

Summit News



Summit Calendar

Volume 33, Issue 3

February 3, 2012

February

February 8	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
February 13	Late Start, class begins at 9:00 am (Collaboration Time)
February 16	Parent/Teacher Conferences, I-Z, 1:30—6:00 pm
February 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences, A-H, 1:30 pm—5:00 pm
February 20	President's Day, no school
February 21	Summit is in Session!
February 22	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
February 27	Late Start, class begins at 9:00 am (Collaboration Time)

March

March 6	TCAP testing, 10:00 am
March 7	TCAP testing, 10:00 am Strategic Steering Committee, 5:00 pm Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
March 8	TCAP testing, 10:00 am
March 9	1/2 day-Prof. Development meetings, school ends 12:15 pm TCAP make-ups, 8:00 am
March 10	Boulder County Regional History Day
March 12	Late Start (Collaboration time) - 9:00 am TCAP make-ups, 9:00 am
March 13	TCAP testing, 10:00 am
March 14	TCAP testing, 10:00 am Annual Community Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
March 15	TCAP testing—Gr 8 science, 8:00 am New Student Registration Night, 6:30 pm
March 20	Third quarter ends
March 21	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
March 26-30	Spring Break—no school

Inside this issue:

<i>TCAP testing</i>	2
<i>BVSD Snapshot Survey</i>	2
<i>Silver Rain Auditions</i>	3
<i>NCAR Prescribed Burn</i>	3
<i>Teacher Name Change</i>	4
<i>NJHS News</i>	4
<i>Mornings</i>	4
<i>Impact on Education</i>	5
<i>Parent Engagement Network</i>	6

Save the dates - TCAP tests are one month away!

Save the dates--TCAP tests are one month away!

Please note the name of the **Colorado State Assessment Program** has changed from **CSAP** to **TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program)**. However the test framework has **not changed at all** and is not anticipated to change until at least 2014. The name change to TCAP supports the statewide transition to the new **Colorado Academic Standards** during the development of the expected new assessment.

Summit Curriculum Standards in our core subjects are more rigorous and well developed than both the old and new state standards. However, just like other public schools we are embarking on a multi-year process to ensure our Curriculum Standards align with the new **Colorado Academic Standards**, particularly in relation to the likely changes to the state test in the future.

You know that TCAP tests provide important information to our school and the greater community about student achievement and the strength of Summit's program. Moreover, these tests are required by law. What you might not know is that during some testing windows in the past, **up to 100 "missed sessions" due to absences** have had to be made up in the week following the scheduled sessions. Due to the short deadline set by the state, students **must be removed from their scheduled classes** to participate in TCAP make-ups. These additional absences not only affect individual students' learning but may also disrupt the classes they leave. As a result, TCAP testing has in some years had an impact on the curriculum that lasted almost a month.

For these reasons, we ask our Summit families to **do all you can to avoid unnecessary absences (dental appointments, trips, etc.) during the testing days and times**. This year all TCAP tests will be given between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on **March 6, 7, 8, 13, and 14. Grade 8 Science will be administered at 8 a.m. on March 15**. As an extra incentive for good attendance, Summit will hold a gift card raffle the week before spring break, which will be open to students with excellent attendance during TCAP. More details and reminders on TCAP testing will follow by email and by Summit News!

Sincerely,

Adam Galvin, Assistant Principal

BVSD Parent Snapshot Surveys coming in February (online) and March (mailed)

BVSD surveys students, parents and staff each year in order to gather information that can be used to guide efforts to improve schools. The survey of parents is called the "Parent Snapshot Survey" and parents will be receiving it in the next few weeks. We hope all parents and guardians will take a moment to complete and return this survey. The more parents who participate, the more accurately the survey data will reflect parents' perceptions and opinions. The survey results are reviewed by school staff to determine what programs and processes are working and which ones need improvement. Consequently, the survey results can have a significant impact on school operations.

The Parent Snapshot Survey will be administered online for all parents who have provided an email address to their student's school and who receive all communication in English. This supports a greener and more cost effective process by reducing the amount of paper used, mailing cost, and data entry required. We also hope this will increase the parent participation rate. Online surveys will be sent by email the week of February 6th to only **one** email address per household. If you don't see an invitation in your "inbox," please check other email addresses you have given the school.

If there is not an email address associated to your household, or if your primary language is Spanish, you will receive a survey via U.S. postal service consistent with last year. Paper surveys will be mailed at the beginning of March.

Because the same survey has been given for several years, school staff and School Accountability Committees are able to study trends and patterns in responses. All of this information helps schools serve you in the best way possible.

Silver Rain Auditions!

Any Summit student can enroll in a choir class next year WITHOUT an audition. Just sign up for "choir" on your course registration for next year. The "Limelight" choir is a fun, talented group of students who sing a variety of great music and learn lots of useful musical skills. However, if you'd like to be considered for our advanced group, Silver Rain, you will need to audition with Mrs. Ray before the end of February. Students who are already in choir this year will automatically do individual, private auditions in class and will not have to do anything further to audition.

The audition will consist of the following: 1) Mrs. Ray will lead a brief vocal warm-up so you can relax and warm up your voice, and Mrs. Ray can get an idea of your range. 2) You will sing 30 to 60 seconds of a song you feel is flattering to your voice. It is preferred that you bring sheet music so Mrs. Ray can play and/or follow along. 3) You will clap a short rhythmic sight-reading piece provided by Mrs. Ray. 4) You will sing a short melodic sight-reading piece provided by Mrs. Ray. (This does not have to be performed on solfeggio {"do, re, mi..."} only use solfeg if it will help you.) 5) You will sing a short classic round of your choosing with Mrs. Ray (such as Row, Row, Row, Your Boat, Three Blind Mice, or Frere Jacques.) This is to see if you can hold a vocal part independently without going off pitch.

If you have not yet developed the skills to sing in Silver Rain next year (such as rhythmic and melodic sight reading, vocal independence, and advanced vocal technique,) you will stand a much better chance of learning those skills for next time if you sing in the entry-level choir, Limelight, for a year or two. We work on these skills each and every day in class using a variety of popular and classical vocal literature.

If you will be a new student at Summit next year, you can schedule a Silver Rain audition after school on Wednesday, February 22 or Thursday, February 28 by calling the main office. If you are currently at Summit but are not in a choir class, you will need to arrange an audition time with Mrs. Ray directly. The best times for this are during 5th period on A days, 7th period A or B, or after school, or during lunch time. Email is the best mode of communication to arrange this (tina.dozauer@bvsd.org.) Again, if you are currently in choir, your audition will automatically take place during class time.

Please arrange your audition ASAP so we can have it completed by the end of February. This kind of personal responsibility is another trait we expect of singers in Silver Rain.

Thanks, and good luck!



Spring NCAR Prescribed Burn

The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) which manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) for the National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced their intention to conduct a prescribed burn of the NCAR site as part of their Wildfire Mitigation Plan. It will be scheduled for some time this spring between March 1, 2012 and April 30, 2012. UCAR and its consultant, Anchor Point, are working closely with Boulder County, the City of Boulder, the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) and the media to inform the public of their plans. As part of UCAR's efforts to present and discuss their plan as well as to answer community questions, they have hosted two community meetings.

Contact: Rachael Drummond, UCAR, 303-497-8604 or Rod Moraga, Anchor Point, 303-665-3473

Sign up for email updates: www.ucar.edu/forest



Teacher Name Change!

Just a note to let everyone know that our art teacher has recently changed her name, following her marriage last spring – she was Susan Baruch and is now Susan Annabel. You will notice the change on the Summit website - her new email address is susan.annabel@bvsd.org. Sue reports that her students are having a hard time remembering the change but she tells them it is harder for her!



NJHS News

Summit NJHS recently auctioned off a gingerbread house donated by Williams-Sonoma. The tickets sold to win the gingerbread house raised \$130, with tickets selling for 50 cents each. The money was used to ship boxes containing donated toothbrushes and toothpaste to orphans and vulnerable children in a Zulu village in Africa. Ticket sales ended on January 20th with pixie Kami Leka winning the gingerbread house.

Upcoming NJHS projects in February include decorating and filling twenty snack bags with non-perishable snacks for homeless people in Boulder County living outdoors who cannot get into a homeless shelter because of mental illness, substance abuse or fear of shelter living. Through project HOPE, trained social workers team with police to offer these snack bags and blankets late at night to homeless people living outside.

On Saturday, February 11 from 10:00-11:30 am we will be painting pottery bowls at Crackpots pottery studio in Longmont to benefit the OUR center soup kitchen's Empty Bowls project. The cost is \$12.00, and it is tax deductible. We have 30 spaces to fill, so first come, first served. Make checks out to Crackpots and bring them in to Mrs. Kapsak or Mr. Seibel as soon as possible. Parents provide transportation. Once the bowls have been painted and fired, they will be used to hold soup at a fundraising event in March to benefit the OUR Center soup kitchen.

We encourage all Summit students and staff to wear red on February 14, Valentine's Day, as we participate in the National Heart Association's Wear Red Day. NJHS will be selling raffle tickets to win a red velvet cake, red velvet cupcakes and a giant teddy bear. The money from the tickets will be donated to the cardiac unit at Denver's Children's Hospital. We encourage all Summit students to join us in these community service projects. See any NJHS member, President Kirstin Walters, Mrs. Kapsak or Mr. Seibel if you have any questions.

Mornings

The number of students arriving late many mornings has been increasing lately, mostly for two reasons:

- There has been quite a bit of confusion regarding late-start dates. The Summit calendar lists all the collaboration days and we send a reminder email the weekend before each late-start Monday. Please check the calendar and watch for these emails.
- There have also been an unusual number of weather-related tardies. Please plan ahead and leave home earlier than normal on days when the weather or bad roads may slow you down to minimize class disruption. Thanks for your help!





A Valentines' Day Celebration in Old Town Louisville

Come enjoy wine, beer, local eats, photo exhibit
and the Whitney Mann Band LIVE
(opened for Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton)



When: Saturday Feb. 11th 7pm-11pm

**Where: Louisville Center of the Arts
801 Grant Avenue Louisville**

**Cost: \$30 per person/\$45 per couple
includes 1 drink per adult**

To pay in advance, please call Impact On Education
(303) 524.3865

Cash or check only @ door

Sponsored By:

Assorted Goods & Candy
Sassafras Photography
Impact On Education



Sassafras



Photography



All Proceeds Benefit Impact On Education



Presents

Mark Twarogowski

The Secret Life of the Teenage Brain

Thursday, February 9, 2012

6-8 pm

Nevin Platt Middle School Auditorium

Register online at <http://plattpen.wordpress.com>

Recent studies have demonstrated what many parents and teachers already know- the teenage years are a time of dramatic ups and downs characterized by mood swings, impulsive behaviors, and poor judgment. Join Mark Twarogowski as he translates the latest brain research into real-life understanding of what makes our teenagers so "darn interesting."

Teens Welcome



Mark Twarogowski is a respected presenter at local, national, and international education conferences. He speaks frequently on the learning process and the developing brain.

He has presented this session at such conferences as: The Sterne School Lecture Series; The National Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference; Jefferson County Public Schools; and, The Positive Behavior Support Symposium for the Colorado Department of Education .

Mr. Twarogowski is the Director of Education at Denver Academy. He holds a BA in Psychology and an MA in Education and has over 25 years experience in education.

Suggested Donation \$5

Space is Limited Registration Recommended

Questions? Contact Meg Tierney, Platt Parent Engagement Network
plattpen@gmail.com 720-406-0158



Summit News

Summit News is the official newsletter of Summit Middle School
4655 Hanover Ave.
Boulder, CO 80305.

Telephone: 720-561-3900
Attendance: 720-561-3902
Fax: 720-561-3901

Summit News is e-mailed to the parents of enrolled students. Others are added to this list upon request.

Summit News is available at
<http://bvsd.org/schools/summit/newsletters/Pages/default.aspx>

Scharmin Dorostkar, Editor
Please email submissions to
summit.office@bvsd.org.



SUMMIT MISSION STATEMENT

- *To provide a rigorous, academic curriculum that promotes high levels of student effort and academic achievement.*
- *To foster high self-esteem through stimulating intellectual challenge and meaningful academic accomplishment.*
- *To inspire in students a lifelong love of learning, a desire for self-development and good citizenship.*
- *To create a community of peers who value scholarship, academic achievement, and creativity.*
- *To serve as an excellent preparation for students intending to study in rigorous college preparatory high school programs, including International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement.*

ENROLLMENT IN SUMMIT

Summit Middle School is a tuition-free, public charter school in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) serving grades 6, 7 and 8 through mixed-age classes grouped by ability, interest, motivation, developmental level and mastery of previous material, and taught by teachers who are specialists in their subject areas. Prospective students register through the District's open enrollment process. Please go to BVSD's Open Enrollment link for more information:

<http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

Liz Snowden, Chair, lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com
Polly Dawkins, Vice Chair, pdawkins.at.summit@gmail.com
Shelley Sapsin, Secretary, ssapsin.at.summit@gmail.com
Dwayne Nesmith, Treasurer, dnesmith.at.summit@gmail.com
Ahmad Akrami, aakrami.at.summit@gmail.com
Barbara Knapp, bknapp.at.summit@gmail.com
Alan Jagolinzer, ajagolinzer.at.summit@gmail.com
Sue Kunz, skunz.at.summit@gmail.com
Chitra Seshan, cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com
David Finell, Principal, david.finell@bvsd.org (ex officio)