Technology Specialist

Ricks Center would like to welcome and introduce the community to Yangoubo Liu, our newly hired Technology Specialist. “Oubo” recently graduated from CU with Masters degrees in both Finance and Electrical & Electronic Engineering, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Risk Management. He worked for the past two years in the CU IT Department, and previously held a position in Computer Engineering in Beijing. We are thrilled to add Oubo to the Ricks team!

Differentiation and Learning Goals

The faculty have used the month's professional development "late start" Wednesdays to build alignment in our approach to differentiating instruction. In his book, Visible Learning, John Hattie has run a meta-analysis of studies across the field of education. Specific impactful practices that lead directly to increased student learning are to be explicit with students as to each lesson's learning intentions and to adapt the learning intentions or activities to reflect the varied levels of students in the group. Towards those ends, we viewed a Carol Ann Tomlinson video and did some group work sharing plans for upcoming lessons. Teachers paired up with someone from a different team and will spend time in each others’ classrooms in the next week in order to give one another feedback on how differentiation is manifested around the school. Additionally, teachers are working toward being explicit with students in stating the learning goal for each activity, and recording this for the students’ reference during work times. The teachers are very engaged in aligning our approaches in these areas.

Ricks Community Association (RCA) Update

- Make it Great For Our Kids! - Get Involved! - Participate! - Donate! -

A BIG thank you to Rebecca Berg for the countless hours and effort she put into the RCA. Our community has greatly benefitted from her leadership. The RCA is grateful to her for leading and transitioning us into the new academic year!

The RCA is always looking for volunteers to support our efforts whenever and wherever we can get you! So, let us know if you would like to get involved. Please email us at communicationsrca@gmail.com.

Here’s what the Ricks Community Association (RCA) has been up to thus far...

- Putting on and setting up for community building events:
  - New EC Family Summer Playdate at Observatory Park
  - Ricknic
  - First Day(s) of School coffee & pastries

"Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity"

Ricks Center Website

Ricks Center for Gifted Children
University of Denver
2040 South York Street map
Denver, CO 80208

Phone: 303-871-2982

RenWeb
District Code: RC-CO (parent access only)
• Set-up of new table and chairs in common area behind Bobbie’s desk
• New Family and EC Family Breakfast
• Crimson Classic 5K
• Classroom Coordinators
• Ricks’ Night at DU Men’s Soccer Game

-Supporting faculty and staff behind the scenes:
• Cleaning out the RCA Shed to allow better access to inventory
• Setting up for, and cleaning up after, the Strategic Plan workshop
• School pictures
• Helping families register for the classroom fundraising programs (aka Scrip)

-Supporting faculty and staff financially through mini-grants:
• Bought Spanish books
• Sending six teachers to CAGT Conference - Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented - in October
• Sending one teacher to CMEA music conference in the winter
• Purchased photo frames for Jason
• Purchased special math equipment for Upper School
• Paid fees for special speakers for Amy/Gay/Kim
• Purchased novels for grades 5-8
• Sending one teacher to the American Association of Teaching and Curriculum Conference

-Planning for Upcoming Events:
• Room Coordinators meeting - Prep for October conferences (10/6)
• Ricks’ Day at DU Women’s Soccer (10/9)
• Ice Skating Kid Social (10/24)
• Room Coordinators Organizing Teacher Luncheon during conferences (10/20-10/21)
• Ricks’ Night at DU Women’s Volleyball (11/4)
• Ricks’ Gala (11/11)

Math Pre-Assessment Results
These were shared via email today for students in grades 1-5. Please contact Anne Wolf (Anne.Wolf@du.edu) if you did not receive the email. Middle School students were grouped at the start of the year based on pre-assessments. Please contact Linda Kahananui (Linda.Kahananui@du.edu) with any questions. Kindergarten assessment results will be shared next week.
Ricks Sports
To see some of the action shots from Mr. Jason, please visit the Shutterfly he created! Right now there are pictures of the boys soccer, girls volleyball, Crimson Classic, and Ricks kids with the DU soccer girls. If you have any pictures you would like to share of sporting events please share them on this site!

Parent Expertise Survey
We are creating a database of parent expertise so that when teachers need experts to supplement their curriculum we can reach out to our Ricks families. If you have an area of expertise that you would be willing to share, please complete this survey. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJPJ8NT

Early Childhood Parent Education – Monday 9/26
This year Ricks will begin using the Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) assessment and progress monitoring tool, which is designed for use with children from birth through Kindergarten. Also, in accordance with best practice children in the early childhood program will receive the ASQ, a developmental screening. Please join us on Monday, September 26 at 8:45 am to learn more about TSG and the ASQ. Please RSVP to attend.

AdvancED Accreditation
This year, we will be participating in the re-accreditation process for AdvancED. To find out more information about this process click here.

Save the Date
Parent -Teacher Conferences, Oct 20 and 21 (No school for students)
Teacher Professional Development Day - Oct 24 (No school for students)
Parent Workshop: NAEYC and the Importance of Play, Nov 3, 8:45-9:45am
RCA Gala, Nov 11
Parent Workshop: Bullying Prevention - Oct 6, 5:30-6:30pm (Please note the date change)
Parent Workshop: Gifted Education with Norma Hafenstein, Nov 17, 8:45-9:45 am
Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 21-24 (No school)
Grandparents and Special Persons Day, Nov 28, 9:00-11:00
Parent Workshop: Reflection on Ricks’ school mission - Dec 15 8:45-9:45am