Severe Weather – School Closure Procedures
The safety of Ricks Center students, families, faculty, and staff are the primary consideration in the decision to close the school due to severe weather. Ricks Center will follow Denver Public Schools closure decisions due to severe weather. We encourage families to monitor the media or DPS website in order to ascertain if DPS has decided on a school closure. If dangerous weather conditions occur after the school day has already started, Ricks Center may close early, depending on the specific conditions. In the event of an early closure, parents will be notified by telephone.

Strategic Plan – Progress Update
The school staff and administrative team have worked to develop a brief strategic plan update so our community can monitor our progress. This will be posted on the Ricks website and updated approximately every six months.

Ricks Mission/Vision Parent Workshop
Please join us on Thursday, December 15, from 8:45-9:45 am as we host a World Cafe discussion session on the Ricks Center vision. While our strategic plan focuses on the mission statement, we first need to reflect and solidify the vision. We plan to host several sessions of this workshop over the second semester (another to be held in the evening), and hope you can join us for any one session.

RSVP here if you plan to attend the December 15 session and have not already notified the front desk.

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!
Family Night with the Giant Traveling Map of Europe

On Wednesday, 12/7/16, we will have a Family Night in the gym with the National Geographic Giant Map of Europe. Please come between 5:30 and 7:00 pm, with SOCKS (no shoes or bare feet on the map), and plan to see Europe in a new way!

Financial Aid

Financial Aid applications are due December 5, 2016. All financial aid awards will be included in your 2017-2018 contract. Please make sure to submit ALL information including your tax returns and required documents.

If you have questions, please contact Katlin Davies(MCE) 303-871-2073, katlin.davies@du.edu or Amy Jacobs 303-871-3715, amy.jacobs@du.edu

Welcome Kris!

I am excited to introduce myself to our awesome Ricks community. My name is Kris Yokley and I am the new reading specialist. Since graduating from DU in 1994, I have been a classroom teacher in Douglas County for grades K, 1, and 4. Most recently, my interests have become focused on unlocking the minds of the struggling reader. I am currently in an MBA program at Regis working on my Reading Specialist K-12 endorsement and my 2nd Masters degree. I am intrigued how kids process and make meaning of language, so it is a gift to work with students at Ricks. I live in Highlands Ranch with my husband and two kids - Kaitlin, 16 and Connor 13. In my free time, I enjoy reading, bowling, and playing trivia with my friends. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

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.
KA Enhancement Addition. Please review!!!!
Please read below, and also (see attached document.)

MONDAY
- HYBRID, Jump Bunch (K-5th)
- Legos, Bricks for Kids (K-5th)

TUESDAY
- Youshin Karate (K-5th)

WEDNESDAY
- Creative Dance: Hip Hop (K-5th)
- Challenge Island (K-5th)
- Chess Wizards (K-5th)

THURSDAY
- Creative Dance: Hip Hop (ECE)
- Radiant Beginnings Yoga (K-5th)

TUESDAY and THURSDAY
- Results Learning (6-8th)
  - Note: this class takes place twice a week, for four weeks

To Register:
- Results Learning: http://bit.ly/RLearning1
Willy Wonka Musical

Willy Wonka auditions are just around the corner. We are opening up the auditions to 3rd through 8th graders. Please see the attached flyer and if you have any questions please talk to Kevin. This is going to be fun so don't miss out! Please understand that not everyone that auditions is guaranteed to be cast. Hope to see you!! *(Please see attached audition flyer for more information.)*

Save the Date

- National Geographic Giant Travelling Map of Europe, Dec 2-9
- Parent Workshop: Ricks Center Mission/Vision, 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
- 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.*

SIG: Summer Programs for Gifted, Creative, and Academically Talented Students – ages 9 – 17. For information about programs held at universities across the US and in London: [giftedstudy.org](http://giftedstudy.org). Anne Wolf has one hard copy; contact her if you are interested in seeing it.

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](http://www.denverpublicschools.org/). Anne Wolf will submit any entries from Ricks to CBI. Feel free to contact her with any questions.

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) will hold their annual conference in Chicago at the Chicago Marriott Naperville August 4-6, 2017. More information can be found [here](http://www.denverpublicschools.org/).