Thank you, RCA!
A warm thank you to the RCA for the delicious lunch they provided for the staff on Tuesday, and for Marci Jenkins and Kyle Covell for organizing it as well as presenting pertinent information to everyone. We look forward to another wonderful year.

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.

ParentsWeb
Have you signed up for ParentsWeb? ParentsWeb will give you access to your students information, make sure that you get all communication from the school and to update enrollment information. We are including instructions as an attachment to this email to set up your ParentsWeb account. If you have questions, please call the front desk at 303-871-2982.

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.

**School Year Forms**
As it applies to your child, please return signed statement of health forms and most recent vaccination records. For Early Childhood students, please fill out and return the attached sunscreen permission form if you have not already done so. Please contact the front desk if you are unsure of which forms still need to be completed for your child.

**Enrichment Program**
We have opportunities for after-school enrichment for students from EC through 8th grade.

Compete in Future Problem Solving! *Play chess!* Develop a Community Problem Solving Project! *Learn coding* or Spanish or art! The Enrichment Catalog is now available. Please click [here](#) to view the catalog.

We have added a Thursday morning violin class from 7:30 am to 8:20 am especially for our students in 5th-8th grade. Please email Kersit McGee at [kersitmcgee@gmail.com](mailto:kersitmcgee@gmail.com) for additional information.

**Extended Day Program**
We are taking registration for Sept. 4th – 15th. We have added an option for parents who anticipate needing extended day for the entire year. If you check this box, you will not be required to fill out the registration forms unless you have schedule changes. Preregistering does not commit you to the dates; you will be billed only for days you actually use. Please fill out this form to complete your registration.

**Middle School Sports**
Middle School Sports 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 track attendance and participation, 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.
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 Week in the Classrooms**

**EC**
What a great first few days of school it has been for our early childhood program! Preschool and prekindergarten will meet their Connections teachers (art, music, PE, and Spanish) starting on Monday. Students in the early childhood

*Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity*
classrooms have been learning routines and classroom rules as well as getting to know their teachers and classmates. Over the next few weeks, the classrooms will continue to work on community building and learning more about each other.

Kindergarten
As parents visited their children's classes, they left a word for their child. This week, the kindergarten students painted wishing rocks, using their word as well as their own wishes for the year. They also created self-portraits. It will be wonderful to look back at these in May. Kindergartners also enjoyed meeting their Connections teachers (art, music, PE, and Spanish) this week.

1st / 2nd
The theme for the year is SYSTEMS, and this week the 1st / 2nd grade classes started discussion around Systems. After talking together, the students collaborated to build models of a variety of systems, including hotels, aquariums, and simple machines. Of course, they have also been working on their classroom systems throughout this first week.

3rd / 4th
Establishing their connection to DU, the 3rd/4th grade classes toured the campus on Thursday. One of the highlights was a guided tour of the new Engineering/Tech building. The classes saw the new Games Lab and Cybersecurity Lab as well as the dome on the top floor. They also received an invitation to stop back in April to play the games that DU undergrads will create as projects this year. Another highlight was viewing the empty swimming pool at Ritchie Center; it is fascinating but much less tempting without water!

### Middle School

The theme for Middle School is Dignity, and the students started out the year doing work based on the work of Dr. Donna Hicks from the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Cross-grade groups explored the essential elements of dignity – what we extend to others and would like for ourselves. Work on this will continue in individual classes as well as during regular middle school group meetings.

In the classrooms today we saw 5th graders using microscopes in science, 6th graders learning about Ms. Van Ooyik through a Kahoots! Class quiz, 7th graders free writing with a picture prompt in Language Arts, and 8th graders thinking about questions to ask a Holocaust survivor in anticipation of an interview and their trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC in the spring.

### Early Childhood Update

**Half day preschool and prekindergarten**

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

### 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.

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.

**Creative Recycling Center**

The creative recycling center has a new home in the Innovation Lab! There is a shelf in the lab where specific recycling materials are being collected for students to use their creativity to create, build, and construct treasure out of trash. We are building these shelves from scratch, so the more materials you have to donate, the better! Feel free to drop the following **washed and cleaned** items off by the Innovation Lab:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood scraps</th>
<th>Tissue boxes</th>
<th>Tin cans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egg cartons</td>
<td>Fabric and felt</td>
<td>Metal hangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle caps</td>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Plastic soda bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper towel and toilet paper rolls</td>
<td>Washed plastic containers (yogurt, cheese, etc.)</td>
<td>Small corrugated cardboard boxes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Library updates**

We are thrilled to have our libraries starting to take shape, thanks particularly to Carrie Watts, Parent Library Coordinator, and Scott Wiebensohn who worked all summer long. We received a gift of many books from the now-closed Beacon Country Day and are looking forward to our new furniture and shelves arriving later this fall.
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 two 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.

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.

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 the time has been extended, fill out the preorder form and return it to rickstshirtorders@gmail.com by September 5th.
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...

September Meeting

- Our next RCA Meeting on September 15th will serve as our Room Parent Coordinator Kick-off.
- We ask all Room Parent Coordinators (thank you again for volunteering) to plan to attend and any others are welcome.
- We start with an update from Admin, then jump right into our primary and secondary topics for the meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help with our school library! If you are interested in either one-time or an ongoing scheduled opportunity, please contact our Parent Library Coordinator, Carrie Watts – carrie@fivewatts.com or Anne Wolf anne.wolf@du.edu.
- If you are interested in being a Room Parent Coordinator for 1st/2nd Gold and 8th grade, please contact Ted Brooks - edward.brooks@du.edu.
- We will hold a Scholastic Book Fair during Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, November 7 – 10. If you are interested in helping, please reach out Stephanie Peacock – peacockbrd@yahoo.com.
- Help plan Ricks' Gala! Please contact RCA communicationsrca@gmail.com or Anita Chhabra anitadmeh@gmail.com. We’d love help with sponsorships, auction items and general event planning!

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. Please contact Leila Viss - 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promo Code: RICKS</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>School Assembly. 2:30-3:00. Hosted by all the Ricks Teachers. All classes will introduce themselves in a creative way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Grade 8 Parent Information Night Spring 2018 about the Washington Trip. 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm MS Commons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Back to School Night, 6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>RCA Meeting/Room Parent Coordinator Kick-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Crimson Classic, 2:00 PM dismissal, extended care available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Gala</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>