A BIG Thank you!!!!
On behalf of Karen Riley, Dean of the Morgridge College of Education – “THANK YOU to the Ricks Kindergarten students and teachers who made and personally delivered “goodness bags” around DU in random acts of kindness. The hand-decorated bags were filled with happy messages, candy kisses, cute heart creatures, and tea. Everyone who received this lovely surprise on Valentine’s Day felt special in their heart, like they received a hug from Ricks!”

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.

Crêpes for Sale...
Tuesday, February 28th, crêpes will be available for sale in the Commons area (upstairs) from 11:15 (M/S recess) to 12:30. They cost $3.00 - $5.00 depending upon variety. All proceeds will go to the 8th Grade class to benefit end of year activities for the Class of 2017.
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.

We will be administering MAP tests next week. Fifth and sixth grade students took the math assessment today; they will take the reading assessment Monday. 7th and 8th graders will take math on Monday and reading on Tuesday. 3rd and 4th graders will take math on Tuesday and reading on Wednesday. We have ample time for make-ups through the end of the second week in March so no one needs to feel rushed. 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.

Admissions Update

With the admissions season now in full swing, we wanted to remind everyone that our Admissions Visit Day is next Friday, March 3rd. There will be no school for students on the 3rd as we welcome Preschool, Pre-k and Kindergarten applicants for a classroom visit.

You may have noticed many new faces in the building recently. We have 7 new students who have started since the beginning of 2017, and as of Wednesday- we will have 8. If you see a new face, please introduce yourself and say hi. We will have a formal new parent welcome event on Thursday, April 27th.

Parent Education – Nutrition Workshop, March 14, 2017 6:00-7:30 PM

Is your family in a lunch or snack rut? Join registered dietitian and mom of 2 for a fun and informative workshop on how to pack the most flavor and nutrition in your lunches and snacks. The workshop will include, a lunch checklist to ensure your child is meeting nutritional needs, tips for picky eaters, simple tasty recipes, and tools to cut down on prep and food waste. Please sign up here
This week in the Classrooms:

During the month of February, students in Sara and Ali’s class have been studying Black History Month. Students each chose an individual to focus on and put together projects to share more about their contributions to society. The range of individuals varies from Maya Angelou to Tiger Woods- stop by the display board in the lobby to see what they discovered.

Students in PE got the chance to climb to new heights, literally, as they got to climb the wall at Ritchie Center. If you look closely, you can see Mr. Jason at the base of the wall to belay everyone to safety.

EC Parent Workshop

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Parent Workshop on Early Literacy with Kris Yokley, our Reading Specialist. If you weren’t able to be at the workshop, we are attaching a link to her presentation and hope to be able to offer additional workshops in the future.

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.

Thank you gifts should be arriving sometime in April. Thanks for doing your part to save a heart!

Bobbie's Blog:
Follow Bill and me on our journey around The Great Loop. Our tentative schedule is to stay in Tarpon Springs during the month of March to learn the boat and have some work done on it before we "set sail." In April we will begin the journey. At an average speed of 8mph, it will be a slow process. Wonder Woman, a gift who sat on my computer, is packed and ready to sit at the helm with me. The blog is: https://firstfort.wordpress.com/

RCA HAPPENINGS...

- Ricks Day at DU Gymnastics | **Sunday, February 26th** in Magnus Arena in the Ritchie Center
- "Screenagers" Movie (free admission) | **Thursday, March 9th** from 6:30-9PM in Lindsey Auditorium (Rm 281) in Sturm Hall
- OPEN RCA Meeting | **Tuesday, March 21st** from 5:30 to 6:30PM @Ricks | All Encouraged to Come
LOST & FOUND Reminder:

Please pick-up personal items from the Lost & Found rack at front entrance by Wednesday, March 22nd. Items left behind will be donated to a homeless shelter.

Safety First and Foremost:

Please drive slowly as you approach and leave the school. We have had reports of people speeding into/out the circle drive. A late student is better than an unsafe speed. The few extra seconds it takes to drive slowly is worth the benefit of safety.

FRONT DESK ASSISTANT

We look forward to Bernadette Howell joining Ricks! Bernadette brings with her 20+ years of clerical/administrative experience and knowledge as well as nearly 10 years in a school setting.

Few words from Bernadette:

My name is Bernadette Howell, and my journey through life has taken me everywhere from a bookkeeper trainer to a CFO to working in schools. I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with me, including my devotion to superior customer service and an appetite to always learn!

My most rewarding journey has been the one I started with my husband, Joe, 23 years ago. We have been blessed with two children, Christian who is currently an apprentice in the Sheet Metal Union, and Sarah who is sophomore at DU studying Biology.

When I am home, I enjoy cooking and hanging out with my four fur babies!

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 3 - **Admissions Visit Day is Friday - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.**

MARCH 9 - **REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND SCREENAGERS!** [https://goo.gl/c8sK0c](https://goo.gl/c8sK0c)

SCREENAGERS is a multiple award-winning movie being sponsored by RCA

It's all about OUR kid's screen time!

**Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity**

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<th>Ricks Center Website</th>
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Phone: 303-871-2982
Are YOU wondering if our children are spending too much time in front of the screen? Or if they're being desensitized to the world or violence?

Are THEY wondering if you're crazy and wrong to think such a thing?

Does ANYONE have any science to back-up their claims?

What have REAL FAMILIES done to work together on a solid plan?

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.

Click here for more information from the producers.

There will be refreshments before and a short, moderated discussion afterward.

WHEN Is It?

Thursday, 3/9 from 6:30pm-9:00pm. The movie is only 68 minutes. There will be refreshments before and a discussion afterward.

WHERE Is It?

Denver University, Sturm Hall, Lindsey Auditorium (Room 281)

WHO Should Attend?

This is open to all Ricks parents, staff, faculty and middle school students (or younger, if you feel it's appropriate). The broader DU community may also attend.

WHY Register?

This has proven to be a popular movie in other venues. We want to make sure you have a seat and we want to make sure we have enough refreshments!

APRIL 15 - Parenting Safe Children Workshop hosted by Fisher Early Learning Center
Denver Gymnastics

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

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<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"
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.

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

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