Don’t forget – No school on Monday, February 20 – Presidents’ Day

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!

NWEA MAP testing
One of our strategic plan outcomes is to use data as part of the decision-making process. Using nationally normed assessments is an educational best practice; they will give us external markers of student achievement as well as reflecting our school success. We have adopted the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments from NWEA because they are adaptive assessments which will allow our gifted students to work well beyond grade level. Our teachers will use the results to reflect upon student strengths and needs, providing another data point to guide instruction. MAP test scores will not be used or factored into class grades or assessments.

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

Ricks Newsletter
Friday, February 17, 2017
We will be administering MAP tests during the next two weeks. Students will take these online assessments in reading and in math. Each test should take approximately 75 minutes for the first session; subsequent sessions are shorter. For more information about the assessments, please look at the Parent Guide to MAP.

This week in the Classrooms:

As part of their Folktales, Fairytales, Myths and Legends unit, students in Sean And Amy’s 1/2 classroom, students were given a choice to 1) Create a diorama of a book from home, OR a myth or folktale or fairytale or 2) Create a mythical place or create a diorama of a time and place and then write a story about this place.

Random Acts of Kindness Week

Our goals this week was to “Throw kindess around like confetti” as February 12-18 is Random Acts of Kindness Week. Students focused this week not only on ways in which they could be kind to others, but also on recognizing kindness in others. Please stop by the display board in the lobby to see how kindness has spread throughout Ricks!

The Kindergarten students made and delivered "goodness bags" around DU, including one to Dr. Norma Hafenstein. They sewed little bags, stuffed them with positive messages, candy kisses, heart creatures the kids made, and a bag of tea, then passed them out to people in Morgridge College of Education.
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.

Kids Adventure Schedule for March-May

Attached to this email is the new flyer about Kids Adventure for the months of March, April, and May.

Congratulations, Sports teams!

The boys’ and girls’ basketball seasons are wrapping up and the winter sport season is coming to an end. Many thanks to the sports families for their support all throughout the season. Girls’ soccer and boys’ baseball will be starting up next for upper school students so please see Coach Jason or Coach Kevin if you are interested in playing.

Jump Rope for Heart

Thanks to all who participated in the AHA Jump Rope for Heart event. The school has raised over $18,000 this year for the American Heart Association! We are currently the top school in Colorado and have been a top 10 school for the past 3 years. Students celebrated during the school assembly Friday, February 16. All students were recognized for their hard work and top donators got to “pie” Mr. Jason, and give him a chocolate mud bath.

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

Ricks Center Website
Ricks Center Facebook Page
Ricks Center for Gifted Children
University of Denver
2040 South York Street map
Denver, CO 80208
RenWeb
District Code: RC-CO (parent access only)

Phone: 303-871-2982
SAVE THE DATE!

- **SCREENAGERS**  
  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).

Denver University  
Sturm Hall  
Lindsey Auditorium (Room 281)

Light refreshments will be served.

- **No school: Presidents’ Day, Feb 20 Monday**
- EC Concert, Feb 21 6:00 pm
- Meet and Greet the New Associate Director, Friday, February 24th from 8:00-8:45am
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.26.17</td>
<td>VS ILLINOIS &amp; ILLINOIS ST.</td>
<td>2PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.04.17</td>
<td>VS OHIO STATE</td>
<td>6PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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"
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!

**Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity**

**Ricks Center Website**  **Ricks Center for Gifted Children**  **RenWeb**
University of Denver 2040 South York Street map  District Code: RC-CO (parent access only)

Phone: 303-871-2982
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.

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