



Summit News

October 2, 2009

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 28, Number 4

The School Calendar

October	November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 5th, Picture Retakes beginning at 3:05 pm. • Tuesday, 6th, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 pm* (A-K) • Wednesday, 7th, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 pm* (L-Z) • Friday, 9th, Summit Charter Day, NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 14th, Board Meeting at 6:30 pm, Summit library • Thursday, 15th, Vision & Hearing Screening • Friday, 16th, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m. • Friday, 23rd, First Quarter Ends • Wednesday, 28th, Board Meeting at 6:30 pm, Summit library • Friday, 30th, HW Free/Family weekend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 11th, Veterans' Day, Summit <u>IS</u> in session (but BVSD does not have school) • Wednesday, 11th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library • Thursday, 19th, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m. • Monday, 23rd – Friday, 27th, No school, Thanksgiving Holiday
December	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 4th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students* • Thursday, 10th, Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm • Tuesday, 15th, Choir Concert, 7 pm • Friday, 19th, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m. • Monday, 21st, Winter Break begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 5th, School resumes • Wednesday, 13th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library • Monday, 18th, Martin Luther King Day, NO School • Thursday, 21st, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m. • Thursday, 21st, Summit Science Fair, first round • Wednesday, 27th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 p.m.</p>	

FYI

SCIENCE FAIR NEEDS

Summit's science fair needs some help. We are looking for:

- 1) Behavioral and social science-oriented parents for mentoring and judging projects. Almost a third of the projects are in these fields.
- 2) We also need lab space for growing bacterial cultures and an adult supervisor appropriate for microbiology. We currently have about 5 projects and only have space for about 2 at Summit.

If you can help with either of these, please contact Christy Lapp at BusterLapp@ymail.com or call her at (303)440-5698. If you are interested but have questions on what is required to be a mentor or judge please also call or email Christy Lapp.

A note from the Summit Board:

We have mailed Tools for Learning packets this week. Board members will be available during parent-teacher conferences next week to answer your questions on both the Tools for Learning and Capital Campaigns. Look for us in the hallway next to the school office. Thank you!

Summit Students in the Nutcracker Ballet

Did you know that seven Summit students have been selected by audition to dance in the Boulder Ballet/Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra 2009 production of the Nutcracker?

They are:

Camille Britton, Alex Carter, Emily Engelhardt, Xenia Mathys, Elizabeth Pfister, Laura Shearer-Cooper, and Evan Young. They will be performing on November 27, 28, or 29 at Macky. Congratulations!

Community Connections

Thank you...

Many thanks to the following for providing a wonderful breakfast for the Summit staff last Friday:

Lisa Brussell, Polly Dawkins, Zoya Green, Kathy Dessau, Michelle Harvey, Molly Nasky, Gretchen Schultz, and Maggie Yost.

If you are interested in helping with these breakfasts in the future, contact Michelle Harvey at

ronaldharvey@earthlink.net

Kids & Food!

Community Connections is proud to present a panel discussion on Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30 at Summit featuring:

- Ann Cooper, BVSD Nutrition Services Director and author of [Lunch Lessons: Changing the Way We Feed Our Children](#)

- Robyn O'Brien, Founder of AllergyKids.com and author of [The Unhealthy Truth: How Our Food is Making Us Sick and What We Can Do About It](#)

And moderated by:

- Sylvia Tawes, Summit Middle School mom and Founder of the Fresh Ideas Group

Holiday Shopping!

Saturday, December 12th - Save the date!

On Saturday, December 12th it's "Summit Day" at Barnes & Noble. More details will follow, however, make your book, CD and DVD lists now and save your shopping until the 12th when a percentage will go towards Summit.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, October 6, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. (A-K)

Wednesday, October 7, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. (L-Z)

The conference schedule (rooms and times) is attached to the email in which we send out this newsletter. Below are some guidelines to help make conferences go well:

- ❑ Except as otherwise noted, full-time teachers will be available Tuesday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 7 from 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. except during break times, which are approximate. Part-time teachers will be available for conferences only part of October 6 and October 7. Please check the attached schedule for exact times and locations for all teachers.
- ❑ Conferences will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, Library, Room 12, and Room 14. Conferences for Choral and Instrumental Music and Drama will be held in the music room (E). Meetings with Ms. Lamond will be held in the conference room (123) opposite the offices. Please check the attached schedule for details.

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED. JUST DROP IN!

Helpful Hints for Successful Parent/Teacher Conferences:

1. Prioritize the teachers with whom you need to speak, as it may be difficult to get to everyone. If both parents/guardians are attending conferences, divide up the schedule to see teachers separately, if it is possible.
2. **There will likely be lines so expect to wait. Bring a book, some Sudoku or crossword puzzles, or a newspaper or magazine to read while you are waiting.**
3. Books and magazines or other items should not be used as placeholders in a line. Please be courteous to the other parents who are waiting.
4. If you are unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher(s) directly to discuss any questions you might have.

5. **Conferences should last about five minutes.** Please be respectful of this time limit. If additional time is needed, set up an appointment in the next few days to continue your discussion. **Teachers have been told to stay within 5 minutes per conference, especially if there are other parents waiting.** Teachers will be using timers to help with this.
6. Please be respectful of teachers' times for breaks, and of their need to get home at the end of the day. We will begin closing up the school at 6:30 p.m. promptly.
7. Remember that parents and teachers know the same students but in different environments. These points of reference may cause differences in what each person observes related to student behavior.
8. If the parent or the teacher feels that a conference is going poorly, they may ask for an administrator to join them. Therefore, please be thoughtful of all involved in a conference. Hurt feelings do not make for productive meetings.
9. We use the arena style of conferencing as opposed to asking parents to sign up to meet with teachers at specific times. We have tried to schedule time for specific slots in the past and it did not work well. While we understand the arena style can be frustrating due to the long lines and sometimes not being able to meet with all of the teachers you would like, it is the best model we have found.

MANAGING ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

Amanda Avallone and Elizabeth Troup

Missing school is difficult. We recognize that a larger number of students have been absent this year, as a result of illness. We are doing our best to accommodate students, to welcome them back, and to offer support through the make-up process. Although it may be possible for students to keep up with some of their school work while at home, it is not an expectation that students can learn rigorous course material on their own. A student's primary responsibility is to rest and get well. The secondary responsibility is to keep up as best as possible with readings and other tasks that can be done independently.

Per Summit's Homework Request policy, on the third consecutive day of absence, parents may contact the office (summit.office@bvsd.org or call 303-499-9511, ext. 500) for class handouts. Teachers will provide these when available by 3 p.m. the following school day. However, as you know, the Summit experience is more than a textbook and a series of handouts. Summit students learn in a community and from each other. Class discussions, Socratic Seminars, and labs cannot be recreated, especially at home when a child is trying to recuperate.

Teachers will work hard to help students make up essential learning when they return. During the first week back, students should check in with their teachers upon returning to school. Then, students should plan to meet with their teachers at office hours to develop a fuller and more detailed make-up plan. Depending on the subject area and the missed material, teachers may be able to exempt students from some of the tasks they missed, especially after a prolonged absence.

In spite of the many important demands on their time, members of the Summit faculty take very seriously the responsibility for providing quality instruction for all students. Especially at a time like this when there are many students absent and returning from absences, please be patient with the school and with your children. We appreciate students' and families' eagerness to make up missed work; however, depending on the length of the absence, it will take some time. If we work together with diligence and understanding, we will minimize the effects of absences on student learning.

Summit News

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

Mr. David Finell, Principal. Ms. Amanda Avallone, Assistant Principal.

Ms. Valerie Koch, Dean of Student Life.

Telephone: 303-499-9511. Attendance: 303-499-9511, ext. 500. Fax: 303-499-0215.

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.bvsd.org/schools/summit

Janet Schultz, Editor, cojayhawks@aol.com

Some activities and events announced in Summit News are not sponsored or endorsed by Summit Middle School or the Boulder Valley School District.

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 – 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

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