

# Summit News

## Summit Calendar

Volume 31, Issue 2

January 21, 2011

### January

January 28	6th and 7th grade course selection forms distributed (due 2/4)
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### February

February 3	Summit Science Fair – Round 2
February 4	Sibling Shadow Day 6th and 7th grade course selection forms due in office
February 8	Shadow Day
February 9	Shadow Day Board Meeting, 6:00 pm Library
February 10	Shadow Day
February 11	8th grade course recommendation day (bring high school forms)
February 16	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am
February 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences I-Z, 1:30-6:00 pm
February 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences A-H, 1:30-5:00 pm
February 21	President's Day – No School
February 23	8th grade course sign-up day (bring high school forms) Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
February 25	Professional Development Day, ½ day, 8:00-12:15 pm

### March

March 9	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
March 10	Annual Community Meeting, 6:30 pm
March 15	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am
March 17	Incoming Student Registration Night, 6:30 pm
March 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends

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## Congratulations: National Geographic Geo Bee Classroom Winners



### 6th Grade

Annie Chen  
Teagan Lee  
Cassidy Donahue  
Aidan Young  
Renee Wright

### 7th Grade

Elaine Mione  
Michael McClurg  
Brooke Garbarini  
Yunyu Lin  
Ben Morris

### 8th Grade

Nick Gunther  
Ignatius Castelino  
Jessica Piper  
Nick Campbell-Kruger  
Xenia Mathys

Congratulations to our school winner Jessica Piper and to her runner-up Xenia Mathys!

## High School Transition Programs at Summit

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend an in-school assembly provided by BVSD high school counselors on January 25, 2011. Students will learn about high school course requirements, registration, and the course selection process in high school.

### High School Course Recommendations: February 2011

- Attend the "Transition Night" program at your chosen high school and obtain registration and course selection materials.
- On **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive high school course recommendations during their core classes. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss course placement recommendations during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students should have registration forms with them on February 11<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in attending Fairview, Peak to Peak, Centaurus and Monarch will receive their course selection form at Summit as Transition nights for these high schools are after this date)
- "**Guidelines for High School Course Recommendations**" can be found on the website under the Counseling tab, if you are interested in reading more specific information on how course placement recommendations are made.
- If you have questions about course placement, please contact Elizabeth Troup.

### High School Registration: February 23, 2011

- Ensure students have their own IC log in as this will be needed for high school registration. The Summit Office staff can reset the IC password if necessary.
- Please ensure both parent and student sign the course recommendation form prior to the day of registration. Students should have registration forms with them on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Students will join high school counselors in the computer lab during World Geography to select their courses online, via the BVSD website and Infinite Campus.

## Course Placement at Summit

The first semester has ended and report cards will be distributed next week. The semester report card is especially important because it is the final data point as teachers prepare to make decisions about appropriate student placement for next year. Teachers of sixth and seventh graders will be making these recommendations on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Although this may seem early, it is important for students and parents to be informed if students' progress suggests that repeating a class may be necessary. As you know, promotion to the next level in a subject area is based on benchmark mastery. The first semester grades are an important indicator of how well students have mastered the skills and content of an individual course.

If your child receives a report card grade of "D" or "F" in a course, you should expect an initial teacher recommendation to repeat the class. This placement recommendation will be reviewed and can be changed as late as the beginning of next year, but we do ask teachers to use the data currently available to make this initial placement. When your child brings home the course sign-up sheet on the weekend of January 28<sup>th</sup>, please look carefully for any recommendations to repeat a class. This early notification allows students, parents and teachers to address difficulties in a timely manner. Ideally, students will be able to get on the right path towards benchmark mastery and promotion during the second semester.

Summit offers a variety of supports for students who want to improve and be prepared for the next level of coursework, including teacher office hours every week and Math and English Lab. In addition, don't forget that Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Conferences are a good time to discuss your child's progress and discuss any additional data regarding the following year's placement.

Course placement forms for returning students, signed by both parent and student, are due in the office on February 4.

## New Multimedia Productions Class Looking for Volunteers and Guest Speakers

Do you have any knowledge, skills or talents in the wonderful world of digital media (video, sound, graphics, photos, or animation)? Do you have any knowledge, skill or talents in the creation, editing, or authoring of digital multimedia (e.g. Flash, Dreamweaver, PowerPoint, Animoto, Jing, Mixcraft, Audacity, or Podcasting, etc)? Do you have a knack for technology and love middle school kids?

If you answered yes to any of these questions and you are looking for a way to volunteer at Summit, I would love to hear from you. There are currently 48 students enrolled in our Multimedia Productions class (and they would love to hear from you as well!).

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity or you would like more information, please contact Tom Seibel via email at [thomas.seibel@bvsd.org](mailto:thomas.seibel@bvsd.org).

The fine print: Before volunteering, please check in at the office and complete a Volunteer Agreement form (very short). If you have already completed a form for this school year and turned it in, you won't need to fill out another one.

Thank you.

## Summit Sports

8th grade girl's interscholastic volleyball starts on February 1 and goes until March 11th. If your child is interested in playing, the office will accept paperwork (athletic form, current physical on file and a check for \$85) until the morning of February 4. We can't sign any students up after 9:00 am on February 4th. Don't miss out on this great athletic opportunity!



## Share Your Thoughts



The School Accountability Committee (SAC) administers surveys to parents and guardians as well as students of the Summit community each year. This is an important way for teachers, administrators, and board members to get input from the community served by our school. The questions are aimed to collect data on what is effective and to solicit specific suggestions for improvement. This survey is specific to Summit Middle School and is different from the parent and student surveys administered through BVSD.

Student surveys will be done at school during the week of January 31<sup>st</sup> through their BVSD email accounts. To test if the BVSD email delivery of surveys through SurveyMonkey is functioning properly for all students, a blank survey with no questions was sent to each student through an email link. If your student has not yet accessed their BVSD email in the last week, clicked on the survey link on the email sent on January 8<sup>th</sup> from [cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com) and then clicked "Done", please encourage him/her to do so now. The BVSD email can be accessed from the [bvsd.org](http://bvsd.org) web page, click on Email Access under the Quick Links tab, and then log in in the same way as you log in to the school computers.

Parent surveys were sent today, January 21<sup>st</sup>, to parent email addresses on file. You will receive one email for each child enrolled at Summit. Each email has a unique survey link so that you can complete one survey for each child. Your input is important to us and provides us with guidance on where we should focus our improvement efforts to make Summit the best school it can be. The data collected is shared with Summit's teachers, administration and Board of Directors, and is used as a component of performance evaluation.

Please take a few minutes to share your insights with us when you receive your survey. We will send out gentle reminder emails each week to those who have not responded to the survey. Final deadline for survey responses will be Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>. You may contact Chitra Seshan, board member and chair of the School Accountability Committee with any questions.

## Recruiting New Board Members



Are you interested in serving as a Summit board member next year? We will have five board vacancies (plus two current board members seeking re-election). The Board is especially interested in recruiting parents with financial management, legal and/or fundraising/marketing experience. Board members serve for two-year terms and meetings are usually held twice a month on Wednesday evenings in the school library.

Please contact any of the current board members and/or David Finell, Principal, if you are interested in pursuing a board position. For a better understanding of how the board operates, please consider attending the next board meeting on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the school library. Thank you!

Ali Gidfar, Chair 2010/2011 , [agidfar.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:agidfar.at.summit@gmail.com)

Liz Snowden, Chair-designate 2011/2012, [lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com)

### Board Election Schedule

Feb 22, 2011	Last day for prospective board member candidates to apply
Feb 23, 2011	Nominating Committee presents slate of candidates for board approval
Mar 1, 2011	Slate and candidate statements will be posted on Summit's website and ballots mailed to all voting members
Mar 10, 2011	<b>Summit Annual Community Meeting:</b> Candidate forum and school update, 6:30 pm in the school library
Mar 17, 2011	Ballots must be delivered to Summit office by 3:30 pm
Mar 18, 2011	Vote will be determined and candidates will be contacted

## Thank you to our Donors!

We greatly appreciate all of the families that have already pledged their generous support to Summit this school year. Together we have raised \$75,000 for our school's annual fund! Your contributions to TFL directly support Summit's operating budget, including teacher salaries, small class sizes, and technology upgrades. Additionally we are making good progress in raising funds to finish paying for our new gym.

Thank you to all of our donors, including the following families who recently supported Summit's Tools for Learning and Gym Campaigns:

Anonymous  
Dan and Amy Hoskins  
Amy Howard and Scott Hunsaker  
Felix and Laura Magowan  
Christian Meyer  
Chang & Won Park  
David and Eileen Reynolds  
John and Keri Roberts  
Michelle Sapsin  
Jennifer Stein and Scott Thompson  
Andrew Wernsdorfer and Terri Ashinhurst

We still need your help. If you have not already had an opportunity to do so, please donate to TFL and/or the Gym Campaign today. It's easy to donate on-line (go to <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit> and click on the **Donate Now!** link) or mail a check to the Summit Office. We will continue to promote both fundraising campaigns throughout the current school year. Should you have any questions, please contact board members Dita Hutchinson at [dhutchin-son.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:dhutchin-son.at.summit@gmail.com) or Robin Luff at [rluff.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:rluff.at.summit@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting Summit!



## Counselor's Corner: Supporting Our Students

“Success is peace of mind,  
a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best  
to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

-John Wooden, “Coach” for UCLA

In remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with my seven-year old daughter this past week, we read Martin's Big Words, a children's book about Dr. King's life and leadership. As a young boy, Martin felt bad each time he read the words “WHITES ONLY.” His mother taught him to remember, “You are as good as anyone. Everyone can be great.” Through this story, Grace reflected on the “big words” that Martin learned from his parents and later went on to share with the world. Words like love, together, peace, I have a dream. As we finished reading Grace said, “You teach me big words too.”

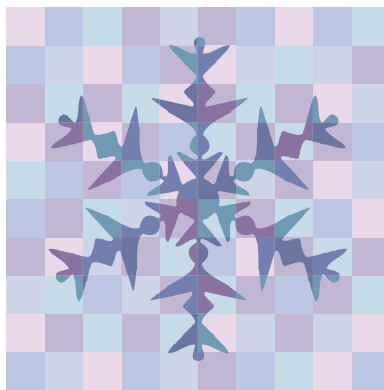
As parents and educators, our words and messages have great effect. Our “big words” can promote our children's happiness, good character, love of learning and resolve challenges through different meaning making. In an effort to learn from one another and to work together in support of our students, David Finell, Amanda Avallone and I will continue to sponsor Parent Chats this spring. Together we can share our “big words” and address themes of importance to all of us.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we will focus on promoting students' sense of success. As we know, many students place significant emphasis on the grade (outcome) as opposed to the learning (journey). Additionally, many students compare their success and growth to those around them. This is developmentally and culturally rather normative, but can also become damaging and limiting.

John Wooden's “big words” on success focus students on pursuing one's personal best. His “Pyramid of Success” is well regarded in education and athletics, the cornerstones being the joy and fulfillment that comes from hard work done well. Through such a focus I believe student distress can diminish and student pride and sense of accomplishment can grow. Please join us in the Library on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to share your perspectives. We will begin at 8:15 a.m.

On Thursday, March 10th we will turn to a discussion on the conflicting ideas about what it takes to raise healthy, happy kids. There is a wide spectrum of approaches and perspectives, including those shared in the recent film “Race to Nowhere” as well as the book Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother. Join us in March to share your perspectives and to join as a community in support of our students.

Elizabeth Troup  
Summit Middle School Counselor



## Parent Engagement Network Presents:

### Secrets to Effective Parenting Hope in Identifying and Treating Teen Depression By Dr. Jan Hittelman

As a parent, getting through your child's adolescent years can be tough. The good news is that there are effective strategies that can help you to dramatically reduce conflicts and avoid potentially hostile confrontations. Instead of fighting over control, we must provide teenagers with opportunities to learn self-control. Instead of battling over our children's irresponsible behaviors, we must encourage them to take more responsibility for their decisions and actions. Consider the following strategies:

**Empowerment.** As children grow older, parents need to place more and more of the decision-making responsibilities on them. As parents we are often reluctant to do this because we fear that our children will use poor judgment and make mistakes. While this may be true, how else will our children eventually learn to make good decisions? We learn through trial and error. Our children need to make mistakes along the way so that they may (hopefully!) learn from them.

**Shift from dependence to independence.** The normal developmental progression from pre-adolescence to young adulthood requires a shift from dependence to independence. As parents, we need to teach our children how to behave more responsibly and yet not make their decisions for them or oppose their efforts to take control over their lives. Ideally, we want to nurture their responsible independence.

**Control versus advice:** The more controlling the parent, the more likely the teenager is to rebel and eventually defy the parent. As our adolescent children shift from dependence to independence, we as parents need to shift from controlling to advising. Your child needs to learn to make his/her own decisions to function effectively as a young adult. Help your child by offering suggestions and then say: "But what do you think makes the most sense for you?" And whenever possible go with the teen's ideas.

Learn more about effective parenting strategies by participating in the next Pathways to Parenting Success interactive panel.

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website: [www.parentengagementnetwork.org](http://www.parentengagementnetwork.org) or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN Dr. Jan Hittelman, a licensed psychologist, is Director of Boulder Psychological Services and the Founder of the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent via email to: [jan.hittelman@gmail.com](mailto:jan.hittelman@gmail.com), or by phone: 720-217-3270

#### Upcoming Events

What	When	Where	Additional Information
Secrets to Effective Parenting	Monday, March 7, 7:00-8:30pm	Boulder Valley School District Board Room (6500 Arapahoe, Boulder) or watch live on Channel 22	Submit questions: <a href="http://www.BoulderPsychologicalServices.com/channel-22">www.BoulderPsychologicalServices.com/channel-22</a> <b>More info:</b> <a href="http://www.BPSBoulder.com">www.BPSBoulder.com</a>
<b>Soul of Parenting</b>	Wednesday, March 9, 6:30-8:30pm	Naropa PAC Theater (2130 Arapahoe, Boulder)	Presenters: Batya Greenwald & Laura Weaver In memory of Rachael Kessler, author of the ground-breaking book, Soul of Education <a href="http://www.passageworks.org">www.passageworks.org</a>

## Fairview High School Fine Arts Presents: *Pride and Prejudice*

All of the wit and romance of Jane Austen's classic 1813 novel come to life in this refreshingly fast-paced and engaging new adaptation. Performances are February 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 7:00 pm in the Fairview High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.00 and available at the FHS ticket window February 2nd – 3rd from 10:30 – 3:30 pm and February 4 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm or email [prideandprejudicetickets@gmail.com](mailto:prideandprejudicetickets@gmail.com) to reserve tickets.

## Summit News

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

Summit News is available at  
[www.bvbsd.org/schools/summit](http://www.bvbsd.org/schools/summit)

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## 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.*

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## 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://bvbsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

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