

FISHER EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER



Did you see what is growing on
the preschool playground?



[Fisher Family
Handbook](#)

Message from the Interim Director

Dear Fisher Families & Staff,

The Fall Quarter has begun and we are delighted to welcome cooler weather and share in the excitement of another academic school year at DU. At Fisher, September brings new curriculum opportunities for our students and we are welcoming new and returning student employees into our classrooms.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our recent Volunteer Breakfast and Kindergarten Information Session. Don't forget to book a babysitter so you can attend Fisher's **Back to School Night** on Thursday, September 24th. Teachers will be providing information for parents about developmental expectations, curriculum, and learning objectives in each classroom. We hope you will be able to join us to learn more about how we can work together to support your child's learning in the classroom and at home this year.

We have numerous other opportunities for Fisher families to connect with each other and the DU community in next few months. Gymnastics will be starting soon, several WeRead events are planned and Picture Days are scheduled for the end of the month. We appreciate all you do to support and be involved in our school community. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your concerns, ideas or questions!

-Sharon

Save the Date

**Sun. 9/20 @
10:00am**

We Read Storytime
Grief & Loss Event

**Thurs. 9/24 @
6-7:30pm**

Back-to-School
Night

Fri. 9/25

Fisher Closed
Staff Prof Dev Day

**Tues. 9/29 to
Fri. 10/2**

Picture Days

**Fri. 10/9 @ 8:00-
9:30am**

FAB Coffee Hour

Mon. 10/12

Fisher Closed
Staff Prof Dev Day

**Mon. 10/12 @
10:00-10:45am**

WeRead Event for
Families

Fri. 10/30

12:00pm close
Halloween trick-or-
treating on campus

**Sat. Nov. 7th @
5:30pm**

Denver Zoo Lights

[2026-2027 Fisher
Calendar](#)

DU Community Connection



Fisher is partnering with the WeRead program and experts across GSPP, GSSW, University Libraries, and the broader DU community to bring families practical, research-informed strategies that strengthen connections between school and home to support children's development and caregiver well-being.

WeRead is a free, whole-child development and psychoeducation program grounded in the understanding that early literacy is strengthened when we support the whole child, including their social, emotional, language, and cognitive development, as well as caregiver well-being. These sessions are designed to translate research into practical strategies families can use in everyday routines at home, creating greater consistency across children's learning environments. Families will receive a free children's book and take-home resources related to each session's topic.



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

WEREAD

Storytime Grief and Loss Event

Join us for a free Storytime and caregiver workshop about helping children through grief, loss, and big emotions. Families will receive a free children's book and learn about local resources.

For children 0-7 and families who are experiencing grief

Older siblings welcome



DATE
Sunday, September 20



TIME
10:00 AM



LOCATION
Anderson Academic Commons, Room 290
2150 East Evans Avenue



Register Here!

Scan the QR code to reserve your spot, or [click here](#) to register online.



FREE FAMILY EVENT

HALLO-READ!

A WeRead Halloween Celebration & Magic Show



PIZZA



STORYTIME



COSTUMES (OPTIONAL)



MAGIC SHOW



FREE BOOK



Come dressed as your favorite storybook character!

Join us for a playful Halloween celebration filled with stories, imagination, and a little magic.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 12:00 - 1:30 PM



CRAIG HALL — UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
2148 S. High Street, Denver, CO 80202



FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGES 0-7
Older siblings welcome • Costumes optional



TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR A BOOK!

Every family takes home a FREE children's book!



REGISTER FREE!

Scan the QR code or click the link to reserve your spot.

[Click Here!](#)

• WEREAD • HALLOWEEN EDITION •

Upcoming Community Session Schedule

WeRead is hosting a Grief and Loss session on September 20th at 10 am. Register here:

https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_55W3VQJ9JZ9S5vg

Hallo-Read is coming October 30th at 12pm to DU! Join us for a spooktacular Halloween interactive storytime and magic show, plus learn about the important role imagination plays in children's development. Register here:

https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eLEuLycQq7G9BI

DU Community Connection



Fisher is also excited to continue our collaboration with the [Marisco Institute for Early Learning](#) at the Morgridge College of Education. The Marsico Institute for Early Learning is a research and development institute dedicated to improving learning environments and outcomes for children, birth to age eight, with a focus on early math, science, technology, engineering, and belonging. Marisco faculty and staff develop and evaluate early learning curricula and professional development interventions, particularly in the field of early STEM. They conduct research to understand children's thinking and the ways adults can provide environments and experiences to support their learning and development.

Through this collaboration, Marisco staff will provide math enrichment opportunities for preschool and PreK students at Fisher. Your child's participation in this work would be completely voluntary. Marsico Institute staff will be implementing new enrichment activities, or providing your child's teacher with activities, that afford children the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of STEM, with a focus on math.

The work will assist the Marsico Institute for Early Learning to internally evaluate our work developing and enhancing tools used by early childhood educators (birth to age 8). By translating research into practice, technical assistance and policy, we drive innovation in inclusive, play based learning across early STEM and social learning to ensure that all children can reach their full potential.

Parents who would like to have their child participate in the math enrichment opportunities provided by Marisco can sign and return the [Marisco Parental Permission Form](#).

Professional Development

A reminder that we will be closed on **September 25** for professional development. We plan to provide staff training on the RULER approach. RULER is a social-emotional learning framework developed by the [Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence](#). We will participate in training led by research faculty at the Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) and the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW), which will support teachers in using attachment theory and play as part of social-emotional learning. The faculty providing this training run the WeRead and WePlay programming.

We are also collaborating with the WeRead program to provide exclusive Fisher events for families during some of our planning days! Our first collaboration will be during our October 12th Planning Day:

WeRead for Families

October 12 at 10:00-10:45 a.m. at Fisher

Tentative topics (one will be selected...stay tuned for more info!)

- Big Breaths for Big Feelings: Supporting Your Child's Emotion Regulation
- Strengthening Our Connection: Supporting secure caregiver-child relationships
- Promoting Positive Behaviors: PCIT PRIDE skills for everyday caregiving

RSVP link and flyer coming soon!

Curriculum Update –Meaghan Burns Curriculum and Instruction Specialist

Thank you, everyone, for completing your **ASQs**! If you haven't done it yet, there is still time! Ask your teacher if you need the link again. This month, the Fisher Inclusion Team, along with the teaching teams and me, is reviewing the screeners, visiting classrooms, and connecting to identify recommendations for individual students, small groups, or classrooms. All families who completed an ASQ will receive your child's results and our recommended next steps (if any) by Sept. 25.

Over the summer, we benefited from a professional organizer who helped us sort the toys we store and rotate around the building. A generous parent donation allowed us to clean and organize our materials so teachers can rotate toys and equipment more easily to meet emerging interests in the classrooms. We have collected so many great materials over the years! This organizing event created a snowball effect of revitalizing our materials! Our next step is to partner with the Library Sciences program at Morgridge College of Education and connect with Library students to rejuvenate our library (housed in the second-floor hallway), modernize our cataloging system, and create a checkout system for teachers. We already have leads for this project!

Emergent Curriculum requires teachers to be flexible and responsive to what children are interested in in the moment, and to understand how emerging themes in children's play, questioning, and conversations can lead to a robust project that provides rich play and learning opportunities. We hope to see you at **Back to School Night** on Sept. 24 to learn how your child's classroom teachers notice emerging themes, plan and prepare to support learning through these interests, and embed play throughout. Access to a variety of open-ended materials, books, and games allows teachers to support emerging interests and engage in meaningful, child-directed play experiences.

Speaking of materials, one of my big personal projects this year is to create a **loose parts** closet. "When children interact with loose parts, they enter a world of 'what if' that promotes the type of thinking that leads to problem solving and theoretical reasoning. Loose parts enhance children's ability to think imaginatively and see solutions, and they bring a sense of adventure and excitement to children's play." (Daly, L., & Beloglovsky, M. (2015). *Loose parts: Inspiring play in young children*. Redleaf Press). Each month, we will ask parents to bring in 1-2 types of loose-part materials. Please involve your child in this collection! They should be found objects among everyday things. Drop them off in the baskets in the front hallway.

ITEMS TO COLLECT IN SEPTEMBER:

1. **Containers with lids.** (No glass, please. Recyclables like yogurt containers, cream cheese containers, interesting jars, boxes, etc. Found objects! Please do not buy anything special! All sizes welcome)
2. **Pinecones.** Please do not buy a bag of scented pinecones. Please search for some in your neighborhood, park, etc. with your child! Bring one, or a lot!





Fisher is continuing to integrate FACTS Management into our school community. We encourage you to share your feedback about what is working for you (and what isn't) so we can continue to develop ways to utilize FACTS to best support our school community.

FACTS Financial Management

Monthly tuition payments are processed by FACTS on the first of each month. If you need any assistance with your payment plan or your FACTS Financial account, please reach out to Janet Constantino (303-871-2723) or the FACTS Parent Helpline at: **866-441-4637**

<https://factsmgt.com/login/>

FACTS Childcare App

If you need any assistance with the FACTS childcare app please contact: Meaghan Burns at 303-871-7986 or Meaghan.Burns@du.edu.

99% of issues are solved by downloading the correct app.

Please check to be sure you have the correct app!

Login Reminder: District code: RC-CO



With the FACTS Childcare Parent App, you can:

- Stay connected with your child's teachers!
 - Activity updates are meals and nap for all children and diapering/ toileting information for all children who have not yet mastered potty training.
 - Classroom "dailys" are sent which include updates about the learning of the day, classroom reminders, photos, videos, and google photo link to document your child's learning journey.
 - Weekly messages are sent which include the classroom lesson plan and other curriculum or developmentally appropriate information for families.
 - Individual messages are sent as needed for family communication
- Send and receive messages and push notifications.
 - Too many notifications? In the app, Click on the three lines in the bottom right corner>Click on settings>Toggle the attendance notifications off here. This may help!

Enrollment Updates

Thank you for your help ensuring that your child's file is updated for the 2026-2027 school year! Please note that General Health Appraisals and Immunization Records requirements follow state guidelines based on age of the child and must be updated each time your child receives new immunizations or has a regularly scheduled well-child check-up.

If you would like to update your child's information on file, please reach out to our Enrollment Coordinator, Janet Constantino at (303) 871-2723. The link for Fisher forms can be found [here](#) or on the Fisher website.

Current Openings

Currently, we have a few openings in our toddler, preschool, and prekindergarten classrooms. We invite you to share our enrollment contact information with friends and neighbors who might be looking to join our early learning community! felc.enrollment@du.edu, and 303.871.2723.

2027-2028 Enrollment

Would you like a spot for your child at Fisher next year? Re-enrollment information for the 2027-2028 school year will be rolling out soon!

Health & Safety

Your child's health and safety are our top priority at Fisher. As cold and flu season begins, please let us know about any new illnesses or medical conditions your child experiences so we can work with you to meet your child's health needs and minimize the spread of contagious illnesses at Fisher.

To help us decide when a child or staff member should stay home due to illness, we follow the ["How Sick is Too Sick?"](#) guidance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Please use these guidelines to decide when to keep your child home from school and when your child can safely return to school. More information about Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings can be found [here](#).

When accepting, storing and administering medications at Fisher, we follow the [Medication Guidelines for Colorado School and Childcare Settings](#) issued by the Colorado Department of Education.

If your child rides a strider bike to school each day, please help your child learn the routine of dismounting their bike by the front desk and walking their bike down our hallways at the beginning and end of the day. Thank you!



We are currently in the process of working with Sodexo to design our new Fall/Winter menus. You can expect to see newly designed weekly menus coming out soon!

Where can I find the Fisher menus?

Weekly menus are posted in the front hallway, sent out by teachers in FACTS and can also be found [at the Family Resources tab on the Fisher website](#).

Could I join my child for lunch?

Yes, if you have the availability, you are welcome to come join your child's classroom for lunch. Please reach out to your child's teacher to confirm what time lunch is served and enjoy a special lunch date with your child!

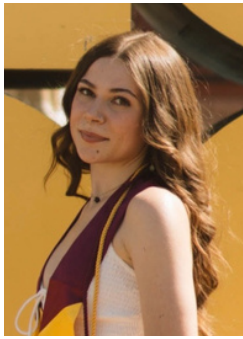
More information about the Colorado Food Program can be found [here](#).

Staffing Update

Please join us in welcoming several new student employees at Fisher! They are completing their required background checks and trainings and are excited to join our Fisher community. The support they provide to teachers and students is invaluable to our program.



FAITH HURT



BROOKE ZEILER



MAYA BALBONI



LAILA RUF



SERENA TOLL

Hooked on Fisher

Notes from Fisher Advisory Board

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Volunteer Breakfast**! Weren't able to make it? You can find the presentation [here](#). There are lots of ways to get involved and we'd love your participation!

Something special is in the works! Planning is underway for the **Fisher Gala**—an evening to celebrate our wonderful community and support the school we love; more details and ways to get involved will be shared soon!

Please keep your eyes peeled for information coming to you from your Room Parents as we help support our teachers through the beginning of the DU school year!

We're also happy to continue hosting **Coffee Hours on the second Friday of each month**. We hope you'll join us, grab a cup of coffee, and connect with other Fisher families. We look forward to seeing you!

Lindsay & Caitlin



[New Family Survey](#)

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the New Family Survey—your feedback helps us understand how we can best support and connect with our families.



[Suggestion Box](#)

A reminder, too, that our **Suggestion Box** is confidential and is always open for **questions, praise, ideas, or concerns**. The Advisory Board reviews submissions and shares them with Sharon so we can help make sure family voices are heard. And please know you can always reach out to us directly; we're happy to listen and help!

Kindergarten Information

Many Fisher families were able to attend our Kindergarten Information Session and had the opportunity to speak with Enrollment Directors from numerous Denver area schools. A special thank you to Caitlin Whitham and the Fisher Advisory Board for planning this informative evening for parents!

Additional kindergarten information packets are available in the front hallway for any parent who was unable to attend this event.

We have been in contact with DPS and look forward to planning a Webinar with them this **November**! As many of you are aware, DPS is undertaking the Redrawing Our District Equitably (RODE): School Boundary and Enrollment Zone Update initiative and will not have final information until October.

tea

SEPTEMBER 30 -
OCTOBER 10

Shop Tea Collection
at 20% off select
styles, and our
group gets 15% back.

Shop TeaCollection.com
with our unique code:

SDF26FISHER

Fall Portraits

It's that time of year again! **Fall Portraits** are coming up soon!

Life in Portraits Photography will be at Fisher on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 29
- Wednesday, September 30
- Thursday, October 1
- Friday, October 2



Classroom teachers will send out more information about your child's specific portrait date/time.

HALLOWEEN



Fisher will celebrate Halloween on Friday, October 30th.

Teachers will be providing more information about **campus trick-or-treating** with your child's class and children will be invited to wear costumes to school. Please make sure costumes are not too scary and allow for your child's comfort and ease for diaper changes or using the bathroom. **Please note that Friday, October 30th will be a half-day with dismissal at 12:00pm.** Fisher families are also invited to a special **We Read Halloween Celebration and Magic Show** (with lunch included) from 12:00-1:30pm in Craig Hall. We hope you can join us for these fun Halloween activities!

GYMNASTICS



Daniel L. Ritchie Center
for Sports & Wellness
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

DU Gymnastics is starting for Fisher students this month!

Monthly gymnastics classes for Fisher students will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at **11:00-11:45am** at the **Ritchie Center** on campus. You can expect to receive your child's class schedule for gymnastics on FACTS or email from the classroom teachers.

Can a parent come to gymnastics?

Yes, you can! Parents are welcome to join their child's class for gymnastics. Please reach out to your child's teacher to coordinate whether or not you would like to walk across campus with the class or just meet them at the Ritchie center.





WEREAD STORYTIMEGRIEFANDLOSS EVENT

JOIN US FOR A FREE STORYTIME AND CAREGIVER WORKSHOP ABOUT HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH GRIEF, LOSS, AND BIG EMOTIONS. FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE A FREE CHILDREN'S BOOK AND LEARN ABOUT LOCAL RESOURCES.

FOR CHILDREN 0-7 AND FAMILIES WHO ARE EXPERIENCING GRIEF

OLDER SIBLINGS WELCOME

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
10:00 AM

ANDERSON ACADEMIC COMMONS ROOM 290
2150 EAST EVANS AVENUE

REGISTER
HERE!



OR CLICK
ME!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24,
6:00 - 7:30 PM

MEET. MINGLE. GET THE SCOOP.



Come chat with teachers and
get a peek at all the learning and
play ahead this year.

Light snacks, treats, and
refreshments will be served.

GROWN UPS ONLY

EXTEND THE SITTER.
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT.

AFTER BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT MEET UP:
ILLEGAL PETE'S
(ACROSS THE STREET)