Ricks Newsletter

Friday, September 30, 2016

Facilities and Office Manager

Ricks Center would like to welcome and introduce the community to our new Facilities and Office Manager, Alaina Archuleta. A graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, Alaina has spent her career working for non-profit agencies, mainly those devoted to Native American causes. In her last position at American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), she was the Business and Program Development Manager. In this role, she worked alongside the Director of Business and Program Development, assisting with the needs of AISES’ partners. Alaina also helped the Director manage a wide variety of STEM outreach programs within tribal communities.

Alaina brings a wealth of talent and experience to the Ricks Center. She has worked for First Nations Development Institute, the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, the National Indian Education Association, the National Indian Gaming Association, the American Indian College Fund, and other well-known Native American organizations.

An enrolled member of the Kaibab Paiute Indian Tribe, Alaina is also of Spanish descent. She has been honored for her hard work and dedication with many awards, including Special Recognition Award, Women’s Cultural Center and Special Recognition Award, Women of Color. With the exception of a short stint in Washington, D.C., Alaina has always felt fortunate to work in her home state of Colorado.

Alaina enjoys fishing, riding with her husband on their Harley Davidson, cooking/baking, and she is a super fan of her beloved Denver Broncos!

Parent Workshop – Bullying Prevention

Please join Dr. Karin and Ms. Krista on Thursday, October 13th, 8:45-9:45 (please note the date change) to discuss myths about bullying, conflict vs. bullying behavior, and ways to keep our students safe. The conversation will be relevant for parents of students of all ages. We look forward to seeing you then!

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Kids Adventures

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place:

**Wednesday, October 19 from 4:00-7:00 PM**

**Thursday, October 20 from 8:00 AM – 6:30 PM**

A sign-up form will be sent to families early next week. We encourage parents whose children are receiving support from our Student Support Team contact the teachers to find a mutual time when all of the teachers can be present in the meeting.
To accommodate for the late conferences on **Wednesday, October 19, Kids Adventures will stay open until 7:15pm**. For students who are registered, this extension will be free of charge. As a reminder, **Kids Adventures will be closed on Thursday, October 20 and Friday, October 21**. DU School Days Off will be offered on those days for Ricks' students. The link to register is [http://ritchecenter.du.edu/youth/school-days-off](http://ritchecenter.du.edu/youth/school-days-off). Make sure to indicate Ricks at registration in order to get a 10% discount. They need at least 15-20 students to run these days.

**Additions to Parent Handbook**

Our School Psychologist Team has created the following documents, in case they are needed: Self Injury Process, Suicide Risk Review. An overview of these has been added to the Parent Handbook.

We have also outlined a protocol for animals on campus, which can now be found in the handbook. For quick reference, the protocol reads as such:

**Animals on Campus**

*Ricks Center keeps the health and safety of all students at the forefront of its decision making. We discourage parents from bringing dogs to the student pick up and drop off in order to support all children in a safe and healthy environment. If you must bring your dog, you are asked to have the dog in the car as you pull through the circle drive. If you come by foot, please wait on either the north side of the parking garage entrance, or along the fence to the south of the law school in order to leave a clear path to access the parking garage.*

*Class pets will be allowed on a case by case basis, depending on the needs of the students using the room where the animal is kept, as well as on information about the suitability of that type of animal around children. Administration will determine if it is safe and healthy to keep animals in the classroom as part of our learning experience. We will follow all childcare facility licensing requirements. All other animals are not allowed on the school grounds, including the school building and outside play areas.*

*We will follow Denver County and DU protocols for service animals.*

**Math Update**

The mathematics material for K-5 have been ordered from Math Learning Center. The Bridges to Mathematics curriculum should arrive in early October and full-day teacher training occur shortly thereafter. For more information: [http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/bridges](http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/bridges)

**Early Childhood Parent Education**

Thank you for your attendance and participation at our Early Childhood Parent Workshop yesterday. We wanted to follow up with the Ages and Stages Questionnaires which we introduced.

In accordance with best practices in early childhood education, we are asking parents to complete two screeners for their child. Please complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) for your child; some kindergarten children will not be eligible for this screener based on their date of birth. In addition,
Please complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional (ASQ: SE). These screeners evaluate children’s language, fine and gross motor, cognitive and social emotional skills. These links will also be on our website under the "My Ricks" tab.

Help Wanted

Krista Klabo, our School Psychology Intern, is in need of plastic Vox water bottles. She would like to use the water bottles to create calming bottles for classrooms. Your kids have probably seen these bottles and can tell you more about their use. If you have any extra bottles, please drop them at the front desk or bring them directly to Krista. Thank you!

Save the Date

Parent Workshop: Bullying Prevention - **Oct 13, 8:45-9:45 am**

Ricks Day at Women’s Soccer-Oct 9 12pm

Parent conferences will be run Oct 19 (4:00-7:00 PM) and Oct 20 (8:00 AM - 6:30 PM)

No school for students - Oct 20 and 21

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 4

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