Ricks Newsletter
Friday, February 3, 2017

Associate Director
Mr. Edward Brooks (Ted) has joined us as our new Associate Director. He grew up as the youngest of nine just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ted has always enjoyed working with children and says his inspiration came from spending time with his many nieces and nephews. Prior to accepting the position at the Ricks Center, he was a graduate assistant at the University of Northern Colorado while he completed his doctoral degree in educational leadership. Ted has a wealth of experience; he has worked as a fourth grade classroom teacher, elementary gifted teacher, eighth grade pre-algebra instructor, and middle school assistant principal. In addition, he has been employed in industrial construction, the environmental field, facilities maintenance, ski instruction, and program coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs. He visited Colorado during his undergraduate degree and decided then that he would someday reside in our beautiful state. Ted also enjoys camping, biking, rafting, motorcycling, skiing, and hunting. Ted is extremely excited about joining our team and looks forward to meeting and working with everyone. It is a stroke of luck that we are able to have Ted join us next week; please stop by to say hello.

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)

Reminder -- Eat for Change! Chipotle 8th Grade Fundraiser
Wednesday, February 8th from 5-8pm come to the Chipotle at 1644 E. Evans in Denver and show the flyer attached to this email. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Ricks Center 8th grade Washington D.C. trip in May.
Circle Drive
Please remember that the circle drive in front of Ricks is a no-parking zone. If you are coming into the school, you are welcome to park in the L lot (with permit) or find street parking elsewhere. We need everyone’s cooperation in order to make drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and safely. Thank you!

Professional Development
On February 3, the Ricks staff participated in professional development. During the day, the staff worked on documentation necessary for AdvancED and NAEYC accreditation. Teachers also began work on the multi-year curriculum review plan, beginning with developing Ricks’ philosophies about teaching content such as math and unit/social studies/science. This work is crucial as we align our curriculum vertically – between grades. As part of the work, we will be documenting our work in the Atlas online software platform, so some of our teachers participated in training specific to that as well.

Reenrollment Contract Update
Thank you for returning your 2017-18 school year contracts, which are due on Friday, February 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Jacobs.

This Week in the Classrooms
The Flying Butterflies, Ms. Jessica and Ms. Maddie’s classroom, are learning about recycling and the city of Denver. Each student in the classroom created their own blueprint for a building or house in the city, and then created the structure using recycled materials. They have put their “Recycled City” together and it is on display in the lobby.

National Geographic Bee
We plan to have our in-school National Geographic Bee this Monday morning. Students who have been studying for the competition in grades 4 – 8 will compete against each other for the Ricks’ Geo title! We will let you know the results next week.
Jump Rope for Heart

Thank you, Ricks Community, for your support of the American Heart Association and Jump Rope for Heart. Signing up is quick and easy, either by signing the packet or by going online at heart.org/jump. In class, students are learning many new jump skills as well as healthy heart habits. This year students are encouraged to take the heart challenge by choosing to: get 60 minutes of exercise a day, eat a fruit or veggie with every meal, or choose water over sugary drinks like soda. While taking the challenge your child can create their own zoo crew character to share with family and friends. It’s easy to do – visit heart.org/jump, and click on the zoo crew challenge.

Thanks for speaking with your child about healthy heart habits and joining in on the battle against heart disease.

- Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14th, will be the last day to turn in donations.
- Extra incentives – Raise $200 and throw a pie at Mr. Jason
  Raise $250 and give Mr. Jason a chocolate mud bath

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.

Lost and Found

P.O. box key and flash drive:

A parent came up to the front desk a couple weeks ago asking if a PO BOX key had been turned in. We finally found it and have it ready for you at the front desk. There was also a 128gb flash drive found; it will be at the front desk as well.

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
Coats and other outerwear:

Please check to make sure that all of the coats, hats, mittens, and so forth that your child has brought home are yours. Students occasionally take off their coats during recess and then pick up someone else’s jacket by mistake. If you find “visiting clothing,” please bring it back to Ricks and put it in the Lost and Found. Someone else is probably looking for it.

Save the Date

- **Chipotle grade 8 fundraiser**, Feb 8, 5:00-8:00 pm
- 2017-2018 contracts due, Friday Feb 10
- Valentine's Day Social 5th-8th grade, Feb 10, 6:00pm-8:00pm
- 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