Class Placements for 2017-18 – EC and Primary Students

Next month, we will begin doing some initial class placements for returning EC and Primary students for the 2017-18 school year. When placing students into classes we look at a variety of factors in order to achieve balanced groupings, such as academic and intellectual strengths, gender, special needs, student relationships, etc. We will continue to enroll new students over the coming months, and some families may leave unexpectedly over the summer. This is typical in all schools.

We will be announcing class placements and teacher assignments after the summer. You can expect this information to be emailed to you in early August.

If you would like to share any pertinent aspects related to your child’s placement, please feel free to email Anne Sweet (anne.sweet@du.edu) or send a note in writing to the Director's office. **We will not be taking requests for specific teachers,** however we will consider your input in regard to relationships / friendships or learning needs. Please note that to maintain balanced classes, requests will be considered, however, we cannot guarantee all requests will be granted. **Please provide this information in writing by May 10, 2017.**

Additionally, in class, all students will generate a list of peers they would like be with next year, and teachers will take this information into consideration as they construct classes.

MAP updates

The results from the first testing session are positive. 96% of the students are reading at or above the national norm (50th percentile), with 91% scoring in the top third, and 39% scoring in the top 5% percentiles. In math, 84% of our tested students scored at or above the national norm, and 23% scoring in the top 5% percentiles. We are very proud of all of them.

Parent Workshop – Executive Functions

Our school psychology team, Krista Klabo, M.S. and Karin Dittrick-Nathan, Ph.D., will be presenting on Executive Functions on April 20th 9:00-10:00 am. Executive functions consist of several brain-based skills that help the brain organize, act on information, initiate, and perform tasks. The team will define Executive Functions, review the biological basis and develop, and lastly discuss strategies to support the development of these skills in school and at home. We will be discussing the implications for all ages. Come learn about these fascinating processes that are responsible for regulation of cognitive functioning.

Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program

The Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program is currently scheduling interviews for the 2017-2018 Beginner Level. The class will be open to 1st and 2nd graders in 2017-2018.
This group class will meet on Wednesdays from 4:45 - 5:40 p.m. with private lessons scheduled for the children either after class on Wednesday or on Thursdays between 3:45 - 6:45 p.m.

Parents interested in scheduling an interview should contact Mary Beth Shaffer, Piano Preparatory Program Coordinator, MaryBeth.Shaffer@du.edu. Limited openings are available.

Primary Music Concert

The Primary Spring Concert will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Auditorium in Sturm Hall. The concert includes vocal performances by 1-2 classes, as well as vocal, recorder, and violin performances by 3-4 classes.

Colorado Junior Classics League (COJCL)

As you heard last week, the 8th graders had a wonderful time at the COJCL State Convention last week. They walked away with multiple awards; congratulations to all!

**Performing Arts:**
1st place- Skit: Charlotte, Rachel, Valaire, Henry, Victor, CJ, Bree, Grace, Sadie, Tylor, Jonathan, Jackson, Emily
2nd place- Latin Oratory: Emily
5th place- Costume: Valaire and Charlotte

**Academic Tests:**
1st Place- Decathlon, Level 1: Emily
2nd place- Decathlon, Level 1: Charlotte
3rd place- Vocabulary, Level 1: Rachel
4th Place – Greek History, Level 1: Victor
5th place- Roman Daily Life, level 1: Tylor

**Graphical Arts:**
2nd place- Board Game: Rachel and Bree
4th place- Map: Sadie

**Girls Olympika:**
2nd place- Perseus’ discus: Grace
3rd place – Perseus’ Discus: Sadie

**Boys Olympika:**
2nd place- Laocoon’s Javelin: Tylor
2nd place- Perseus’ Discus: Jonathan
5th place- Perseus’ Discus: Tylor

**Pool Olympika:**
1st place- Hercule’s 13th Labor: Henry and Jackson

Colorado Future Problem Solving State Bowl

Congratulations to all who participated in the Colorado FPS State Bowl! Special accolades to Willa, who placed third in the Junior Scenario writing competition (Gr 4 – 6), the team of Kasia, Beau, Mia, and William which placed third in the Junior Global Issues Problem Solving packet competition.

Mother's Day basket for the women's local domestic violence shelter
We are accepting donations for SafeHouse Denver. Please see the attached flyer to this newsletter email for which items we are including in our basket. The last day we can accept donations is April 28. There will be a donation box at the Ricks Center, and all over campus. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please contact Kari Shafenberg, kshafenberg@law.du.edu. Any money donated will be used to purchase items for the gift baskets, and not given directly to SafeHouse.

**DU Public Printers**

We have arranged to install two DU Public Printers at Ricks. All students are entitled to have $75 dollars of printing per academic year using these or other print locations around DU. This primarily affects Middle School students and those who more regularly access the printers using their DU IDs. After using up the $75 balance, families can load additional money to their child’s DU ID either in the DU ID Office or online. The website is http://www.du.edu/pioneercard/yourcard/flex.html, please click “make deposits online” to get started.

**2016-17 Yearbook Orders**

Orders for this year’s yearbook are open until May 1, 2017. If you have not had a chance to order your yearbook, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to Balfour.com
2. Search Ricks Center for Gifted Children
3. Double check the next page, upper left corner directly under Balfour logo to be sure you’re in Ricks Center
4. Click Yearbook
5. Click Shop Categories then go to Yearbook and Accessories
6. Select your preferred option and number of yearbooks, and follow the rest of the ordering process as directed.

**Yearbook Ads**

The ordering of the ads will be done in a similar fashion, but the option is not available just yet. Karie will let us know when it’s ready to go. As you see on the ordering, the deadline is May 1st so you have time if you want to order your ad along with your book when the option is available – no need for 2 separate orders.

Contact Karie Wyckoff (karie.wyckoff@du.edu) or Balfour directly (link available on the ordering site) with any questions. Thank you all for your support.
This Week in the Classrooms

The Banking and Business culmination for 3 / 4 was held this week. Students used their new knowledge of business practices to develop products to sell to Ricks’ community members. This included creating business plans, taking out loans for materials, paying rent, and keeping track of expenses. The market days were extraordinarily successful, with most businesses selling out of their product. The future of commerce looks to be in good hands!

On Friday, 3rd and 4th graders got the chance to hear from Dafna Michaelson Jenet. Not only is Dafna parent to a Ricks Center graduate, she is President of the Journey Institute, a published author and a current member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Among the things Dafna shared during her visit today were stories from her journey to all 50 states in 52 weeks, the importance of curiosity and the world of possibilities when you choose joy.

It is a sure sign of Spring time when the gardens come back to life. This week, students in the Gardening elective helped pre-k students prepare the beds and begin planting.

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
Summer Fun at Ricks
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, half day 8:30am-12:00pm, full day 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.

RCA Happenings
The next RCA Board meeting (open to anyone in the Ricks Community) will take place next Friday, April 21st from 8:45am to 11am in the conference room behind the front desk. If you plan to attend, please drop a note to communicationsrca@gmail.com just so we make sure we have enough space. Primary topics will include progress on fundraising target projects this year, mini-grant approvals, upcoming events, and open roles for next school year.

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up the week of May 8th and we will be targeting ONE day this year, May 9th (Tuesday) to celebrate our teachers!

- The "events of the day" will be coordinated centrally instead of by individual classroom, and we are looking for help.
- If you are interested in helping the RCA show our teachers how much we love them, or have an idea of something we can do for the teachers, please send a message to communicationsrca@gmail.com.

Save the Date
Apr 15 - 1:00 - 5:00 pm  Parenting Safe Children Workshop- sign up here
Apr 20 - 9:00 -10:00 am Parent Workshop at Ricks, Executive Function
Apr 21 - 8:40 -9:10 am Assembly with theme of "courage"
Apr 26 - 6:00 pm Primary Music Concert – Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall
May 26 - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Upper School Social, 5th-8th
June 2 - Last Day of School, Half Day dismissal (Preschool - 4th dismisses at 11:45 and 5th – 8th dismisses at 12:00)

Around DU and Denver...
Storm Warning Exhibit
At DU, a climate change exhibit that’s thoughtful, shocking and sometimes even humorous...“Storm Warning: Artists on Climate Change & the Environment” continues through April 30, at the University of Denver’s Vicki Myhren Gallery. It’s free.
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 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.

Jump Rope for Heart Prizes
Thanks again for your participation in jump rope for heart. Together the school has raised just over $18,000. Thank you gifts have been handed out on Thursday and Friday of this week. If you feel like you are missing a prize please let Mr. Jason Know and he will take care of you.