Ricks Newsletter

Friday, Oct 14 2016

AdvancED Parent Surveys - Please participate

Our AdvancED reaccreditation process involves surveys of all stakeholders (students, parents and staff). We are seeking 80% parent participation this year! Your feedback helps us target goals for the future and celebrate Ricks' successes as we work through the self study process. **We are opening up the parent surveys beginning today and closing next Friday, October 21.**

You may either complete the surveys on your own, or there will be a bank of computers set up in the front hallway during conferences. Please follow the following link to take the survey: [Parents Survey](#)

Registration for Ricks Gala is Open

*Reach for the Stars!* Registration is open for this year’s Gala, being held on Friday, November 11th. [Register now](#) to take advantage of early bird discounted tickets - available until Sunday, October 16th. Fundraising efforts are targeted toward all three divisions (EC, LS, MS) -- more info to come!

Innovation Space Update

The Innovation Space is moving forward! Oubo Liu, our new Technology Specialist, is in the process of making a plan for the space, which will include relocating the Computer Lab to the room as well. To support integration of the Innovation Lab materials, which include: 3D Printer, and other materials from companies such as Lego, Arduino, Cubelets, and HEXBUG, teachers will either be able to take their classes to the lab, or they can check-out materials to use in the classroom. Oubo is also working on a 3-year technology plan which will include a hardware purchasing and replacement cycle, software and peripherals acquisition, and training cycle.

School Activities Transportation

We have several weeks in which to comply with new regulations from DU in regard to driving students on field trips, such as the requirement that teacher obtain "S" licenses to drive the buses, and requiring additional steps for parent drivers. The regulations are significantly more restrictive, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the safety of our students while on school-sponsored trips. Currently, we are not pursing parent and teacher drivers as a viable option. We are in the process of hiring hourly-rate bus drivers with an "S" license to drive the Ricks buses. Additionally, we are looking at increasing our use the RDT light rail and buses for trips that are on the rail/bus lines. An updated transportation plan will be shared with families shortly.
Teacher Professional Development Updates

Our Teachers and staff have been involved in several professional development experiences so far this year. Most of these experiences occur on Wednesday mornings, before school. Topics have included:

- Intervention, Differentiation and Personalization-the differences between these approaches
- Microsoft 365-Outlook Calendar and Email; Future topics will include: OneNote, OneDrive, Forms
- Differentiation in the Classroom-Teachers partnered across levels and spent time observing each other and then shared these experiences in vertical teams
- Curiosity, Collaboration and Creativity-Evidence of the 3 C's in our school
- Conference planning-In Teams and then across levels

Several teachers also attended the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Conference in Loveland this past week. Barbara was a presenter!!! Thank you to RCA for funding this opportunity.

Next Wednesday, we will have Iman Jodeh working with teachers to increase understanding of how to support and accommodate our Muslim students.

Iman is the Executive Director and Founder of a locally based non-profit called Meet the Middle East, which foster relationships between the US and the Middle East through education and immersion travel. As a first-generation Palestinian American, Iman is fluent in Arabic and maintains a second home in Ramallah, Palestine. In 2006, Iman received her master’s in Public Policy from the University of Colorado at Denver where she focused her graduate studies on urban redevelopment and citizen participation in the West Bank. Serving as the Development Coordinator for the Colorado Democracy Alliance, Iman supported efforts to bring progressive organizations to the forefront of Colorado’s policy agenda. Subsequently, she worked for the Abraham Path Initiative where she assisted with fundraising, women’s engagement, policy and economic development in the Middle East. She also worked at the University of Denver’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning where she had the opportunity to acquire indepth knowledge on structuring and implementing service learning projects. Iman frequently speaks about the geo-political situation in the Middle East and Islam in the Denver Metro-Area. In addition, she lectures at the University of Denver’s University College Enrichment Program and teaches The Israeli Palestinian Conflict: From Ancient History to Today’s Headlines as well as Life Under Occupation: A Palestinian Perspective.

Bridges Math Training for Grades K-5

Carol Rogers, a trainer from The Math Workshop, came to Ricks to train our kindergarten through 5th grade teachers on our new math curriculum, *Bridges to Mathematics*, Thursday and Friday, 10/13 - 10/14. We have purchased full kits for each classroom, with the ability to teach students who are working at different levels. The training focusses upon the components of the program. *Bridges* curriculum is research based, emphasizing the most effective instructional methods, as summarized by NCTM:

- Systematic and explicit instruction, a detailed instructional approach in which teachers guide students through a defined instructional sequence.
• Self-instruction, through which students learn to manage their own learning with specific prompting or solution-oriented questions.
• Peer practice, an approach that involves pairing students together to learn or practice an academic task.
• Visual representation, which uses manipulatives, pictures, number lines, and graphs of functions and relationships to teach mathematical concepts.

Students will work on conceptual learning and understanding during daily lessons, with differentiated problem-solving. They will also practice skills during daily Number Corner sessions.

There are many materials for each grade level, some of which need to be organized. If you are interested in helping with the initial organization of materials, please contact either your child’s teacher or Anne Wolf.

Parent Workshop – Bullying Prevention

On Thursday, October 13, our School Psych team, Dr. Karin and Krista, gave a bullying prevention workshop. Please see below for the workshop presentation and handouts. This information can also be found on the Resources section of our website. For additional information, please visit stopbullying.gov

Myths About Bullying - Presentation

Bullying, Prevention, Intervention and Tips for Families

Bullying vs. Conflict

Guide to Social Media

Early Childhood- Denver Preschool Program

The Denver Preschool Program helps Denver families pay for preschool during their child’s prekindergarten year. The amount of support a family receives is based on family size and income, the quality of the preschool chosen, and the child’s level of attendance. Denver Preschool Program tuition credits are available for all Denver families. Please go to http://www.dpp.org/for-families/main to apply.

Website Criteria

As we continue to work to streamline communication, in conjunction with the RCA, we have developed some basic criteria for determining what will be posted/reposted on the Ricks website. The content we post will be used to inform prospective community members of our program and community, and to keep current community members up-to-date. When posting events, we will share Ricks-sponsored or hosted events only. We will balance the types of happenings we are posting so as to represent the breadth of what goes on at the school (academics, trips, sports events, etc.).
Additionally, our Ricks Facebook page is a great place for our current community members to go to see quick soundbites of what wonderful things are happening!

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Kids Adventures

To accommodate for the late conferences on Wednesday, October 19, Kids Adventures will stay open until 7:15pm. For students who are registered, this extension will be free of charge. As a reminder, Kids Adventures will be closed on Thursday, October 20 and Friday, October 21. DU School Days Off will be offered on those days for Ricks' students. The link to register is [http://ritchiecenter.du.edu/youth/school-days-off/](http://ritchiecenter.du.edu/youth/school-days-off/). Make sure to indicate Ricks at registration in order to get a 10% discount. They need at least 15-20 students to run these days.

Conference Sign-Up Links

Please find the Ricks conference sign-up links below. Conference links will be closed at noon on Monday, October 17.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amy &amp; Kim</th>
<th>3rd/4th grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carol</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gay &amp; Kim</td>
<td>3rd/4th grade</td>
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<td>Jason</td>
<td>P.E.</td>
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<td>Jen K.</td>
<td>Latin</td>
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<td>Jessica &amp; Maddie</td>
<td>PreK</td>
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<td>Karie W.</td>
<td>EC Art</td>
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<td>Kristina C.</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<td>Kris Y.</td>
<td>Reading Specialist</td>
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<td>Middle School</td>
<td>5th-8th grades</td>
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<td>Odette K.</td>
<td>French</td>
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<td>Sara &amp; Ali</td>
<td>1st/2nd grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean &amp; Amy</td>
<td>1st/2nd grade</td>
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<td>Suzanne &amp; Inger</td>
<td>KG</td>
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<td>Tiffiny &amp; Jordan</td>
<td>PreK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<td>Whitney &amp; Torey</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
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Middle School core teachers (Drew Reynolds, Barbara Washington, Laura Horton-Depas, Linda Kahanaui, and Kevin Walton) are booked in hourly blocks, during which time you will meet individually with all five teachers.

Welcome Kate Wolf

We are excited to introduce Kate Wolf, who will be supporting teachers with small groups and administrative tasks this semester. Kate wrote, "I am a recent graduate of the University of Iowa, where I studied linguistics and Spanish. I'm currently getting ready to teach English in China for a year, and am getting some more experience here working in a school before I leave. I write sci-fi and read everything from Harry Potter to Hamilton."

Save the Date
Parent conferences will be run Oct 19 (pm only), 20, 21 (see sign up for teacher availability)

No school for students - Oct 20 and 21

Teacher Professional Development Day - Oct 24 (No school for students)

Parent Workshop: NAEYC and the Importance of Play, Nov 3, 8:45-9:45 am

RCA Gala, Nov 11

Parent Workshop: Traits of Gifted Learners with Norma Hafenstein, Nov 17, 8:45-9:45 am

Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 21-24 (No school)

Grandparents and Special Persons Day, Nov 28, 9:00-11:00 am

Parent Workshop: Reflection on Ricks' school mission - Dec 15 8:45-9:45 am

Weekly Newsletter Update - DUPay Authorized User Accounts

Morgridge College Finance Department

Over the past few months, we understand there has been confusion and frustration as families try to view and pay bills via PioneerWeb/DUPay. We are working with both the Bursar’s Office and University Technology Services to make your user experience easier. In an effort to ensure that you all have consistent access to your child’s financial information, we will create Authorized User accounts for each family. As an Authorized User you have the ability log into DUPay using a personal email address and password, rather than your child’s DUID.

We understand October statements have been issued. Please note that no additional fees or penalties will be assessed on any tuition accounts, as this in an administrative change impacting a majority of our community. We will be working diligently to ensure this change is swift. If you have already set up an Authorized User account prior to this change – your account will not be impacted. You will be able to access your child’s account via your personal email as usual.

New Authorized Users:

If you attempted to access your child’s PioneerWeb/DUPay account since Monday, October 3rd, via their DUID (87* number) you may have received a message indicating that your password for their account is no longer active. We will be resetting student PioneerWeb/DUPay accounts to a default password to allow the set up an Authorized User account for your family. Please do not attempt to change this password.
You should have received an email asking you to establish your password credentials for your new Authorized User account. This account will be tied to the primary email account indicated in your child’s records.

If you have more than one child enrolled at Ricks, your new Authorized User account will pull all of their account information. You will only need to set up your password credentials once to obtain access to all of their accounts.

DUPay has many convenient features. You can view account activity, view statements and make payments and store a payment method. If you prefer to make payments via check or cash, your Authorized User account will not change that process.

Moving Forward –

We hope that this change ensures all of our families always have access to current billing information and minimizes the confusion associated with accessing this information. If at any point you would like to change the email address this account is associated with, please let me know.

To view statements and make online payments, please use the following link:  https://secure.touchnet.com/C21649_tsa/web/login.jsp

If this link is unavailable, you can also access the log in portal at http://www.du.edu/bursar/payments/index.html - “Authorized Users” drop down.

If you forget the password associated with this log in, there is a “Forgot Password” option that will send password reset information to the email address on record.