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:** Thank you to the parents who joined us in the information session on the project development. We have completed the regulatory checks (CO licensing, DU facilities and upper administration, federal playground regulations) and the design process is completed. We are entering the bidding process for construction to begin shortly. To maximize use of the space, we will continue to use the current EC playground until we are ready to break ground. At that point, parents will be informed as to upcoming changes. We thank you for your support as we develop a natural play-scape that is age-appropriate and safe, and that continues to support creative, active play-based learning.

**Library Development:** We will start the year with temporary shelving and furniture as the Library Store shipping is held up until end of September. Parent volunteers are welcome to help out in the library! We are looking for parents to catalogue and shelve books. Additionally, a general call for volunteers will go out once the library set-up is completed. Please contact Anne Wolf if you would like to help out (Anne.Wolf@du.edu).

**Innovation Space:** We have new flooring, paint, and furniture. Next week the set-up begins and teachers will be receiving support from the Technology and Innovation Specialist (Ali Struzziero) as they begin planning unit activities. Ali will work to ensure all students have opportunities to work and grow in the Innovation Space.
Parent Volunteers – Thank You!!
We hosted a parent review of our newly developed student discipline and homework protocols. Thank you to Elizabeth King, Stephanie Peacock, William Feinberg, Juliette Welch, Katie Lyons, Sarah Cohen, and Sharon Pincus for your input and support! The protocols are being added to the 2017-18 Family Handbook which will be shared with families next week.

See the library update above for another volunteer opportunity, and please consider becoming a Room Parent (RCA flier attached).

Extended Day Program Update
Thank you for your continued support and patience while we set up Ricks' new before- and after-school program. Of utmost priority is student safety; we follow the Colorado state licensing rules and regulations. State requirements are 1 adult to every 9 students for children ages 3 - 4 years old, and a ratio of 1 adult to every 15 students for children ages 5 - 14 years old. We are asking families to please pre-register for the first two weeks of school so we can staff appropriately. Without correct staffing, we may not be able to accommodate families in need of emergency care. Preregistered dates are not binding and you will be billed only for days you actually use.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N3A8b8KF5kCd7BiwLSiSiP5Joo0J9TVKqG885jgX5XlUIMEiPTFq1Nd4RVA5RUdXRVQ4QTY1TUizMC4u

Enrichment course catalog will be available on August 17th at the Ricknic. All enrichment registration will be completed with the Enrichment Providers.

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.

Crimson Classic
DU is in the process of rescheduling the Crimson Classic!! We will notify the community of the date as soon as we know it, and we apologize for any inconvenience this causes. There will be a 2:00 Dismissal for all students on the Crimson Classic day due to road closures. Extended Day Care will be available from 2:00 onward.

New Staff Welcome and Update
Ricks would like to welcome the following staff members to the team!

Audrey Dellgren, Kindergarten Teacher
Audrey Dellgren is so excited to be joining the Ricks Center as a Kindergarten Teacher for the 2017-18 school year! She worked at Ricks nearly twenty years ago in an administrative position and is delighted to return to work with students. Audrey earned a BA in European Studies in Heidelberg, Germany and later obtained her Teacher’s License at the University of Colorado Denver. She has worked in Denver Public Schools and in the Adams 14 School District.
Audrey has a daughter who is a Voice Performance major at the University of Michigan and a son who attends East High School. She has been an avid volunteer in her children’s schools and is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for East’s Speech and Debate program. In her free time, Audrey loves yoga, cooking, and long walks with her Golden Retriever Pippi.

Laura Lane, Kindergarten Teacher

Laura Lane is thrilled to be joining the Ricks Community as a Kindergarten Co-teacher for the 2017 - 2018 school year. She has her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado – Boulder and her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in Elementary and Special Education from the University of Colorado - Denver. She has over 5 years of teaching experience and over 20 years of experience working with children.

Laura has enjoyed working with children and watching them learn since she was a child herself. Her favorite dramatic play activity as a child was playing school and pretending to be the teacher. She loves being a part of children’s ah-ha learning moments as they learn new skills, information or make new connections.

Laura and her husband have two daughters, Kirra (six year old) and Aubrey (three years old). Kirra will be a first grader this year and enjoys learning. She loved her Kindergarten year of school and her teachers; Laura hopes your child has the same experience. Aubrey is three and loves preschool, playing with her friends and teachers and is a little adventurer. Laura’s husband is a restaurateur in the Denver area. In Laura’s free time she loves learning, mountain biking, snowboarding/telemark skiing, camping, watching her kids learn to share her passions and family/friend time.

Mildred Freeney-Hilton, Teaching Assistant

Mildred Freeney-Hilton cannot wait for the first day of school when she will begin her new assignment as a Teaching Assistant for the Rick’s Center for Gifted Children! Ms. Freeney (her preferred name) has been an educator for over 30 years. For the majority of those years she was a college professor who specialized in gerontology and the sociology of death and dying. Now that she has retired, her focus has changed to the young child and for the past 7 years she has worked primarily with pre-school to 3rd graders in a variety of school settings. Ms. Freeney holds three degrees: a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology, a M. A. Degree “with honors” in Urban Studies/Public Administration and a M. Ph. Degree “with honors” in Teaching Social Science. In addition, Ms. Freeney completed Ph.D. level work in sociology at the University of Denver and she holds a certificate in Gerontology from the University of Southern California. Mildred was a Fulbright Scholar and spent a month in Brazil developing a sociology curriculum about the impact of slavery on the country. She also traveled to Ghana for a 10-day faculty development seminar.

Mildred loves to educate and be educated. Her motto is “If I can help somebody as I pass this way, then my living will not be in vain.” In addition to being an educator, Mildred has been employed by non-profit organizations focusing on adoption, senior citizens, community development and equality. She was born and raised in Chicago and is a “life-long Cubs fan!

Mildred is married to her “one true love”, William Hilton and they have two daughters (Carolyn and Stephanie) and two granddaughters (Charlotte and Josephine). Nothing brings Mildred greater joy then spending time with her family. Her hobbies are gardening, genealogy and travel. So far, she has made it to 4 of the 7 continents.

Cass Roberts, Teaching Assistant (bio pending)

Middle School Student Ambassadors

If you are a returning 7th or 8th grade student who would like to take a leadership role as a New Student Ambassador at the Middle School Eclipse Party on 8/21/17, contact Mrs. Wolf at anne.wolf@du.edu by Aug 17.
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](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](http://ElaineGeringerPiano.com) or at [https://www.facebook.com/Elaine-Geringer-Teacher-245051468875692/](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](mailto: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](mailto:rickstshirtorders@gmail.com) by August 23.
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.

RCA Happenings...

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help categorize classroom library books (please reach out directly to Anne Wolf (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)).
- Help with Scholastic Book Fair (please reach out directly to Anne Wolf (anne.wolf@du.edu) or Book Fair Coordinator, Stephanie Peacock.

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.

Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity
Save the Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 11</td>
<td>Early Childhood and Primary Class lists emailed to families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>Sign-up opens at 10:00 AM for limited spots of paid care for Pre- School and Pre- Kindergarten on August 24th &amp; 25th from 12:00-3:30 PM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>RCA Ricknic (a Back-to-School family picnic) @ Ricks, 5:00-7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Middle School Grade 5 and New Student Orientation, 10:00-10:30 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Middle School Eclipse Social 10:30 AM -1:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>EC and Primary new student assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>Kindergarten Meet-and-Greet, 9:00-11:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grade 1/2 New student assessments, 9:30-11:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>First day of school!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Full day for Middle School (grades 5-8)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Half day (12:00 dismissal) for EC and Primary (Preschool – Grade 4); No PM extended day care available</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morning programming for extended day care begins at 7:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Half day for preschool and prekindergarten only</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Limited spots of paid care for Pre- School and Pre- Kindergarten on August 24th and 25th from 12:00-3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extended day afternoon care available for KG – Grade 8 from 3:30-6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Extended day afternoon care available for all students from 3:30-6:00 PM; 3- and 4-year-olds must be pre-registered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>School Assembly. 2:30-3:00. Hosted by all the Ricks Teachers. All classes will introduce themselves in a creative way.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Back to School Night, 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Crimson Classic</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Gala</td>
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</tbody>
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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
Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity

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