2017-2018 Contracts
For those of you who have submitted your 2017-2018 contracts, thank you! If you have not returned your contracts-just a reminder, they are due TODAY, Friday, February 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Jacobs.

2017-18 School Calendar
Attached you will find a copy of the 2017-18 calendar for Ricks. The calendar was developed by the leadership team with input and reviews by the Morgridge Dean, Teacher Team Leaders, RCA, and Advisory Board. Some points of note in regard to the calendar:

▪ We will be reverting to the trimester model (rather than semesters) which had been in place a few years ago at Ricks. This will allow our Grade 8 students to have completed report cards well in advance of Grade 9 school application due dates. It also better accommodates the timing of our integrated units in Primary, and coincides with the required report periods in Teaching Standards Gold in the EC.
▪ We have added assessment dates on August 21 and 22 for Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2, as well as for students who are new to the school. Meetings with families will be set on an individual basis.
▪ Preschool and Prekindergarten family meetings will be scheduled for all children on August 21 and 22.
▪ A Grade 5 orientation is planned for August 22 to help our students ease into Middle School.
▪ School hours for all students will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30-3:30, and Wednesdays from 9:00-3:30.
▪ We have aligned the school calendar to Denver Public Schools as much as possible to allow our families to take advantage of School Day Off and day camp programs offered throughout the city on pupil-free days.

Associate Director "Meet and Greet"
Mr. Edward Brooks (Ted) has joined us as our new Associate Director. Please join us for a Meet and Greet with Ted on Friday, February 24th from 8:00-8:45am. We hope to see you there!

Professional Development
On Thursday, 2/9, 11 staff members and a number of Ricks’ parents attended the IDGE conference on Gifted Education held at Morgridge College of Education across campus. Folks attended a variety of sessions to enhance their understanding of the wonderful students we teach as well as to learn about best practices in gifted education. The chance to make and renew contacts among colleagues in the world of gifted education was also appreciated. We are glad to be able to take advantage of DU’s amazing opportunities for both our staff and students.
Anchors Away for Bobbie Bristow!!

Three years ago I landed in a wonderful place, Ricks Center for Gifted Children. The children, parents, and staff give me smiles and laughs every day, and for that I am forever grateful. I love this job. Just as learning this job was a challenge and an adventure, I am headed for an adventure of a life-time.

On March 3, 2017, I am retiring from Ricks, and headed to Florida. My husband and I will board our new boat and start the Great Loop; it is a circumnavigation of the eastern part of the U.S., and it will take us about a year to complete the journey. I hope to create a blog so people may “join” us as we travel. This community has brought me so much joy, and you will be missed. Thank you all! --Bobbie (Front Desk)

National Geographic Bee

On Monday, February 6, we held our National Geographic Bee. All students in gr 4 – 8 were invited to study for the Bee; we had a number of 4th graders who participated. After 3 rounds of multiple questions covering geography, oceanography, history, culture, and weird-but-true facts, we were down to the Championship Round between Kat and Matthew. At the end of that round, Matthew Abrams emerged as our school champion! Congratulations to Matthew, as well as to all of those who participated!

This week in the Classrooms:

Third and fourth grade students have been busy exploring their theme of “Forces” this year. Today it was time to look at the forces involved in the study of Physics. Members of DU’s Society of Physics Students came to help our 3/4 students explore friction, gravity and straight line motion.
EC and Primary Concerts

The Early Childhood Winter Concert will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Auditorium in Sturm Hall. The concert features performances by PS, PK, and Kindergarten. Classroom teachers are sending detailed information to parents in their classroom newsletters.

The Primary Spring Concert will take place Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Auditorium in Sturm Hall. 1st through 4th grade students will be participating in this performance. As we get closer to the event, detailed information will be provided in classroom newsletters.

Early Childhood Parent Workshop

Please join us on February 23 from 8:45-9:45 for a parent workshop with Kris Yokley, our reading specialist for information on early literacy development. Please RSVP here.

SAVE THE DATE!

RCA-Sponsored Movie on Screen Time  
Thursday, 3/9 from 6:30pm-9:30pm

- Are YOU wondering if your children are spending too much time in front of the screen?
- Are THEY wondering if you’re crazy and wrong to think such a thing?
- Does ANYONE have any science to back-up their claims?

SCREENAGERS is a balanced film that intends to answer just those kinds of questions. Told from the perspective of students, teachers, parents and scientists, you’ll walk away with a better understanding of the issues. There will be a Q&A afterward. This is open to the Ricks parents and middle school students (and younger, if you feel it’s appropriate).

Please join RCA and Ricks Administration and Faculty at the RCA-sponsored showing on:  
Thursday, 3/9 from 6:30pm-9:30pm  
Denver University  
Sturm Hall  
Lindsey Auditorium (Room 281)  
Light refreshments will be served.
Save the Date

- Jump Rope for Heart final date, Feb 14
- No school: President's day, Feb 20
- EC Concert, Feb 21 6:00 pm
- No school for students: Admissions Day, March 3
- Parenting Safe Children Workshop hosted by Fisher Early Learning Center, April 15, 2017

Denver Gymnastics

Get up to 6 (six) free tickets to gymnastics meet in Magness Arena

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>VS ILLINOIS &amp; ILLINOIS ST.</td>
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<td>3.04.17</td>
<td>VS OHIO STATE</td>
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Must redeem online at denverpioneers.com/tickets prior to meet. Up to 6 free upper level admission tickets per coupon. Valid for 2017 Magness meets only. Limited quantities available.

Redeem tickets online at denverpioneers.com before meet
Go to denverpioneers.com/tickets
Click on "promo code"

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity
Enter promo code: elemgym
Select the meet you would like to attend and the quantity of tickets (up to 6)
Confirm tickets, information and complete the online order process
Print your e-ticket and present upon entry
Take a seat in the upper levels and cheer on the pioneers!
Tickets must be redeemed online prior to the meet, coupons will not be accepted at the box office. For help redeeming coupons or for other questions, contact the du marketing team at 303-811-7973.