Thank you, RCA!
A warm thank you to the RCA, and to Anita Chhabra in particular, for running an incredible Ricknic last night. It was fun seeing old friends, connecting with new friends, and meeting the teachers. What a great way to kick off the school year!

We look forward to hearing the school bell ring on Wednesday as all of the students join us for another vibrant year of learning!

Crimson Classic – 2:00 Dismissal for all Students
We have a new date for this year’s Crimson Classic: Wednesday, Sept. 20 (3 p.m. walk/run start)! As you might have noticed, the original date of Sept. 21 is the first day of the Jewish high holiday of Rosh Hashanah; given our commitment to being an inclusive community, we moved the date to better ensure all campus community members can participate. Due to road closures and anticipated traffic issues, Ricks will close at 2:00 pm on September 20. Extended Day care will be available at the normal after school rate.

ID Cards for Families
DU requires that everyone who regularly enters our buildings and is part of the DU community have ID cards. These can be used by families to open the door lock by holding them up to the keypad. While you need to get your ID card in Driscoll Center, you certainly do not need it for the beginning of school. Until you get your ID card, please ring the doorbell and Bernadette or Jake will be happy to let you into the building.

Buddy Families Still Needed
With the start of school right around the corner, we are thrilled to welcome many new students and families to Ricks. To help our new families, we need 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!

Extended Day and Enrichment Program
The Enrichment Catalog is now available. Please click here to view the catalog. We are still taking pre-registration for August 24th – Sept. 1st. Please fill out the form to complete your pre-registration. In addition, there are spots still available for the August 24th and 25th camp for Pre-school and Pre-Kindergarten. For August 24th click here and August 25th click here. Middle School are now open for sign up. Boys’ games and practices will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. Girls’ practices and games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In order to make things easier for the front desk, Jason and Kevin,
are sending out a Sign-up Genius link. Please sign up for each sport so we know the number. Please complete the Boys’ soccer registration on their sports page. Please complete the Girls’ Volleyball team on their sports page.

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

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 registrations please follow steps. 1. Go to [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org). 2. Click on “Registration Open”. 3. Find and select your school name in the dropdown box. 4. Complete the registration. 5. Check your email for a registration confirmation email. This means registration is complete!

**New Staff Welcome and Update**

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

**Cass Roberts, Teaching Assistant**

Cass Roberts is excited to take on this new challenge of assistant teaching at Ricks! Her focus throughout her varied endeavors has been to instill and gain knowledge through multiple methods of fun and learning. While living in Austin, Texas, Cass owned a princess tea party business where she would entertain in character for children’s birthday parties with her guitar, dances and story time. She even had the opportunity to grant a wish with one of her parties through the Make-A-Wish Foundation!

Cass completed her B.A. in Theatre from the University of Mississippi with a focus in musical theatre and creative writing. Throughout her college career, she developed a passion for learning Spanish and has travelled to Costa Rica to study at the International Language Institute, as well as Barcelona, Spain, for an internship at Collage Creative Language Center assistant teaching English to elementary age children through the mediums of theatre and art. She is thrilled that she had the opportunity to combine her loves of Spanish, children and the arts in such a culturally rich environment.

Outside of the classroom, Cass enjoys writing music, traveling, hiking, camping, making collage art and staying in touch with her friends all around the world. She loves to volunteer also. She has served as a camp counselor and guitar activity specialist at Camp Oasis, a summer camp for children who have Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis for the past three years. She also got back to her roots as a Girl Scout to act as a Daisy Scout troop leader for a semester. Cass cannot wait to grow her skills at Ricks by contributing to the learning process and collaborating with her new co-workers!

**Parent Handbook**

The Ricks Parent Handbook is available online and on our website. This has been updated for the 2017-18 academic year and is available for your reference.

**Early Childhood Update**

**Food Program Update for Preschool and Prekindergarten**

We will be serving breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack which is included in the program cost. Menus are currently being revamped by the Sodexo Chef, Mr. Brian. We will be sending full menus in a different email. Please fill out the survey about allergies and dietary restrictions so we can alert our chef of the need for allergy friendly meals.
During the week of the August 23rd we will only be serving breakfast since preschoolers and prekindergartners attend only half-days. Although students will eat a breakfast here, it is still best to have your child eat a little food before school to sustain them until they eat with their class.

Children who are in the half day program have the option of staying for lunch. Lunch is served between 11:50 am and 12:15.


Children in the half day program need to be picked up between 11:45 and 12:15, unless it is a half day for the school, in which case pick up for all EC children is 12:00.

Wholesome Food Services

Ricks Center is pleased to offer Wholesome Food Service for the 2017-2018 school year. Wholesome Food Service will provide lunches Monday through Thursday starting the first full week of school. The service offers convenient on-line ordering. The link is provided on Ren Web.

Lunch/Pizza/Milk is offered for all Kindergarten-8th grade levels. It is not available for Preschool or PreK students.

Wholesome Food Services began as a grassroots effort of parents and nutrition experts in Colorado to offer a unique school lunch program providing great lunch options for students and staff. Their mission is to provide real, fresh food choices for students and staff. We offer the highest quality food choices and provide delicious, healthy options that kids love at reasonable prices.

Wholesome Food Services Advantages:

• A large variety of delicious, healthy lunches delivered fresh to your school.
• Complete ingredient lists available – confidence in the highest quality foods.
• Choose from a wide range of lunch choices daily with over 150 selections weekly.
• Flexible ordering – orders can be placed just a week at a time, or up to two months ahead.
• Online Ordering with secure credit card processing provides a turn-key convenience parents.
• All payment processing and credit card fees included

Pizza will be offered on Fridays starting September 1st. There is a separate Fall Pizza order form on RenWeb. In the fall, Pizza Hut will be the pizza vendor. The three choices are one topping cheese, pepperoni or sausage.

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 pm. 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 her Facebook page. 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](#) and return it to [rickstshirtorders@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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))) or Book Fair Coordinator, Stephanie Peacock.

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

- Email: [communicationsrca@gmail.com](mailto: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. Please contact Leila Viss at leilaviss88@gmail.com with any 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).

Save the Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<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>Middle School Eclipse Social 10:30 AM -1:00 PM</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>EC and Primary new student assessments</td>
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<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>Full day for Middle School (grades 5-8)</td>
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<td>Half day (12:00 dismissal) for EC and Primary (Preschool – Grade 4); No PM extended day care available</td>
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<td>August 24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Morning programming for extended day care begins at 7:00 AM</td>
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<td>Half day for preschool and prekindergarten only</td>
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<td></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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<td>Extended day afternoon care available for KG – Grade 8 from 3:30-6:00 PM</td>
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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)
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 28</strong></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><strong>September 1</strong></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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<td><strong>September 7</strong></td>
<td>Back to School Night, 6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 20</strong></td>
<td>Crimson Classic, 2:00 PM dismissal, extended care available</td>
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<td><strong>November 4</strong></td>
<td>Gala</td>
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