Extended Day

**December 22nd – Half Day of School:**

Do not forget that December 22nd is a half day. We will be running programming from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm with an extended day after school option. *Programming will be canceled if we do not have a minimum number of students registered by Friday, December 15.* Please click [here](#) to register.

**January 2nd – 5th:**

Since DU is closed the week of December 25th – January 1st, we are unable to offer camp during that time. We will be hosting camp on January 2nd – 5th. Our 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.

Preschool Request

If you have empty oatmeal boxes, or other cylindrical boxes, the preschool class would love to have them to make drums and other musical instruments. Drop them off in Miss Whitney’s and Miss Barbara’s room. Thanks!

Financial Aid

Financial aid applications must be submitted by Friday, December 8th. The parent portal of the SSS website can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the financial aid process, please contact Katlin Davies or Amy Jacobs.

In the Classrooms

**Early Childhood**

![Image of children in classroom]

*Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity*

Ricks Center Website
Ricks Center Facebook Page
Phone: 303-871-2982

Ricks Center for Gifted Children
University of Denver
2040 South York Street [map](#)
Denver, CO 80208

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

There has been a lot of success in the innovation lab this week! 3/4 Gold came in to during their "Genius Hour" to explore different technology in the lab. Students spent time exploring and learning in different “centers” around the room. These centers included making Stop Motion Animation videos with clay, programming Cublets (robots), building a Vex Robot, coding a Dash Robot, constructing with Goldibox, and building Snap Circuits. This class would now like to include the lab in as a regular part of their Genius Hour every week!

Kevin’s 5th Grade science class came in the lab to start building 3D structures for their Oceanography Unit in science. Using TinkerCad, students followed tutorials or started building their own ocean-related projects to print out on our 3D printer. Although there are a few students that finished designing their creations, many have projects that are still a work in progress!
Kindergarten also came into the lab to explore Stop Motion Animation! After reading the book *Stone Soup* by Heather Forest, the class created their own version and characters for the story. They then made their own "stuffy" based on what they think their character would look like. Using these "stuffies," they explored the Stop Motion Animation App to create videos of their new characters!

**Student Council Update**

**Dear Ricks families,**

Bill Battles has started! We invite students of all ages to help participate. If you are able to donate please help us raise money for our school. Remember, the class that raises the most will receive a popsicle treat! Student Government will also be hosting a Winter bake sale on the 20th - 21st of December; while none of these events are required it is fun for all ages. One third of the money raised will go to the Shannon B. Jones Passion Pursuit Grant for Creative Learning; buying a baked good is an excellent opportunity to support Ricks. If you have any questions please contact us at mathewjabrams6@gmail.com.

**RCA Happenings...**

**RICKS 2017 GALA:**

- Woot! Woot! We raised $71,000 for our kids and our school. THANK YOU!
- We have a number of experiences 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:**

- See what’s open and pitch-in! Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help! We already have a number of slots filled, but we still have more open.
The RCA Committee Volunteers Sign-Up that lists all the open committee lead and support roles we have for the remainder of this year.

- We would LOVE to have all the LEAD roles filled by early January so please take a look and sign-up as you are able! We will then connect previous leads for each event with these new leads to get them started.
- We would like to try to limit to one Lead role per individual to give as many folks a chance to volunteer as possible.

**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!
- **SHOP with SCRIP**:
  - NEW THIS WEEK - You can save on shipping when Rick’s Families order Best Buy scrip! From December 9 - 15, if your order includes at least $250 combined in Best Buy physical cards or ScripNow®, our school physical card order will ship for FREE!!

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](https://www.du.edu/shop/index.html). 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.

**Girls on the Run Community Service Project**

At the end of each Girls On The Run (GOTR) season, we choose one community service project to participate in together. This season, we are collecting donations for the Denver Dumb Friends League! Feel free to choose to donate an item from the list provided in [this flyer](https://www.dufriendsleague.org), or make a financial donation at the front desk with Bernadette. Please note that DFL does not need any dog or cat food at this time! We will be collecting donations until Friday, December 22. Thank you for your support!

**DU and around Denver**

**Approachable Parent Workshops**

Join us for our Winter Approachable Parenting Conversation! We're dedicated to helping you have open dialogue with your children about important topics. On December 9th, we'll be covering developmentally appropriate conversations
around healthy sexuality. Ashley Johnson, credentialed educator with the UUA; facilitator of Elementary, Middle and High School Our Whole Lives curriculum; and teacher trainer will lead you in an engaging and interactive workshop designed to help parents answer those difficult questions that come with growing up. Come ease your fears and build your own toolbox as you become even more of an Approachable Parent! Our December 9th session is focused on caregivers of children 1-10 years old. Please email us at approachableparent@gmail.com for more information or visit our website at www.approachableparent.com.

Save the Date

12/12           Girls Basketball at home vs. Denver Academy of the Torah
12/15           Parent Education Social-Emotional Traits of Gifted Children at 8:45 am and RCA meeting at 9:45 am
12/18           Boys Basketball at home vs. Legacy Academy
12/21           Girls Basketball at home vs. RMSEL
12/22           Noon Dismissal – Start of Winter Break
1/8             School Resumes