

# THE RICKS RUNDOWN

Ricks Center for Gifted Children | November/December 2019

## Middle School Electives

by Conrad D-B.

There are many different electives to choose from, taught by the core-class teachers and the connections teachers. Each teacher decides what they are interested in teaching, and present about it at the beginning of each trimester. Students then decide which one is right for them, considering their personal likes and interests.



The musical has chosen *Beauty and the Beast* as the play for students to perform this year, starring Alessa K. as Belle and Owen N. as the Beast. Creative Writing/Journalism is working hard on independent projects, on a school newspaper (*you might know something about this...*), and on interactive fiction. In the Innovation Lab, students have been recording podcasts, burning wood, designing costumes, 3D printing, and 3D scanning to make a human chess board.

In the past, teachers offered Music in Our World, Structural Engineering, Mock Trial, Yoga, Basketball, Calligraphy, National History Day, Science Fiction, Intro to Gender Studies, and many more. In the future, Creative Writing/Journalism, the Innovation Lab, and the musical all hope to continue. Students report that electives are extremely fun and creative, and help us grow as learners and people.

## A Putt-Putt Course for Ricks

by Daniel V.

A brand-new activity is coming soon to the playground at Ricks! Hopefully this year, the third and fourth grade math class will have finished this fun, new playground pastime.

If you are looking for this event, it will soon be by the picnic tables and behind the swings. You are guaranteed to have a great time with this mini golf course!

There was a lot of reasoning behind the putt-putt course. It all started when Mr. Craig was teaching the third and fourth grade math class and decided they needed to find a new way to learn fractions.

Then Mr. Craig thought and realized that he could teach the third and fourth graders the concept of fractions by having them design and build a new activity.



(continued on page 2)

## Mr. Steve Says Goodbye

by Emily F.

Mr. Steve, middle school Social Studies teacher, recently moved to Georgia because of family obligations the weekend before Thanksgiving break.

When it was announced in late October students were deeply sad and put together cards, parties, and presents for his going away. "It's hard to imagine Mr. Smith leaving, as he was such an excellent teacher and role model for me," says Noah E., who created Mr. Steve's going away card and website:

<https://tinyurl.com/ricksmrsteve>

On Mr. Steve's last day, the 6th grade threw a party with a massive chocolate cake. Jolly Rancher(o)s were handed out to students and cards were given out.

Mr. Steve let students spend time in his classroom an hour before school was over. Students sobbed as they said their final goodbyes:.

- ✦ "Thank you for being the best Social Studies teacher." (Taylor W.)
- ✦ "You brought music into my world." (Daniel V.)
- ✦ "Mr. Steve, you are the best." (Chloe L.)

## The Halloween Social

by Noah F.

Mr. Steve, sporting a brand-new banana costume, strut out of the social room to the delicious array of sweet and savory snacks and the brand-new dazzling Photo Booth, while aliens, zombies, phantoms, and other assorted beings bobbed their heads to the music. This year's Halloween social was better than ever, thanks to the brand-new student council. But why? Many say that it was due to the brand new addition, a photo booth full with effects, while others answer that it was the awesome DJ, Mr. Alan, who is also Ricks' middle school Latin teacher.



Claire A., the Social Officer for Student Council, said, "I think one of the things was for sure that made it better that most of the other socials was the brand new photo booth. That was for sure an awesome addition. Mr. Alan was also an absolutely exceptional DJ." The middle school hosts one social each trimester; the Valentine's Day Social, will take place in early February.

# Putt-Putt Course

(continued)

Over lunch that day, he asked kids what they would want to install in their playground and many would want to install in their playground and many of them wanted a putt-putt course.

The goal is for the putt-putt course to be open by March 1st of 2020. If not, the putt-putt course will hopefully open sometime soon after that. It will be open to any student at Ricks and will be made by the school entirely. Once it is open, there will be a putt-putt night, so feel free to come down and play some mini golf!

The school will provide putters, but you are free to bring your own. Only four people will be able to use a hole at a time, so if you are not a fan of lines, beware. The putt-putt course will not be used in the snow or rain for safety reasons.



This is not the first time designing part of a playground for some of the third/fourth grade math class; some of them assisted in the somewhat recent remodeling of the early childhood playground. Thanks to Mr. Craig for this interview, and for doing such a wonderful job teaching the math class.

# Pet Spotlight: Cecilia

by Emily F.

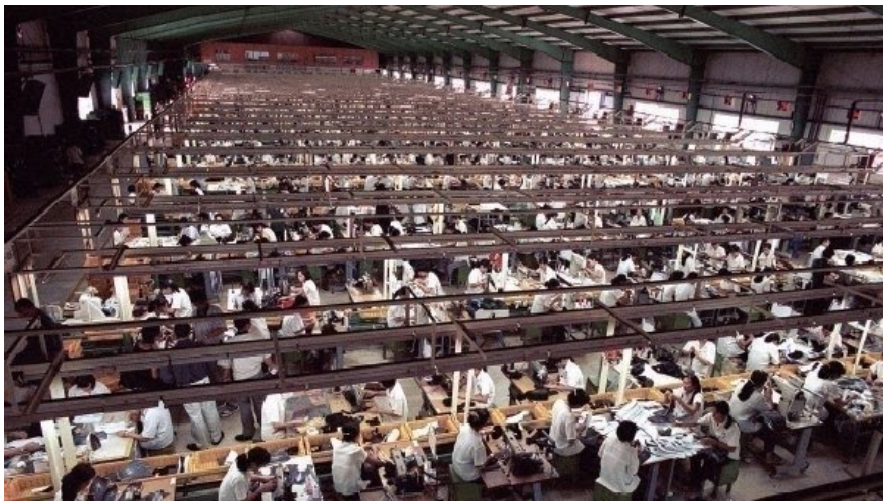
In this issue's pet spotlight we have: Cecilia! She lives with her wonderful parents, Noah and Emily F. She loves to eat, sleep on her mommy's bed, play,



and drink out of the bathroom sink. Her full name is Cecilia Corneous Daria, but her parents call her: Lil Bub, Bubface, Floof, Muffin (Top), Fuzzy, Cece, and many more but we don't want to waste too much paper. Maybe next issue your ADORABLE pet can be the spotlight! Send a floofy image of your pet and a bio to Ms. Aleah (aleah.dacey@du.edu).

# Slavery Still Exists

by Noah F.



In the United States, we act like the world is almost flawless. We believe that slavery and child labor are far behind us. Very few people realize that modern-day slaves make almost everything we own.

Over two-hundred and fifty million people are stuck in slavery at this moment, and that is more than all the slaves in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade multiplied by two.

These brutal facilities violate called sweatshops human rights and demonstrate cruelty to our fellow humans. So why do sweatshops exist, and why haven't we outlawed them?

Foxconn, Apple's primary manufacturer, is famous for their inhumane working facilities. They have over 450,000 employees in China, almost all who are forced to work 100+ hours a week, for under ten dollars in pay. That's living on three quarters a day!

Foxconn is also famous from their constructions of suicide nets around their massive campuses. Life there is so brutal and unstable that eventually workers feel no hope and try to end their lives by jumping off the factory roofs.

To prevent this horrible happening, Foxconn constructed nets surrounding structures to prevent the suicidal workers from falling to horrible, bloody, deaths. But instead of nets, they just could've given their workers higher pay and real housing.

In conclusion, this opinion editorial (op-ed) was written to just bring to the table how problems in our world exist and can be solved. World crises like this can be cured and fixed, but only if we try to fight the large, narcissistic corporations like Foxconn.

We need to realize that almost all our clothes are being manufactured in factories like the one pictured above and not in Happyland. Even if this is depressing, it's the complete truth.





## Ricks' Basketball Season

by Peter M.

“This season, I think we have a really good chance,” says Jason, the basketball team’s head coach. “There will be some setbacks, especially with the new young players, but I believe we have a perfect shot this season.”

As one of the new players on the boys’ basketball team, I know the importance of always practicing for the next game. The boys’ team has a 2-0-0 record now; we are doing quite well!

The team practiced a lot before their first game, in which Ricks was against the “B” team from Logan and was winning so considerably that we had to turn off the scoreboard.

Our second game was more of a challenge; the game was very close and we had a formidable opponent. We were, however, able to rally our strength and win the game.

There will inevitably be losses in this season, but Ricks will prevail! The season looks bright for us, but we have some tough games ahead and we will have to work hard to gain the championship in this extraordinary season.

## Book Review

by Conrad D-B.

Imagine walking through a library. The books, both new and old, have a distinct aroma weaving its way through the shelves. A book sticks out, clearly marked for you to find. Curious, you pull it out to investigate. The title catches your eye, written in a bold font: *Spy School*.

*Spy School*, Stuart Gibbs:

Do you ever think that you might get recruited by a spy agency? In *Spy School*, an average thirteen-year-old named Ben gets recruited by the CIA as a new student for the School of Espionage. As a spectacular mathematician, Ben is the perfect addition for calculating angles, times, and positions to assist the agents in the field. Spy school, as it is referred to by the students, pretends to be Saint Smithen’s Academy, a “nerdy” science school in Washington, D. C. He meets friends, defeats an assassin, and begins his training as a junior agent for CIA. He goes up against SPYDER, a dangerous organization committed to causing major-scale chaos and mayhem and that stops at nothing to bring in tons of money.

This book is an Edgar Allan Poe Award Nominee and the first in a still-expanding series of seven books.



# Update on the Musical

by Macy Q.

The school musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, is off to a great start. Beauty and the Beast is a thrilling tale of love, friendship, and family.

The musical elective has started learning some of the songs and dialogue. Songs include “Be Our Guest,” starring Belle and Gaston.

The wonderful director Kevin Walton is creating the blocking and parts, Carol Smith is teaching all the music, and Macy Q. is designing the choreography.

They hope you will all join our new spots in the musical, in the group numbers. This involves going to the musical elective time only one or twice a week.

*The Ricks Rundown* interviewed Sarah M., (the stage manager, to get the inside scoop. She says, “It's really interesting to see the students come together and strive towards a large accomplishment.”

This exciting production of *Beauty and the Beast* performed by the Ricks elective will premiere in the spring of 2020.



# Horoscopes

by Caroline B. and Claire A.

*Horoscopes Astrology is the study of celestial bodies (planets, stars, constellations, etc.) and their relation to the lives of people and occurrences in their lives. Based on the date you were born, your daily life and personality will be affected. There are twelve different constellations that rule the sky, and currently, Uranus is in Taurus and Jupiter is in Sagittarius. This means that it will be an exciting year! And due to 2019 being a number 3 year, it is a great social year for everyone, and you should expect the unexpected!*

## Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Your future is incredibly important during this month. You need to be aggressive and work hard towards your goals!

## Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Caring for yourself and school will dominate over family this month, and there may not be bright financial prospects.

## Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Your success will be partially thanks to the help of friends and family. You can also expect something exciting in school!

## Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Things may be a bit confusing this month. You will probably end up doing a lot for others, so be sure to spend some time on yourself. Finances and school may prove difficult, but nothing a bit of hard work won't fix!

## Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Your life will be filled with social activities and energy this month! Family and friends will be the main focus and bonds between you and your family will be strengthened.

## Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You're going to be very busy this month. Good time management and planning will be key to keep your schedule under control.

## Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Friends and family will be especially supportive this month as big and exciting opportunities appear in school.

## Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

This month you will be very independent this month. A ton of fun and excitement is about to head your way. You will also prosper financially.

## Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Due to how responsible you are, your perseverance and hard work you should expect many doors becoming open to you. Also, look for out for amazing travels!

## Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

You will probably make a new friend this month, how exciting! You will also find yourself spending money on personal luxuries.

## Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

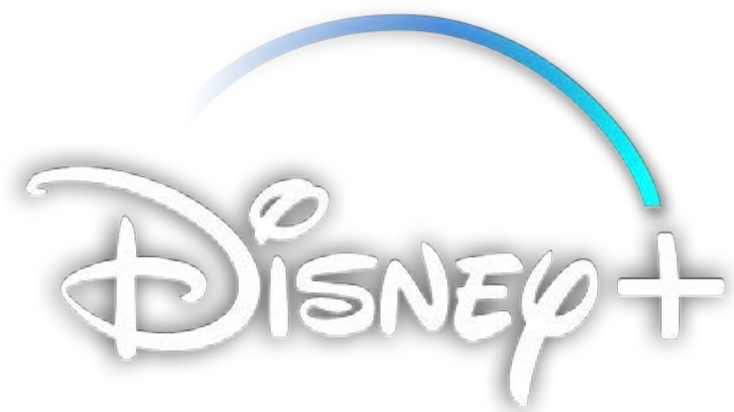
Friendships will flourish this month and grow immensely. You can also look out for an exciting trip somewhere in the country.

## Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Your family will help you succeed in school this month, don't be afraid to ask for help! You and your friends will get along very well this month.

# What is Disney+?

by Francesca F.



Watch out, Netflix and Hulu! Disney+, a new streaming service released November 12th, 2019, has become a new television sensation. With over 28 million subscribers to this new streaming service, Disney+ is banging straight into power before even reaching a year old. It has several new resources that other streaming services don't, making it extremely popular.

It provides almost all Disney movies and TV shows, giving the viewer a wide variety of programs to choose from. “Disney+ is perhaps the most high-profile example of traditional Hollywood reorienting to compete against the likes of Netflix [and Hulu] in streaming video. It's Disney's seven-dollar-a-month streaming subscription service for almost everything the entertainment giant creates,” says CNET in an article about the service.

Disney+ seems to be winning over the hearts of everyone, causing a global sensation. Although the streaming service is just beginning, Disney+ is sure to make a breakthrough as its marketing sets out further.

## The Battle for Digital Dominance: Disney+ vs. Netflix

by Ian T. and Peter M.

On November, 12th, 2019 Disney+ was released. It was a huge hit, having 10 million subscribers the next day. It has the most popular show, *The Mandalorian*.

Disney+ has every Star Wars, Pixar, Marvel, movie made. All movies are PG-13 and under. There is also no adult side so that a 3-year old can not wander into a horror movie as they can on Netflix.

The price of Disney is \$6.99 per month or \$69.99 per year, while Netflix is \$8.99 per month's basic plan. With all the movies you get you also have exclusive shorts. You have all the *Simpsons*, National Geographic, and 20th Century Fox. You will get new movies and Disney originals when they come out (not instantly but faster than you can own them).

So you get most every Disney, Pixar, Star Wars, National Geographic, and Marvel movie for less than \$70 per month which makes Disney+ better than Netflix.



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# Fall Movie Reviews

by Chloe L. and Planet G-W.

## Mean Girls

From living in Africa for 12 years of her life, teenager Cady Heron moves to a public school in Illinois. She quickly makes friends and enemies in her new school. Cady’s friends, Janice and Damian, warn her about “The Plastics,” a trio of popular girls which consisted of Gretchen Weiners, Karen Smith, and Regina George. They are shallow and superficial royalty of the Junior class. During her first lunch at the high school, the Plastics invite Cady to become a part of their group: “Having lunch with The Plastics was like leaving the actual world and entering girl world.”

Cady and her real friends decide that if Cady acts like a friend to the Plastics, then Cady can report back to Janice and Damian. After all, the Plastics are not very smart. Cady stumbles into all the drama and gossip that revolves around the plastics. While Cady is just pretending to be like the other plastics to get a laugh with Janice and Damian, is she at risk of becoming plastic herself? The movie was really funny but also relatable in some ways. We rate this movie 5/5 stars for iconic lines and memorable moments.

## Clueless

This past weekend, we were flipping through Xfinity’s free movie choices we saw Clueless. Planet had heard about *Clueless* when the 8th-grade girls tried (and failed) to do a group Halloween costume. Two hours after, we figured out why this movie is a classic.

Shallow, rich, and socially successful, Cher is very popular at Beverly Hills high school's. Seeing herself as a matchmaker, Cher coaxes two teachers into dating each other. Spurred on by her success, she decides to give the klutzy new student Tai a makeover. When Tai becomes more popular than she is, Cher realizes that her disapproving ex-stepbrother was right about how misguided she was -- and falls for him. The movie was engaging and funny. From a filmmakers standpoint, it was well shot and scripted nicely.

We rate the movie 4.5 stars because of some slow points in the beginning but other than that it is an amazing film.



*Ms. Ali, CJ, and Quinn finishing up the Ricks’ TARDIS in the Innovation Lab elective.*

# Ricks Student-Athletes

by Sarah M.

From synchronized swimming to soccer, Ricks is full of many different types of student-athletes. As an athlete, you have to make a lot of sacrifices from school and other activities. Sports take up a lot of time and most of our student-athletes have been doing them for the majority of their lives.

I have been swimming since I was two years old, including swimming competitively for the Denver Hilltoppers for seven years. I love swimming; it gives me relief from all of the stress of schoolwork, and helps me clear my mind. I love setting goals for myself and having something to work towards. I plan on swimming on my high school team, and getting better every practice.

Planet G-W., eighth grade, has been playing hockey competitively since she was four; for nine years. Her favorite part about hockey is “Getting really close with your teammates, and it becomes like a family by the end of the year.” I asked Macy Q., who has been playing basketball for ten years, and currently plays on four teams, why she plays: “I started playing because my older brother did, and I still play because of all the opportunities it gives me.” Sports can lead you down many paths, playing in high school, college, and even professionally. Chris D. said that “I plan on playing as many sports as I can in high school - like sailing, soccer, skiing, and biking - because it offers many scholarship opportunities.”

Sports take up a lot of free time, especially for students. I practice for two hours, four days a week, and I have swim meets once or twice a month. Early morning meets and practices really make me ask myself, *why am I doing this? It’s 6:00 am!* but then I get into the pool and all my tiredness and grumpiness about the early morning disappears.

Linden B., in fifth grade, travels a lot for his sport: hockey. “After December, I’m going to have three out of state tournaments Notre Dame, LA, Minnesota. My favorite part about traveling is going to see the rinks and new places.” In an interview, he was asked if traveling took away from his schoolwork. “I bring my laptop with me so I can do homework, but when I’m older my coach won’t allow me to do that,” Linden says.

A lot of Ricks student-athletes have long and frequent practices. Beau B.’s lacrosse practices are an hour and a half long and are two days a week. He said that “it does take away from my social life with my school friends, but it also gives me more time to spend with my friends on the team.” Out of school, sports give athletes a place community away from school, to create new relationships. Ava and Darya S. - who dance at Colorado Ballet - told me about what it’s like to dance with each other and be twins and students here at Ricks “It’s really fun because it’s exciting to have someone know who you are as an athlete and as a person. But it is a little challenging because when you’ve been with someone the whole day, you want some space, however, it does help us grow as sisters.”

Having someone share your passion with you, and understand what you do, can really make an impact on your relationship. Sports provide a healthy way for students to express themselves. Swimming is my passion and I know that for many of the student-athletes at Ricks, their sports are also their passions.

# Focus on Art Class: Ms. Linsey Introduces Social Justice

by Leni B.



For the first issue of the *Ricks Rundown*, Ms. Linsey was interviewed about the social justice project. She has been doing this project for a few years and wanted to give her students a voice about the issues of the world.

According to Ms. Linsey, her favorite part of the printmaking process is when you pull the print for the first time and get to see what it looks like on paper for the first time. She wanted students to see that visual arts can be

used as a voice, as well as being able to feel comfortable using printmaking materials for future art projects.



## Volleyball Season

by Leni and Caroline B.

*Red Team:*

This year the Ricks Red Volleyball Team took on some very talented opponents. We ended the season with five wins and two losses. By the end of the season, our team had really meshed together and we were hitting some incredible plays. Throughout the season we all excelled in serving, bumping, setting and even some spiking!

We were led by our awesome coaches, Mr. Jason and Mr. Kevin. This powerful team was comprised of nine amazing players who all worked as an unstoppable team. The 7th graders also doubled as incredible leaders on the White Team, having to play six whole games against every team!

*White Team:*

The white team did a great job! We ended the season with five wins and two losses. We all worked so hard this year. A huge thank you to Mr. Kevin and Mr. Jason for coaching the team. This was such a fun team to participate in and everyone was so supportive.





Comic Central

Meanwhile in the City

By Ian T.



Shmoogle & Joe

By Bodhi and Ahni L.

