Ricks Newsletter
Friday, April 21, 2017

Staffing Updates
Spring time is when we renew staff contracts for the following school year. The majority of the teacher contracts have been renewed. You can expect the following changes heading into next year:

The following staff are taking on new or expanded roles:

- Ali Struzziero – moving from Grade 1/2 Teacher to Innovation and Technology Specialist
- Carol Smith – moving from part time to full time Music Teacher
- Kristina Campos – moving from part time to full time Spanish Teacher
- Wendy Livingston – moving from part time to full time Art Teacher

The following staff will be newly joining us at Ricks next year:

- Betsy Cabell – School Psychologist
- Faryn Scarlett – Psychology Intern

The following staff are retiring or partially retiring:

- Dr. Karin Dittrick-Nathan – School Psychologist
- Linda Kahananui – Middle School Math

The following staff will be seeking opportunities outside of Ricks:

- Amy Powell – Grade 3/4 Teacher
- Jennifer Kindick – Part time Latin
- Karie Wyckoff – Part time Art
- Kris Yokley – Part time Reading Specialist
- Krista Klabo – Psychology Intern (one-year appointment completed)
- Laura Horton-Depass – Middle School English
- Odette Kugler – Part time Grades 6-8 French
- Yangoubo Liu – Technology Specialist (one-year appointment completed)

We are in the process of posting all open positions to begin the hiring process and will update you as we progress.

Class Placements for 2017-18 – EC and Primary Students
Next month, we will begin doing some initial class placements for returning EC and Primary students for the 2017-18 school year. When placing students into classes we look at a variety of factors in order to achieve balanced groupings, such as academic and intellectual strengths, gender, special needs, student relationships, etc. We will continue to enroll
new students over the coming months, and some families may leave unexpectedly over the summer. This is typical in all schools.

We will be announcing class placements and teacher assignments after the summer. You can expect this information to be emailed to you in early August.

If you would like to share any pertinent aspects related to your child’s placement, please feel free to email Anne Sweet (anne.sweet@du.edu) or send a note in writing to the Director's office. **We will not be taking requests for specific teachers,** however we will consider your input in regard to relationships / friendships or learning needs. Please note that to maintain balanced classes, requests will be considered, however, we cannot guarantee all requests will be granted. **Please provide this information in writing by May 10, 2017.**

Additionally, in class, all students will generate a list of peers they would like be with next year, and teachers will take this information into consideration as they construct classes.

**Primary Music Concert**

The Primary Spring Concert will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Auditorium in Sturm Hall. The concert includes vocal performances by 1-2 classes, as well as vocal, recorder, and violin performances by 3-4 classes.

**Mother's Day Basket for SafeHouse Denver**

We are accepting donations for SafeHouse Denver, the local women's domestic violence shelter. Please see the attached flyer to this newsletter email for which items we are including in our basket. The last day we can accept donations is April 28. There will be a donation box at the Ricks Center, and all over campus. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please contact Kari Shafenberg, kshafenberg@law.du.edu Any money donated will be used to purchase items for the gift baskets, and not given directly to SafeHouse.

**RenWeb Access for Middle School Parents**

We know that there have been difficulties for some families in accessing Q4 grades in RenWeb. After an online chat with the company, we think the problem is solved. Here are the steps to access the gradebook:

```
Parentsweb> log in 
THEN
School information> classes> select the ENG class> select grade book
OR
Student Information> Link is on the main screen to the right
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**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)
Executive Functioning Presentation
Krista Klabo, our psychology intern, presented a parent session on executive functioning Thursday morning to a very full audience! Krista shared a YouTube link you may want to look at, as well as her Power Point presentation and executive function resource. You may also reach her at krista.klabo@du.edu.

In-School Variety Show
On Tuesday, May 16, our EC and Primary students will enjoy the annual student variety show during the day while the middle school students are away on their class trips. Auditions for the Variety Show will be held during lunch on May 1, 2, and 3 for students in Kindergarten through 4th grade. If your child is interested in performing, please review this rubric so your child knows what we will be looking for during auditions.

2016-17 Yearbook Orders
Orders for this year’s yearbook are open until May 1, 2017. If you have not had a chance to order your yearbook, please follow these instructions. Visit Balfour.com to place your order, and contact Karie Wyckoff (karie.wyckoff@du.edu) or Balfour directly (link available on the ordering site) with any questions.

This Week in the Classrooms
Third and Fourth grade students in Gay and Kim's class continued the Business and Banking theme as they studied their portfolios. We can all learn something from their research – ask one of our third or fourth graders why they chose their stocks. Their answers just might surprise you!
The field area was the perfect place to test our golf skills, thanks to Mr. Jason and a golf pro from the Highlands Ranch golf course.

Early Childhood students (and a few passerby's in the hall) enjoyed the chance to learn about birds of prey when Hawkquest came to visit. Students got to see a falcon, barn owl, hawk and a bald eagle. We're not sure who enjoyed the visit more - the students or the adults!

**Sports Update**

The Ricks baseball team played away against Denver Jewish Academy on Wednesday, April 19th. Our team played an excellent game and won with a final score of 10-4. Congratulations team!

The girls soccer game scheduled for Thursday, April 20th was cancelled due to rain.

**EC Updates**

Since the weather has warmed up, we are spending more time outside. Please make sure your child comes to school wearing sunscreen, or that you stay long enough in the morning to apply it here. Feel free to send along hats and sunglasses for extra protection if you'd like.

Food program Q &A
We are excited to work with DU and Sodexo on their food program which is putting emphasis on sustainability beginning May 8, 2017. We reached out to Sodexo and here are their responses:

**Is there a vegetarian option?**

Yes, every day Sodexo will provide a vegetarian meal as requested by parents via the forms that you have filled out already. The vegetarian menu closely mimics the food options for the rest of the students. Many of the foods on the vegetarian menu are organic.

**Is there a gluten-free option?**

Yes, as a part of the DU program, Sodexo is committed to meeting the needs of students of all ages, so there are gluten-free food prepared and packaged in a separated facility. Sodexo also will provide foods to avoid student allergens such as rice and corn.

**Are there other things we should know?**

Sodexo will gladly prepare vegan foods if requested.

**Does my child have to participate in the food program?**

We value your family's choices. If this program does not meet your child's needs, you may continue to send in healthy snacks and lunches with your child. All of the children will eat together using common table settings and will enjoy friendly conversation.

Parents may access the [food request form here](#) if you need to make any changes. If you are opting out of the program, please let your child's teachers know by May 1.

### Summer Fun at Ricks

Summer at Ricks blends fun summer activities with rich learning experiences for children ages 3-6. Click [here](#) for more information or to [register](#).

### RCA Happenings

The next [RCA Board meeting](#) (open to anyone in the Ricks Community) will take place next Friday, May 19th from 8:45am to 11:00am in the conference room behind the front desk. If you plan to attend, please drop a note to communicationsrca@gmail.com just so we make sure we have enough space. Primary topics will include progress on fundraising target projects this year, mini-grant approvals, upcoming events, and open roles for next school year.

**Teacher Appreciation Week** is coming up the week of May 8th and we will be targeting ONE day this year, May 9th (Tuesday) to celebrate our teachers!
• The "events of the day" will be coordinated centrally instead of by individual classroom, and we are looking for help.
• If you are interested in helping the RCA show our teachers how much we love them, or have an idea of something we can do for the teachers, please send a message to communicationsrca@gmail.com.

Save the Date
Apr 26 - 6:00-7:30 pm, Primary Music Concert at Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall
May 2 - Teacher Appreciation Day
May 3-5 - AdvancEd reaccreditation visit
May 4 -5:00-6:30 pm, New Family Welcome
May 10 - 7:00-9:00 pm, school musical performance, Willy Wonka at Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall
May 15-19 -MS Field Trips: Washington, DC; Yellowstone, WY; Keystone Science School in Walden, CO
May 24 -5:30-7:30 pm, Sports Banquet, Multipurpose Room at Ricks
May 26 - 6:30-8:30 pm Upper School Social, 5th-8th grade
May 31 - 5:30-9:00 pm, Grade 8 Graduation Dinner (invitations to be sent soon)
June 1 - 9:00-12:00 am, Grade 8 Graduation - open to the entire community (more details coming soon)
June 1 - 12:00-1:30 pm, Grade 8 Graduation lunch for Grade 8 families and students
June 2 - Last Day of School, half day dismissal (Preschool – 4th dismisses at 11:45 and 5th– 8th dismisses at 12:00)

Around DU and Denver...
Storm Warning Exhibit
At DU, a climate change exhibit that’s thoughtful, shocking and sometimes even humorous...“Storm Warning: Artists on Climate Change & the Environment” continues through April 30, at the University of Denver’s Vicki Myhren Gallery. It’s free.

Let's Put the Femme in STEM with the University of Denver
Girls will visit labs and engage in activities that line up with research being done at the University of Denver and within STEM fields. The members of the Pioneer Leadership Program, Society of Physics Students, and Women in Computing invite you to come put the femme in STEM! ON: May 13th 10-3pm AT: University of Denver, Colorado Women’s College FOR: Girls aged 9-13 Please email femminstem@gmail.com or visit our website at femmeinstem.org to register.