Summer Wishes

We wish our Ricks family a vibrant and fun-filled summer holiday. We will miss seeing all of you during the break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in August!

The administrative team will be at the school over the summer, so please feel free to be in touch with any questions as needed.

Read this summer!

We want to encourage everyone to read over the summer. There are great reading programs through the various library districts, Denver, Douglas County, Adams County, and Jefferson County. You can get library cards from all of these whether or not you are a resident. Here are a few other reading lists as well:

- Campus Middle School
- Amy Powell’s copy of NPR backseat book list
- Hoagies Gifted lists
- NEH + MENSA Kids reading list
- Davidson Institute Lists
- NPR summer reads for ADULTS
- NYTimes Adult reads

New Staff Welcome

Ricks would like to welcome the following staff members to the team! We also have a few positions other we are still recruiting for, and will announce these hires after they are completed.

**Middle School English Teacher: Aleah Dacey**

Aleah Dacey will be joining the faculty next year as the Upper School English teacher; she spent the last three years at a small independent school on Manhattan’s Upper West Side as the middle school librarian and eighth grade dean. Ms. Dacey also coached middle school track and field, winter track, and cross country, and ran the film club and writing center.

For more than a decade, as both a classroom teacher in English and History and as a literacy specialist, Ms. Dacey has focused on empowering and engaging her students as they gain autonomy over their own learning. She has worked with students from fifth grade though college; prior to entering the teaching profession, Ms. Dacey was a historian and researcher with a cultural resources management firm. She holds a BA in English and Art History from Rutgers University, an MA in teaching and technology, with a focus on English, from Lehigh University, and an MA from Middlebury College in English Literature.
Outside of her interest in history and literature, Ms. Dacey is also an essayist, hypertext fiction enthusiast, and champion backgammon player. She will be relocating to Colorado from Brooklyn with her husband, Chris, and their 18-month-old daughter, Clementine.

**Facilities and Office Manager: Michael Perez**

Michael Perez is an educator with a background in Facilities Management who has spent the last 3 years serving as an Administrative TOSA at Iowa Elementary in Aurora, Colorado. At Iowa Elementary Michael oversaw the building of community relations, school-wide discipline, school assessments, attendance and classified staff.

Prior to his work at Iowa Elementary, Michael served as an educator for 15 years in various content areas in grades 4-8 in Holcomb, Kansas. He also taught 4th grade for 3 years in Wichita, Kansas. In addition, Mr. Perez coached middle school track and field, middle school volleyball and high school basketball.

Michael acquired his background in facilities while earning his BA in Elementary Education and ME in Sports Administration at Wichita State University. He served in multiple capacities in the Department of Campus Recreation at Wichita State. During his Master’s program Michael worked in the Heskett Center as a Graduate Assistant in Facilities Management.

Mr. Perez is married to DaJon, who is a Registered Dental Hygienist at Perfect Teeth in Centennial. Michael and DaJon have 2 daughters named Iliana and Imani. Iliana will be a junior at JK Mullen High School and Imani will be an 8th grader at St. Mary’s of Littleton.

**Middle School French: Madame Bouchra Rifki**

Bonjour! I am your new French teacher and I want to share a little bit of information about myself. I am originally from Morocco and moved to France as an infant. I lived for 7 years in the city of Mulhouse, located in eastern France. I received my Bachelor’s degree in French-English Linguistics. I moved to the United States as a student; first to New York, Florida and finally to Colorado. Since arriving to Colorado, I have been working as a French teacher, teaching elementary, middle and high school students of different backgrounds. I like to help students experience the joy of learning a new language and accumulate a strong knowledge about the French culture.

I am currently working on my Master’s degree and am considering continuing my studies to receive a Ph.D. degree. I have a loving husband and two little, adorable and active children; a son who will be in the second grade next school year and a daughter who will be in Kindergarten. In my spare time, I like to spend time with my family and travel to other countries to experience cultures different from my own.

(Bonjour ! Je serais votre nouvelle professeure de Français et je veux partager des informations à mon propos, Je suis d’origine Marocaine et j’ai déménagé en France quand j’avais un an et j’ai resté là-bas pendant 7 ans à Mulhouse une ville située à l’Est de la France. J’ai eu ma License en Linguistique Français-Anglais. Je suis venue aux Etats Unies comme étudiante, d’abord à New York, en Floride et finalement à Colorado où J’ai enseigné le Français dès mon arrivée pour les primaires, les collégiens et les lyciens. Durant les années précédentes, J’ai travaillé avec différentes âges en plusieurs...
contextes. J’adore aider les enfants à découvrir la joie d’apprendre une nouvelle langue étrangère et accumuler beaucoup de savoir sur la culture Française.

Actuellement, je travaille dur pour avoir mon Master et je considère avoir mon Doctorat. J’ai un affectueux mari et deux adorables enfants, mon fils qui sera en deuxième année primaire et ma fille qui sera à la grande section l’année prochaine. Pendant mon loisir, j’aime rester avec mes enfants et voyager à l’étranger pour découvrir autres cultures.)

**Marketing Intern: John-Craig Coogan**

John-Craig Coogan attended the University of Denver, where he majored in Business Finance and Economics, then received both an MBA and MS in Marketing. Outside of class, his passions are golfing and snowboarding, and loves finding new golf courses around Colorado. John started his internship last week, and he will be with us until September.

**Ricks Center Graduation**

This week we said goodbye and congratulations to our 8th grade graduates. Our students will be continuing in high school at South, Littleton, Poudre, Kent, Colorado Academy, Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design, St. Mary’s, Callaway (in Georgia), Bishop Machebeuf, and more.

As our 8th graders move on, they took some time to share some of the most important lessons they learned while at Ricks:

- Ricks gave me a love for learning, in general.
- I have learned that I can be invested in my school work and can combine both school and my interests.
- Ricks has taught me all about time management and how it is important for staying on track.
- Math is important!
- I have learned perseverance is key -- you can do it!
- You should always try your hardest, and you should learn to appreciate others’ strengths and weaknesses.
- I have learned that everyone can learn from each other.
- I have learned that no one is perfect and that you don’t have to master everything. People fail and that is okay.
Early Childhood News
Thank you for a wonderful year! We hope you enjoy playing outside this summer, visiting the library for lots of great books to read, and have many fun adventures. We will miss you this summer and are excited to see how much you grow over the summer.

This Week in the Classrooms

EC Field Day
Our Early Childhood Field Day featured multicultural activities from countries around the world! Activities included water bucket relay races, cup stacking, sandbox pyramid building and much more.

Thank you Mr. Jason and all of our fabulous volunteers for creating such a memorable event!

Kindergarten Volcano Run
Kindergarten students took part in the "Volcano Run" as they ran through the hallways and out to the playground to climb to the top of the volcano on the primary playground as part of their transition to first grade. The other Early Childhood and Primary students cheered them on.
Golf Field Trip

The 3rd and 4th graders learned how to play golf through the First Tee golf program during PE. In the program, Coach Jason worked with the golf pros from the DU golf team and the PGA to teach the students how to play. The students went on a field trip to Highlands Ranch Golf Course on May 24th.

If you are interested in any summer golf programs please contact Mark.McCarthy@du.edu

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

Next meeting, June 14th @ 1:30-3PM @ Ricks

Save the Dates:

- Early Childhood (Preschool, PreK & K) Summer Playdates @ Observatory Park
  - Saturday, July 15th 9-11AM & Sunday, August 6th 9-11AM
- Ricknic (a Back-to-School family picnic) @ Ricks
  - Thursday, August 17th 5-7PM
- Crimson Classic 5k (Running/walking event for the DU Community) @ DU
  - Thursday, September 21st 3pm
- Gala @ Wellshire Event Center
  - Saturday, November 4th (evening)
Facebook
Have you liked our Facebook page? Please take a moment to visit, and like, the Facebook page. It's another great way to see what is going on in the school and in the Ricks Center Community.

Around DU and Beyond...

Summer Basketball Camps at DU

- Join DU men's basketball coach Rodney Billups in his first annual basketball camps this summer
- sharpen and expand on the fundamental skills that are required to be successful on the basketball court; it is the goal of the Rodney Billups Basketball Camp to help each camper in a similar fashion. Our camps will help you grow as a basketball player, improve your fundamentals, and hopefully have some fun at the same time. My staff and players will be on hand for skill instruction, game coaching, and lectures.
- Check out the website below for dates and details
- https://rodneybillupsbasketballcamps.com/

Girls Who Code
This summer, the University of Denver Colorado Women’s College is delighted to pilot a Girls Who Code Campus Program.

The Girls Who Code Campus program will be a two-week immersion program for middle school girls to learn computer science fundamentals, gain exposure to tech jobs and join a supportive sisterhood of tens of thousands of girls who code across the US! Plus, no experience needed to apply!

Girls Who Code Campus programs offer:

- **Condensed Learning for Busy Summer Schedules:** Campus programs are immersion courses that use project-based learning to equip and inspire your daughter with the confidence and skills necessary to pursue computer science; condensed into a two-week time frame to accommodate your summer plans.

- **Research-based Curriculum:** The introductory coding curriculum is centered on Girls Who Code's Core4 computer science skills, career exposure and community building.
● **Trained Educators**: Girls Who Code hires and trains Technology Instructors and Teaching Assistants to facilitate the program on campus at an 8:1 student to teacher ratio.

● **Results**: Girls Who Code is a nationally respected brand with tens of thousands of alumnae across all 50 states! Our alumnae are attending the top Computer Science universities in the U.S. and are getting jobs from our 80+ corporate partners.

● **Fun and Friendships**: Your daughter will learn to code alongside 25 other girls and will join an alumni network of tens of thousands of girls across the country who are using computer science to solve problems they care about.

**Beginners welcome; no experience required!**

**APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER 2017!**

**Cost $2,000 | Scholarships available to those who qualify!**

Questions? Contact Kayon Morgan at kayon.morgan@du.edu or check out some frequently asked questions in the flyer attached. We hope to see you this summer!

**Rodney Billups Basketball Camps**

Join Rodney Billups, head DU Men’s Basketball coach, and the DU Men’s Basketball team for their summer camps this year! For more information check out the attached PDF or follow this link: [https://rodneybillupsbasketballcamps.com/](https://rodneybillupsbasketballcamps.com/)

**Random Acts of Kindness Foundation**

- Social Emotional Learning: Success for Life 2017 • Thursday June 8, 2017 • FREE
- https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/for-educators/sel-forum
- REGISTRATION • McNichols Building, Denver