The Buses Are Back at Ricks!

Thanks to the University’s Risk Management, teachers have been “cleared” to drive Ricks buses. We have systems in place that comply with legal, as well insurance requirements for the safety of our students. Additionally, we have hired an hourly bus driver in the instance that a teacher is unable to drive, or if we need multiple buses.

Classes still have use of the RTD light rail and bus systems, and may choose one of these if more appropriate to their trip. As of now, we will not be using parent drivers due to the additional requirements for assumption of liability as set forth by Risk Management. However, parents are welcome to drive their own child(ren) on trips as negotiated with the teachers.

We know this took longer than expected, and thank you for your patience!

2016-17 Fundraising and Admissions Updates

Ricks would like to express enormous gratitude for contributions made toward fulfilling this year’s fundraising goals. The RCA Gala fundraising effort brought in approximately $70,000 toward our three goals – Early Childhood playground renovation, Primary technology enhancement, and Middle School outdoor area renovation – which have a projected cost of $220,000. Some of the DU Gainshare will be used toward these goals, as well as toward other program costs, such as adding a toilet in an EC classroom in anticipation of expected growth in our enrollment. If your family would like to contribute further to our improvement goals, please look for the Annual Fund mailer this spring, which outlines the goals mentioned above, and also includes an opportunity to donate to the Shannon B. Jones Passion Pursuit (see below).

There is great interest in our program here at Ricks. Our admissions information sessions in the fall and early winter filled to capacity and we added a number of additional sessions in order to accommodate all requests. Ricks recognizes the impact that each and every community member has in marketing the school. While we are increasing marketing efforts in general, we call on all of you to use the power of your connections and spread the word about Ricks. You are our strongest ambassadors!

On January 19th we will be hosting an evening session for families interested in Ricks Center. Our goal for the evening is to answer the question "Why Ricks." We want parents to leave at the end of the night knowing what sets us apart from other schools. As away to promote our Open House, we have created an event on our Facebook page. Please consider liking the page and/or sharing our event. After all, as parents, you are our greatest resource in terms of sharing your Ricks Center experience!

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity
Please tell your friends who may be interested in Ricks! For more information or to RSVP please email Amy Jacobs.

**Contract Update**
We will be sending out 2017-2018 contracts the week of January 23rd. Contracts will be due on Friday, February 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Jacobs.

**The Shannon B. Jones Passion Pursuit for Creative Learning**
As part of Shannon’s legacy at Ricks, the Shannon B. Jones Passion Pursuit for Creative Learning Endowment has been established to celebrate Shannon’s unique passion for passing on the love of learning and igniting that spark in a child’s soul.

The annual grant from the Endowment will be used to help enable one or more children each year to pursue their passion through a grant for learning and exploration beyond their normal curriculum. Application for a grant will be open to all current students at Ricks. In order to apply, a “mentor” that has identified the child’s passion, will work with the child to present a narrative, using a vehicle of their choice, that describes their passion and their past efforts in pursuit of this passion. They should include what goals they have that a grant will help them achieve, a proposed budget for what the grant would cover, and identify their desired mentor or the qualities that they seek in a mentor.

Applications will be due March 21, 2017 and presentations are due April 6, 2017. Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Shannon’s husband, Jason Bardales or his designate, a Ricks Center administrator, a Ricks Center teacher, and two founding or significant donors to the Shannon B. Jones Passion Pursuit Endowment. The grant recipient or recipient’s names will be announced at an all school assembly and the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony. The maximum annual funds awarded shall not exceed $2,250.00 or 4.5% of the Endowment, whichever is greater. The award winner or winners will present their creative work or learnings to the school community at the conclusion of the award year.

http://www.sbjcreativelearning.org/passion-pursuit.html

**Kids and Animals: An Evening with Dr. Temple Grandin**
The Ricks Community is invited to a presentation by the Institute for Human-Animal Connection, part of the University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work - "Creating Opportunities for Kids in Kinship with Animals - A Special Evening With Dr. Temple Grandin" Monday, 1/23/17 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Craig
Hall Boettcher Foundation Community Room 2148 South High Street, Denver, CO 80208. For more information and to RSVP, click here.

Piano Preparatory Program – from Lamont School of Music
As we have begun our inaugural year of the Piano Preparatory Program at the Lamont School of Music, we are absolutely delighted that our first class of piano students is comprised of 8 bright and eager children from the Ricks Center! These students were selected this past summer from among over 40 elementary age children who reside in Denver, and they are an outstanding group!

We are beginning interviews for our 2017-2018 Piano Preparatory Program in January for our beginner class, ages 6-7 (1st & 2nd graders in Fall 2017) and would like to offer priority interviews to children and their parents from the Ricks Center. Attached is the initial information form that parents may complete and email back to MaryBeth.Shaffer@du.edu. Further information about the Piano Preparatory Program can be found on our website at: http://www.du.edu/ahss/lamont/faculty-staff/faculty/tan-piano-preparatory-program.html

This Week in the Classrooms:

During their study of the Renaissance Drew’s 6th and 7th grade history students had the chance to visit the “Glory of Venice” exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. After which, students had the chance to channel their own Michelangelo with their Sistine Chapel style creations.
Mr. Jason's P.E. students learned the art of “Tinikling,” one of the most well-known and oldest forms of Philippine dance. Tinikling originated in the Visayan Islands, where natives used dance and bamboo sticks to imitate the Tikling bird, known for its spectacular grace and speed. Adding in a more modern touch, the students beat the sticks to the beat of the infamous Queen hit, “We Will Rock You.”

On Thursday, Ms. Inger's Kindergarten group played “Drop the Beans” as they learned all about number sentences. The goal of the game is to be able to identify all of the different ways to add up to seven using the red and white beans. Her students sat in a circle and counted totals of red and white beans “dropped” onto the mat in front of them. They proceeded to write several different number sentences (all with a total of seven) using the game.

Jump Rope for Heart

The Ricks Center has a long standing tradition of participating in the American Heart association program, *Jump Rope For Heart*. The school will be hosting its 11th *Jump Rope For Heart* event, during physical education class until Valentines Day, **February 14th**. Together our children can help our school make a significant impact on an issue that affects nearly every family in our community. It is strongly suggested that students use the online tool (www.heart.org/jump) to make registration and donation.
collection simple. All donations are voluntary. Our efforts truly make a difference. Let's help our children be heart heroes!

1. Go to [www.heart.org/jump](http://www.heart.org/jump)
2. Choose our state, city and school to join our team
3. Login and personalize your page
4. Take the health challenge, and send 10 e-cards

Watch Jake join the Zoo Crew by making his E-card and then sharing it with 10 family and friends.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl9sRfnqFdU&feature=em-upload_owner](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yl9sRfnqFdU&feature=em-upload_owner)

**Eat for Change! Chipotle 8th Grade Fundraiser**

Wednesday, February 8th from 5-8pm come to the Chipotle at [1644 E. Evans in Denver](http://www.heart.org/jump) and show the flyer attached to this email. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Ricks Center 8th grade Washington D.C. trip in May.

**Save the Date**

- No school, Martin Luther King Day, Jan 16
- Admissions Open House, Jan 19 – Please tell your friends who may be interested in Ricks!
- No school for students, Professional Development Day, Feb 3
- 2017-2018 contracts due, Friday February 10
- [Parenting Safe Children Workshop](http://www.heart.org/jump) hosted by Fisher Early Learning Center, April 15, 2017

**Middle School Late Start Wednesdays**

- The first class for middle school students starts at 9:15 on Wednesdays
- On Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. the first class is from 8:15-9:15
- Hence, on Wednesday, the first class begins at 9:15

**New Kids' Adventure Director**

Happy New Year Ricks families,

I would like to inform you that Anne Sullivan is no longer the Kids' Adventures Director at Ricks Center. My name is Ajoura Gwinn, and starting Monday, January 9th, I will be working as the interim-director at the Ricks Center until a permanent director can be found.

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**Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity**

**Ricks Center Website**

**Ricks Center Facebook Page**

**Ricks Center for Gifted Children**

University of Denver

2040 South York Street [map](http://www.heart.org/jump)

Denver, CO 80208

**RenWeb**

District Code: RC-CO (parent access only)

Phone: 303-871-2982
Please be sure to use this same email (ricks@kidsadventures.org) to communicate any scheduling needs, questions or concerns. My work number is: 720-697-3172. You can use this number to contact me with any questions.

Kids Adventures

THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING!

Please help us spread the word!

THESE CLASSES NEED STUDENTS

Registration for these three classes ends January 14th, 2017

HYBRID: JUMP BUNCH
Needs 6 kids

CHALLENGE ISLAND
Needs 4 Kids

Legos: BRICKS 4 Kids
Needs 3 Kids

Register online:


All classes have a maximum number of students as requested by the instructor; enrollment is first come first served. All prices include gap coverage from 3:00 - 3:30.
HYBRID, Jump Bunch -3:30-4:30 (K-5th)

Jump Bunch Sports is an internationally-acclaimed fitness program that utilizes a non-competitive sports and fitness curriculum to develop important skills such as hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and self-confidence, as well as, teaches kids to adapt a healthy lifestyle. This custom-built program for school-agers will enhance your child's physical fitness as well as cognitive development. This program will teach a variety of sports including croquet, basketball, golf, soccer, kickball, horseshoes, hockey, lacrosse and many more! Each week, we will focus on 2 sports or fitness activities to teach the kids! Dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20/2017

Cost: $175

Min-Maximum # of Students: 10-20

LEGOS, Bricks 4 Kids -3:30-4:30 (K-5th)

Bricks 4 Kidz® is devoted to providing an extraordinary atmosphere for children, where we learn, we build, and we play with LEGO® Bricks, Batteries and Motors. Classes are designed to teach the fundamentals of S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, built around our proprietary model plans, created by engineers and architects. At Bricks 4 Kidz, we believe that kids learn best through activities that engage their curiosity and creativity. Dates: 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20/2017

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 8-20

Youshin Karate- 3:30-4:30 (K-5th)

I want my child to appreciate his/her family. I want my kid to be athletic. I want my kid to be able to protect themselves from bully etc. Youshin karate training does embody all these needs.

Tuesday Classes-

EIGHT SESSIONS- 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 and 3/7/2017

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

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University of Denver
2040 South York Street map
Denver, CO 80208

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

Phone: 303–871–2982
Youshin karate is a fusion of traditional and modern karate stands on its policy, Youshin. Youshin is denoted by the Japanese characters 湧心 and 遊心. (They have the same sounds and are correlated but mean different things) The first character means "self motivation" or "determination" whereas the second one means "room in the heart" or "enjoyment". That is to say, there is a greater capacity for enjoyment during training. Dates: 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 and 3/7/2017

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 5-15

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**Wednesday Classes**

**EIGHT SESSIONS** 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1 and 3/8/ 2017

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**Challenge Island- 3:30-4:30 (K-5th)**

Challenge Island is a one of a kind enrichment program on the cutting edge of S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Education and 21st Century Learning. Our unique collaborative learning approach simultaneously addresses the needs of both the creative, playful child of today and the globally successful adult of the future.

Our unique ability to simultaneously address the needs of both the playful, whimsical child of today and the globally successful adult of the future has brought Challenge Island a sea of accolades from schools, parents and kids alike.

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 8-26

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**Chess Wizards (K-5th)**

A highly interactive instructional chess program open to both beginning and advanced chess players. They create an atmosphere conducive for chess learning (of all skill levels) while never forgetting the commitment to making the game fun for children. Students will engage with this chess class through free play, exciting lessons (taught by their own Chess Wizards), trivia, and variation group games. Students will accrue points throughout and will be awarded a Chess Wizards trophy at the end of the session! The required minimum of 10 students and payment must be recorded now pay in order for each class to be offered. If the minimum is not met, the class may be canceled, and you will be notified via the email that you provide below. Refunds and credits will only be issued if a class is not held.

Cost: $170
Min-Maximum # of Students: 8-22

Creative Dance: Hip Hop (K-5th)

Hip Hop is a high-energy dance form which incorporates poppin’, lockin’, breaking, and body isolations. This class includes choreography and improvisational dance technique. Individual expression is encouraged, which cultivates each dancer’s unique sense of style. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. Family and friends are welcome to observe the final class.

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 5-15

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Thursday Classes -
EIGHT SESSIONS- 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, and 3/9/2017

Creative Dance: ECE Hip Hop (ECE only)

Especially for preschoolers, Creative Dance Kids classes improve coordination, strength, flexibility, endurance, balance, and focus. We’ll learn age appropriate, basic dance movements with a creative twist! These classes support each child’s determination, unique talents, and imagination. Family and friends are welcome to observe the final class on March 9th. Dates: 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, and 3/9/2017

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 5-15

Radiant Beginnings Yoga (K-5th)

Our classes for elementary-aged children develop a child’s awareness of breath, body, and mind. Our unique approach is always both fun and educational, benefitting children of all personalities and learning styles. All sessions are interactive bringing postures, brain games, and breath work together to help children build a toolkit for stress management. Your little yogi will develop social skills, strength, flexibility, confidence, and mindfulness. We strive to strike a balance between group activities and individual exploration. Come play! Dates: 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, and 3/9/2017

Cost: $170

Min-Maximum # of Students: 6-13

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Friday Classes -
**NO FRIDAY CLASSES OFFERED THIS CYCLE**