Happy holidays to our Ricks family! May the coming weeks prove restful and filled with good cheer. We will see you back at school on January 8, 2018.

Extended Day
January 2nd – 5th: Our camp theme will be Ancient Greece and students will explore mythology, Olympic Games, participate in a chariot challenge, and much more. Please click [here](#) to register.

Middle School Homework Hour: We will start offering a Middle School homework hour from 3:40 to 4:40 starting in January. During this hour students come work on homework and study skills. The fee will be $15 an hour, and you will be billed for your usage. If you have questions or concerns, please contact [Maggie Wright](#).

Summer Programming: We are excited to announce our 2018 summer programming: [Summer at Ricks](#). Our programming will be divided by age, and by internal and external providers. Internal programming will be taught by our fabulous Ricks staff. While our external providers are highly sought after throughout the Denver Metro area. Some of these groups will include Coding with Kids, Play-well TEKnologies Lego, 3D printing, and much more.

Please review the attached save the date flyer for more details. Included on the flyer is pricing, early registration information, and descriptions for each week.

Please note we will be charging a $50 non-refundable deposit. Spots are not guaranteed until the deposit is paid. We are also charging a $25 schedule change fee for all programming happening between 8:30am to 3:30 pm. This fee does not affect extended day programming. Ages 3- to 5-year-old sessions include breakfast and afternoon snack (special diet options available). All campers must provide their own lunch. For more information please click [here](#).

Talented Voice: Diversity & Equity in Gifted Education
Parents are invited to [register](#) for the 8th Annual Gifted Education Conference & Policy Symposium, presented by the Office of the Daniel L. Ritchie Endowed Chair in Gifted Education at Morgridge College of Education, on February 7-8, 2018.

Community Service
The Community Service Elective at Ricks has been hard at work to bring a shoe drive to our school. We have partnered with Clothes to Kids of Denver to organize a shoe drive that directly benefits underprivileged kids in Colorado. This organization runs a store of donated goods for families that qualify for extra support. They allow kids to go into the store and pick out the clothes they want - all free! At this time of year especially, there is a high demand for shoes. They need shoes that are new or used, without holes, and flip flops are not ideal (sandals are okay though). Collection bins will be located in the atrium between the two entrance doors and in the MS Commons by the red library shelf/carts. Donations are accepted from January 8th to the 28th. We hope you will consider donating to this great organization.

In the Classrooms

Early Childhood

Primary Classrooms

Middle School

On Monday, the entire middle school traveled via light rail to the Denver Art Museum. The students toured the Hamilton wing as well as the "Her Paris: Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism" exhibit.
The fifth grade dissected a skate during science class with Kevin. They were all engaged in this learning activity!

Ricks Innovation Lab

Ms. Suzanne and Ms. Laura's kindergarten class came in the lab this week to use the green screen for the first time! After reading Jan Brett’s *The Mitten*, students created their own characters and costumes to re-enact their version of the story with a snowy winter background!

RCA Happenings...

RICKS 2017 GALA:
We have a few more experiences (a few teacher/staff breakfast opportunities too!) that remain from the Gala, check them out on this [Gala Remaining Experience Sign-Up](#). If you sign-up please provide a check for the price listed on the item in the sign-up (detailed instructions are on the sign-up).

RCA Committee Volunteers:
- We have filled a number of key roles already but need your help to lock in our committees for the remaining ones.
- We still need a Ricknic lead, as well as a lead for the Spring Conference Meals and Teacher Appreciation! Click here to sign-up: [RCA Committee Volunteers Sign-Up](#).
Ricks Night at DU Hockey on Friday, February 2nd:
- Join the RCA at a DU Hockey game! We will provide a pre-game reception (6pm to 7pm) with dinner and prizes on the North Concourse – all you have to do is purchase your tickets!
- Use Promo code “RICKS” via the link below to purchase your tickets today, before they sell out!! Sections 16 and 17 are closest to the pre-game reception area.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING? USE OUR CLASSROOM FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS!
- Please join the RCA in using our TWO primary programs: King Soopers Scrip and Shop with Scrip when you purchase supplies and presents for the holidays! The rebates will go directly to our classrooms!
- Check out the “Ricks Classroom Fundraising Program Info Sheet” attachment to this newsletter to find out more info about how to use these programs.
- **KING SOOPERS SCRIP:** Please grab a card from the front desk - it’s easy to load at a store and has a 3% rebate!

Please contact the RCA with questions, inquiries, and interest at communicationsrca@gmail.com!

Spirit Wear
Ricks Center students and families, now is the time to show off your school spirit. Ricks Center now has its own section on the [DU Shop Pioneers website](http://www.du.edu). Check back often to look for new items. Let's see your Ricks school spirit!

Facebook
Have you "liked" our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page? Please take a moment to visit, and "like," the Facebook page. It's another great way to see what is going on in the school and in the Ricks Center Community.

Front Desk News
Parents starting January 19th, Blackjack Pizza will be our new pizza vendor for Fridays. If you could please fill out the Pizza form [HERE](#). Please fill out this form before January 10th to receive pizza on January 19th. If you have questions please feel to call Bernadette or Jessica at the front desk at 303-871-2982.

Save the Date

**January**
2nd – 5th
- Ancient Greece camp at Ricks
8th
- School Resumes
- Boys Basketball at home vs. RMSEL
10th
- Boys Basketball at home vs. Denver Academy of the Torah
12th
- 3/4 field trip to Denver Stock Show
• Student Council and Jump Rope for Heart assembly

15th

• No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day