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By Alli Langley alangley@summitdaily.com

## Breckenridge educator named among Colorado Teacher of the Year finalists

Breckenridge Elementary School teacher Colby Ricci was recently named among three finalists for the 2016 Colorado Teacher of the Year

According to the Colorado Department of Education announcement, she developed her love of teaching from a family of educators, and she struggled with academics as a student, which inspired her to go into teaching.

She recently was named the District Teacher of the Year for Summit School District, and she works with struggling readers and second-language students as Breckenridge Elementary's literacy resource and English language development teacher.

The other two finalists teach in the Jefferson County Public School and the Roaring Fork School District.

The teacher of the year will be announced in late October and is chosen by a committee composed of a variety of individuals from the education community. The recipient becomes the Colorado nominee for National Teacher of

the Year honors and serves as a teaching ambassador to communities and organizations around the state and nation.

The selection **EDUCATION** process includes a written application, recommendation letters, site visits, district endorsements and personal interviews. Nominees are judged on their ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities and are expected to play an active role in the community and to have earned the respect and admiration of students, parents and

For more information, visit www.cde.state.co.us/ cdeawards/trtoyinf.

colleagues.

## Peak School receives accreditation

The Peak School on June 30 received the official seal of approval from AdvancEd, the international accrediting organization that visited Peak for two days in late April.

The school is the only private option for middle and high school students in Summit County.

The accreditor's observations and evaluation of school policies and procedures are meant to ensure both financial viability and high quality

of education.

Accreditation is a significant achievement for any school, and the Frisco

school's staff, students and families are proud that the school earned accreditation before its fourth year and much faster than other fledgling

private schools.

Head of School Steve Coleman wrote, in a letter to parents, "It is a tribute to the planning that went into creating Peak, the hard work and dedication of all staff from the first year onward, the stewardship demonstrated by the board of trustees, the involvement and extraordinary contributions of the parent community and the motivation and dedication to learning of our students."

Official accreditation will help the school attract international students, allows for access to some grants and suggests to colleges and universities that Peak graduates will be well prepared for post-secondary education.

Accreditation is issued in five year increments and the school will undergo a continuous improvement process outlined by AdvancEd.

The progressive school started its fall semester one week after Summit's public schools with a camping orientation trip with all

students and staff. Students will return to class on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

 $Send\ local\ education\ news$ to reporter Alli Langley at alangley@summitdaily.

## **THIS WEEK IN SUMMIT SCHOOLS**

Monday, Sept. 7 No school, Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 8 Central Admin. Office, **Board of Education** Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Summit High School, PTSO, 7:30 a.m. The Peak School, students return to class for the year

Wednesday, Sept. 9 Summit High School, SCEA, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 Summit High School, Men's Golf at Keystone. 10 a.m. Summit High School, Men's Soccer vs. Valor Christian, 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 11 Summit Middle School, Football vs. LCMS, 9 a.m. Summit Middle School, Volleyball, vs. Classical Academy, 11 a.m.



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