place. She says it was fun to have each student contribute differently, highlighting each's specific interests in Quebec. Bon travail, classe!

Mr. Drew's students are focusing currently on geography. Their next big project is based off of the idea that each student has just won $15,000 and now they have two weeks to plan a trip around the world. Students must visit at least three different continents during their trip. Included in the plan for each leg of traveling must be plans for food, cultural events and spaces to visit, where they will stay, etc. and how much all of that will cost (they must remain in their budget). Several students mentioned their excitement in getting to travel to countries such as Germany and France, and several mentioned they would love to "attend" local sports matches.
Math Fun
If your child likes math games, there are a number of interactive activities at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) website that they might enjoy. Know that some of the games are old and may not load well, but there are plenty of new ones aimed at students from preschool through high school. Enjoy!

RCA Happenings

Please sign-up to provide food and beverages for our teachers during spring conferences (March 23-24) www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0544A8A72BA2F85-spring

Open RCA Meeting & Call for Volunteers

Tuesday, March 21st from 5:30 to 6:30PM @Ricks (Snacks and Parking Passes for those who RSVP will be provided)

- Please RSVP: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090A4BA9AD2CA0FD0-open
- Positions looking to be filled:
  - Fundraising Chair
  - Social Chair
  - Secretary
  - Gala Lead
  - Room Parent Coordinator
  - Room Parents (this role will be filled each September)
  - Classroom Funding - King Soopers Program Coordinator
  - Classroom Funding - Shop with Scrip Program Coordinator
  - Parent Ambassador Coordinator (supporting admissions)
This week RCA shipped alumni care packages to Ricks Center alumni at 12 different colleges throughout the country and abroad!

Lost & Found Reminder
Please pick-up personal items from the Lost & Found rack at front entrance by Tuesday, March 28nd. Items left behind will be donated to a homeless shelter.

Save the Date
March 21, 5:30-6:30PM – Open RCA Meeting & Call for Volunteers
March 23, 24 – Parent Teacher Conferences (No school for students)
Mar 27-31 – Spring Break
Apr 8 – Future Problem Solving State Bowl
Apr 15, 1:00-5:00 PM – Parenting Safe Children Workshop
Apr 21, 8:40-9:10 Assembly with theme of "courage"

Around DU and Denver...
Let's Put the Femme in STEM with the University of Denver
Girls will visit labs and engage in activities that line up with research being done at the University of Denver and within STEM fields. The members of the Pioneer Leadership Program, Society of Physics Students, and Women in Computing invite you to come put the femme in STEM! ON: May 13th 10-3pm AT: University of Denver, Colorado Women’s College FOR: Girls

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

Ricks Center Website
Ricks Center Facebook Page

Ricks Center for Gifted Children
University of Denver
2040 South York Street map
Denver, CO 80208

RenWeb
District Code: RC-CO (parent access only)

Phone: 303-871-2982
aged 9-13 Please email femminstem@gmail.com or visit our website at femmeinstem.org to register.

School Days Off Sports Camp
Make sure to check out http://ritchiecenter.du.edu/youth/school-days-off/ to learn about sports camps held on the days that there is no school for the Ricks Center.

Summer Reading Skills classes
We have received information about Summer Reading Skills classes for children in PreK – rising 11 grade being offered through Regis University. Each child received a flyer about the program; here is the link to the information as well.