Welcome New Ricks Families!
All of us at Ricks would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our incoming families! We can't wait for you to meet everyone at the Ricknic, our Ricks Community Association’s yearly get-together. The Ricknic will be held at the school from 5:00-7:00 pm on August 17. More details will be sent by the RCA as the event approaches. See you then!

Ricks Strategic Planning
Ricks is looking forward to engaging with the community in strategic planning over the course of the 2017-18 school year. The strategic planning process will assist us in setting long-range goals as we develop toward the future. Ricks is excited to have hired John Littleford of Littleford and Associates (http://jlittleford.com/wp/) to lead this critical process. We will inform families of opportunities to engage in the process as the timeline solidifies. There will be lead-up activities preceding Mr. Littleford's site visit the week of March 12, 2018, as well as focus group work during the visit. Thank you in advance for your engagement in this important foundational work.

Summer Facilities Updates
EC Playground and MS Courtyard: Please join us on August 9 to learn about the project development. For more information and to RSVP please email the Ricks Front desk. Ricks.frontdesk@du.edu

Library Development: We will start the year with temporary shelving and furniture as the Library Store shipping is held up until September. Parent volunteers are welcome to help out in the library! We are looking for parents to re-shelve books and to assist classes with check out. A general call for volunteers will go out once the library set-up is completed.

Innovation Space: New flooring and paint are being installed this week, and furniture delivery is on track for the start of the school year. Ali Struzziero began August 1 as our Technology and Innovation Specialist. She is developing a 3-year technology plan in collaboration with the administrative team. This includes student use, teacher training, device acquisition and replacement, Middle School 1-to-1 program support, curriculum development, and innovation space planning.

Extended Day Program Update
- Maggie Wright, the program manager, began today! Welcome, Maggie!
- The Extended Day program will begin for Elementary and Middle School on August 24, 2017 after the first full day of school for all students (no extended care is available on August 23).
- Early Childhood after school care begins after the first full EC day of school on August 28, 2017. A pre-registration form will come to EC families soon. We will need to ensure we are maintaining proper staff ratios for licensing, and will require registrations for our little ones.
- A comprehensive list of dates when care is offered will be sent prior to the start of the school year, and will include registration dates for paid enrichment classes.
We need a great name for the Ricks Extended Day Program. If you have a naming idea, email anne.wolf@du.edu. The winner will receive a free enrichment class and acknowledgement in the newsletter. Name on!

**Girls on the Run- Calling all 3rd-5th grade girls**

What is Girls on the Run?

Stretch yourself – physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Girls will be inspired to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk race with a fun, health education lesson plan. This program promotes individual achievement and self-confidence. Girls gain self-esteem and learn healthy lifestyle habits while training for a 5K run/walk race. For more information, please see attached flyer. Registrations will be conducted along with Extended Day Enrichment offerings.

**Sept 21 – Early Dismissal**

We have amended the calendar to accommodate a 2:00 pm dismissal for all students on Thursday, September 21, 2017. This is the day that DU runs the Crimson Classic Walk/Run, and roads around Ricks will be closed from 2:45 –3:45. We are grateful to DU for early notification so we could adjust our programming. We will run extended day programming from 2:00 at the normal day rate -- advanced sign-up may be required in order to ensure adequate staffing. We encourage families to join the Ricks group participating in the event! More info will follow as the date nears. Last year's group had a blast and we hope to have a strong Ricks showing at the 2017 Crimson Classic!

**New Staff Welcome and Update**

Ricks would like to welcome the following staff member to the team!

**Reading Specialist: Peggy Jurgs**

Peggy Jurgs will be joining the Ricks Center faculty as our Reading Specialist. You may have seen her in the halls last year as she worked alongside our Kindergarten teachers as their Teacher Assistant. Prior to coming to Ricks, Peggy spent a long and successful career with Denver Public Schools. She spent the earlier part of her career as a first grade bilingual teacher where she delivered instructional content in Spanish while her students acquired English. Peggy then became an Instructional Coach enhancing teachers’ knowledge and performance in the areas of English Language Acquisition and Elementary Literacy strategies in Reading and Writing.

Peggy has a strong passion for reading and helping students become strategic readers through a balanced literacy approach. She is trained in Reading Recovery, F.A.S.T. and Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes; all are approaches to helping students refine their ability to decode the printed word. Peggy is also knowledgeable with Readers and Writers Workshop model, which places emphases on students’ comprehension abilities.

When not working with students, Peggy can be found walking the local golf courses, reading debut novels and spending time with her family.

**Middle School Solar Eclipse Social & New Student Welcome**

A partial solar eclipse will occur August 21 between 10:23 am and 1:14 pm. We will have a Middle School Social and New Student Welcome that day. From 10:00 –10:30 am, all 5th graders and other new middle school students are invited to come to Ricks, find their locker and practice opening its lock, and look at the classrooms that match the schedules. At
10:30 am, all returning MS students are invited to come and join us for fun, watch the eclipse, and eat lunch. Parents may pick up children at 1:00 pm. It will be great!

If you are a returning 7th or 8th grade student who would like to take a leadership role as a New Student Ambassador, contact Mrs. Wolf at anne.wolf@du.edu by Aug 17.

Buddy Families Needed
As we get ready to welcome many new students and families to Ricks Center, we would like to ask for your help. Do you remember when you first started at Ricks Center? Do you remember those individuals and families who helped to answer your questions and make you feel like a part of the community?

We are looking for Buddy Families to help welcome our new families to Ricks. Please email Amy Jacobs if you are interested in being a Buddy Family or if you have any questions. Thank you for your help!

Student Information/Enrollment forms
Student information/enrollment forms will be sent out through RenWeb as soon as possible. We have experienced some technical issues with the online forms in Renweb.

Early Childhood Update
Denver Preschool Program (DPP)
We would like to encourage all of our families with children in their last year before kindergarten to apply for the Denver Preschool Program. DPP not only benefits families residing in Denver with tuition assistance, it also provides fund for Ricks Center to make programmatic improvements. The Denver Preschool Program makes quality preschool possible for all Denver families with 4-year-old children through a dedicated sales tax first approved by voters in 2006 and renewed and extended in 2014. DPP has provided $80 million in tuition support to help more than 41,000 Denver children attend the preschool of their family’s choice, establishing each child’s foundation for lifelong learning and success. To apply please visit: http://www.dpp.org/sign-up-for-tuition-support

Your child’s classroom will also receive $20 per completed application, and Ricks could be entered into the drawing for the school with the largest percentage increase in DPP enrolled students compared to last year!

Piano Lessons
Elaine Geringer will be at Ricks Center to teach private piano lessons to students in preschool and prekindergarten. She will contract directly with parents for lessons during the day between 12:30 - 2:00. Performance opportunities during the school year will include 2 Piano Parties at the school and a formal spring recital at the Artwork Network.

Ms. Geringer is a graduate of the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver and has been teaching music in the area since 1977. Please feel free to visit her website at ElaineGeringerPiano.com or at https://www.facebook.com/Elaine-Geringer-Teacher-245051468875692/. To sign up for lesson please contact Elaine directly at 303 437 4271 or elaine.geringer@gmail.com.

Spots still remain in Lamont’s Piano Preparatory Program …. see below for this alternate opportunity.
Ricks Gear
We are excited to have Ricks Gear available this year!

**T-shirts:** Angelina Akdis (8th grade) was awarded the Shannon B. Jones grant at the end of the 2016-17 school year to pursue her passion in fashion design. Angelina’s first project was to design a t-shirt for the Ricks Center. She was inspired by Shannon Jones’ love of tessellations and zen-tangle patterns. By purchasing these t-shirts, you will be benefiting the Shannon B. Jones grant and Angelina’s future design projects. The proceeds from the sales of these t-shirts will be returned to the grant to continue funding future projects and grants for Ricks Center students. If you would like a t-shirt like the ones below, fill out the [preorder form](mailto:rickstshirtorders@gmail.com) and return it to rickstshirtorders@gmail.com by August 23.

![T-shirts](image)

**Other gear:** The Student Store will be run by the 5th grade class this year. Profits from the Student Store sales will be used to expand their merchandise. The store should be a self-supporting operation. To jumpstart sales for them, you may order backpacks, sweatshirts, and computer sleeves through DU's ShopPioneers website. Be on the lookout for more details once we have that site setup.

**Read this summer!**
The New York Times has published a [great guide](https://www.nytimes.com/) to creating and growing a reader. It includes helpful hints for readers from infant through young adult, with a few for you as well. Enjoy the selections yourself, too!

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](#)
- [NPR backseat book list](#)
- [Hoagies Gifted lists](#)
- [CAGT book list](#)
- [NEH + MENSA Kids reading list](#)
- [Davidson Institute Lists](#)
- [NPR summer reads for ADULTS](#)
- [NYTimes Adult reads](#)

**RCA Happenings...**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Help categorize classroom library books (please reach out directly to Anne Wolf ([anne.wolf@du.edu](mailto:anne.wolf@du.edu))).
- Be a Room Parent Coordinator (please look for information in the registration packets and contact Ted Brooks ([edward.brooks@du.edu](mailto:edward.brooks@du.edu))).
- Help with Scholastic Book Fair (please reach out directly to Anne Wolf ([anne.wolf@du.edu](mailto:anne.wolf@du.edu))).

**Important Dates:**

- August EC Playdate - August 6, 2017 | 9-11AM | Observatory Park

*Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity*
• RCA Meeting (all are welcome) - August 11, 2017 | 11AM | Ricks Center
• RICKNIC - August 17, 2017 | 5-7PM | Ricks Center (Invitation to follow.)
• Crimson Classic | September 21, 2017 | 3pm
• Gala | November 4, 2017 | 6PM

Contact the RCA with questions, inquiries and interest! Thank you!

• Email: communicationsrca@gmail.com

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.

DU and Beyond

Piano Lessons at Lamont
The Lamont Piano Preparatory program has a few spots remaining in our 2017-18, Level One course for ages 5 and 6. We also have limited space for private lessons geared towards older students and even adults! Our goal is to develop lifetime musicians who are able to communicate their love of music with artistry and confidence, and, to nurture independent learners who are musically literate.

To learn more about our unique program of engaging group and private lessons, visit our website. (http://www.du.edu/ahss/lamont/faculty-staff/faculty/tan-piano-preparatory-program.html). Please contact Leila Viss at leilaviss88@gmail.com for questions and to set up an interview.

DU Athletics Kids Club
DU Athletics Kids Club for the 2017-2018 Season - Take Advantage of this Great Deal! - Now until August 25th, Kids Club memberships will only cost $20 for the first child and $15 for every additional child.

With a membership you kids receive FREE entry into all Men’s and women’s soccer games, men’s and women’s basketball games, gymnastics meets and volleyball matches.

You also get free entry into two hockey games this year (December 16th and January 19th) and one men’s lacrosse game (TBD) and receive a kids club t-shirt, luggage tag, id card and lanyard.

There will also be some fun member events throughout the year.

Here is the link to sign-up (there is also a flier attached to this newsletter): http://ev9.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventList?groupCode=KC&linkID=denver&shopperContext=&caller=&appCode

Save the Date
August 6: RCA Early Childhood (Preschool, PreK & K) Summer Playdate @ Observatory Park 9:00-11:00 AM
August 8: Middle School Course Registration open at 5:00 PM
August 11: Early Childhood and Primary Class lists emailed to families
August 17: RCA Ricknic (a Back-to-School family picnic) @ Ricks, 5:00-7:00 PM
August 21: Middle School Grade 5 and New Student Orientation, 10:00-10:30 AM
Middle School Eclipse Social 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM
August 21 & 22: EC and Primary new student assessments
August 22: Kindergarten Meet-and-Greet, 9:00-11:00 AM
August 23: First day of school! Full day for Middle School (grades 5-8), half day (12:00 dismissal) for EC and Primary (Preschool – Grade 4)
August 24 & 25: Half day for preschool and prekindergarten only

September 21: 2:00 Dismissal for all students (Extended Day Care Available) for the Crimson Classic 5k (Running/walking event for the DU Community) @ DU, 3:00 PM
November 4: RCA Gala @ Wellshire Event Center