

Summit News



Volume 30, Issue 4

October 1, 2010

Summit Calendar

October	
October 1	State Pupil Count Day
October 5	Picture Retakes, 3:05 pm
October 6	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30 pm, A-K
October 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30 pm, L-Z
October 11	Summit day—no school
October 13	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
October 14	Vision and Hearing Screening
October 22	First Quarter Ends
October 27	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
October 30	Homework-free/Family weekend

November	
November 10	Board Meeting 6:00 pm
November 16	Community Connections, 8:15 am
November 18	Choir Concert, 7:00 pm
November 22-26	Thanksgiving Vacation – no school

Fall Semester Major Events	
November 18	Summit Choirs Concert, 7:00 pm, Call for singers at 5:30
December 13	History Day
December 14	Summit Musical, 7:00 pm
December 15	Instrumental Music Concert and Art Show, 7:00 pm

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Waiting for Superman

There is a new documentary coming to theaters in the near future which I wanted to make the Summit community aware of. The name of the film is **'Waiting for Superman'**. It has been getting a lot of press in the educational world because it looks at 5 families trying to get their children out of failing neighborhood schools and into high performing charter schools. It sounds like an interesting, thought-provoking film and I encourage Summit families to consider going to go see it.

I have scheduled a **Principal's Coffee Chat for Thursday, October 28 from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the Summit library**, for Summit parents to have the opportunity to discuss the issues raised in this movie. I hope to see you there. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

While we are fortunate in Boulder to have many wonderful public school options - not all communities are so fortunate. For example, West Denver Prep's recent enrollment lottery was enough to make you cry when you saw the downcast families whose children did not get in, because the other options in Northwest Denver are not at all good. Unfortunately, this is true for far too many communities around the nation. Nationwide there are currently 420,000 children on wait lists to get into charters and most of these students are in communities where getting into a high performing char-

ter can make the difference between a child getting a decent education and going to on college, or not.

Summit is an outstanding school but it is more than that. It is also part of a larger movement which is seeking to raise all public schools in this country to a higher level of performance and accountability.

At the BVSD Middle School Principal's Council meeting last week another middle school principal said to me: "Charters have succeeded because they were bold. They were willing to try something different."

I think he is correct. While not all charters have succeeded, the many that have succeeded have been willing to try something bold and different. Such schools, and Summit is one of them, serve as models of how we can make *all* schools in this country successful.

David Finell, Principal

Fundraising Update

Summit Middle School has two fundraising campaigns: Tools for Learning (TFL) and the Gym Campaign. Donations are made payable to Supporters of Summit, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity that supports the school, and are tax-deductible.

TFL: The State of Colorado and BVSD have mandated large budget cuts which significantly impact all schools, especially charters like Summit. We rely on contributions to TFL - our annual fund - to offset these public funding cuts. Every dollar we receive directly supports Summit's operating budget and contributes to teacher salaries, small classroom sizes and educational tools. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 this school year, with a suggested TFL contribution of \$350 per student.

Gym Campaign: Charter schools like Summit are responsible for their own capital improvements. In exchange for the \$5.5 million in BVSD bond funding that paid for our new library, art/science classrooms and other improvements, Summit agreed to build our wonderful new gym that your children are enjoying. Most of the funds needed to build the gym have already been raised by current and alumni families; however, the school needed to take out a construction loan to complete this project last year. Therefore, we are asking for a gym campaign gift of \$1,000 per family if your family has not yet contributed. Any amount,

even if it is less than the suggested gift, is valuable and appreciated. Your generosity will allow us to repay this loan in a timely manner.

How do I make a donation?

This year, we are excited to be launching our fundraising efforts via the school's website in an effort to save money (and trees!) and to make it easier for our community to support us. Look for an e-mail soon with instructions on how to make your donations on-line. If you prefer to make your donation by check, we are happy to receive them at the school office (where you may pick up a pledge card). Any donation is meaningful and greatly appreciated.

For questions or additional information on these fundraising campaigns, please contact the following board members:

Annual Fund/TFL:

Dita Hutchinson, dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com

Gym Campaign:

Robin Luff, rluff.at.summit@gmail.com

Stand Up! Program begins in October

Summit's Stand Up! Program will begin on October 13th. Stand Up! is Summit's program for creating a safe and caring community at our school. The primary goal of this program is to nurture a culture of personal dignity and community respect. The **Stand Up! Program** was originally modeled after the Cherry Creek School District's 'Bully Proofing Your School' curriculum, and over time staff has worked to improve the program to meet the needs of Summit students. As our school's bullying prevention program, a Colorado State mandate, Summit students will learn how to understand and address the social and emotional challenges of middle school. Through this program, every Summit student will be asked to make a commitment to acting responsibly and respectfully towards others, and to assist those who are mistreated.

This past year students were surveyed on suggested revisions for the Stand Up! Program. Based on student input and a review of the literature, the focus of our program has shifted in sixth and seventh grade. Sixth and seventh grade students will learn about the complexities of social dynamics in middle school and learn to recognize and address relational aggression. Relational aggression, or covert bullying, is harm caused through damage to relationships or social status within a group. Summit students report relational aggression is the most common form of bullying at Summit and they report that these social chal-

lenges result in stress and difficulties for themselves and others.

The Stand Up! Program will be taught this year, at all grade levels, on October 13, 20, 27 and November 3. On these four days, school will be in "regular" session, and each period will be shortened by ten minutes, to allow for an hour to teach Stand Up! Each week, an email will be sent to parents regarding the content of the lesson so that you may follow up with your child, as you see fit. If you would like to review the program, please contact Elizabeth Troup directly.

Fire Relief Project

During September, a small group of interested and concerned students formed a student-led group, The Fire Relief Project. The following students are acknowledged for their care, concern, and work on behalf of our Library Assistant Beth Byerlein and her family who lost their home in the Fourmile Fire. Our first project was a school dodgeball tournament, which raised money to purchase trees for the Byerlein's home. If you have books, toys, or clothes (3rd and 5th grade girls), please bring them to our donation boxes in the front hallway.

Thank you to:

Ben Bright
Cassidy Donohue
Claire Holleman
Trent McCreery
Ailish McDonald
Natalie Platt
Joseph Stein
Lucy Walters

Student Council Retreat

Appreciations to the many parents who helped to make our Student Council Retreat a success. Special appreciation to Sophia Akrami and Carrie Dimson for chaperoning our retreat in Estes Park last week. Thank you to the following parents who gave their time to drive us to and from the retreat!

Akrami, Sophia
Castano, Marianne
Chaim, Bonnie
Conroy, Paula
Dimson-Radde, Carolyn
Franz, Sherry
Knapp, Barb
Lippi, Mary
Takahashi, Yoko
Peterson, Trina
Ritzwoller, Deb
Scheuermann, Vickie

Message from Boulder County Public Health

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the number one cause among non-smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year; only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. While levels of radon outdoors pose a relatively low health risk, radon can build up to dangerous levels inside buildings. Even though you can't see, smell, or taste radon, a high level in your home can have serious consequences. It is especially important to test your home since that is where you spend most of your time.

High levels of radon in homes usually come from the surrounding soil. The gas enters buildings through cracks and openings on the lower levels of the home. Hot spots include basements, first-floor rooms, and garages, but radon can be

found anywhere in the house.

Test for radon to protect your family.

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing your house for radon is easy to do, and during the fall and winter is the ideal time to test. If your house has a radon problem, you can take simple steps to fix it.

Find out more about radon, including where to get a test kit and how to fix the problem if you have one, at:

www.BoulderCountyRadon.org

Crickets for Anoles

The biology classroom has two new residents, a beautiful pair of anoles! Anoles are hungry little critters. Ms. Drozda-Freeman is wondering if there are any families raising crickets who might like to donate 40 crickets per week to our biology mascots. If you have crickets to donate, please contact Ms. Drozda-Freeman at elizabeth.drozda-fre@bvsd.org.

Box Tops for Education

Please send in all your Box Tops for Education as soon as possible. The NetZero Club is responsible for collecting the Box Tops, so please turn them in to Mr. Garcia or Mr. Goettsche. We would like to get them counted, sorted, and in the mail as soon as possible so that Summit receives the funds from them. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this easy task. It really helps Summit so please keep collecting!

Thank you for your efforts.
Nina Donohue
on behalf of the NetZero Club

Improve Walking and Cycling to School

The City of Boulder has issued a media release to announce a call for 2010 [Safe Routes to School](#) (SRTS) infrastructure grant proposals from members of the school community. City staff are seasoned SRTS fund raisers. Since 2006, they have garnered nearly \$1 million to add stretches of sidewalk, enhance crosswalks, build bike paths and make related improvements. As a result, students and parents have benefited at Bear Creek, Flatirons, Foothill, and Southern Hills with more to come. If parents have ideas for improvements, please contact Marni Ratzel (contact info follows) about the possibility.

Proposals are due October 13, 2010. Here is the link:

[Sept. 21, 2010 - City requests proposals to improve walking and biking to school](#)

Marni Ratzel
Bicycle / Pedestrian Transportation Planner
Go Boulder - City of Boulder
phone: 303-441-3266 fax: 303-441-4271
e-mail: ratzelm@boulder.colorado.gov
web: www.goboulder.net

Music/Drama Calendar

Tuesday, Nov 9	Fairview Student Matinee of Les Miserables, 9:30 am Fairview High School
Thursday, Nov 18	Choir Concert, 7 pm Location TBA Call for singers at 5:30 pm
Friday, Dec 3	Fairview Choir Festival, 6:30 pm Fairview High School Big Gym Call for singers at 5:45
Monday, Dec 13	Drama tech rehearsal, 5:30 pm Location TBA
Tues, Dec 14	Dear Edwina Performance, 7:00 pm Location TBA Call for actors at 5:30 pm
Weds, Dec 15	Band Performance, 7:00 pm Summit Multipurpose Room

Thanks a Million

To the wonderful parent volunteers who brought a delicious breakfast and lunch for the Summit staff and teachers on Thursday, September 23, we say thanks a million! The food disappeared quickly and we enjoyed the decorations. Our thanks and appreciation go to: Susan Broadfoot, Melody Combs, Kathy Dessau, Mary Rios, Kristine Schlager, Ann Shusterman, Carol Smythe, Jenny Stein and Donna Walters.

Student Resource Guide

BVSD's Community Opportunities for Youth Directory now has a new name: *Community Connections: A Student Resource Guide*. The guide can be found at www.bvsd.org/guide. This annual BVSD publication is filled with youth-oriented activities and services offered by individuals and organizations in the community. Categories include tutoring, athletics, health & support services and the arts. Paper copies can be found at schools beginning in mid-September. You can also request a copy in English or Spanish from Marla Riley at 720-561-5250, marla.riley@bvsd.org.

Student Dress Code

We understand that current fashions promote a style of dress many students like, however our school policy does not allow for many of these styles. Similar to all schools in BVSD, we have a school dress code policy (please see below). We recognize the challenges at home guiding youth to choose appropriate clothing for school, and hope review of this policy can promote your child's good choices with school dress. Henceforth, if your child is not dressed according to our school's policy, s/he will be asked to wear school t-shirts and sweatpants on that particular day. We hope this will help to deter problems with inappropriate clothing and encourage school appropriate clothing.

Thank you for your support!

STUDENT DRESS

A reasonable cleanliness of person and appropriate apparel is an essential aspect of a school culture that is safe, respectful, conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distraction. State law requires shoes to be worn inside public buildings.

Beach wear, bare midriffs, holes in pants or shorts, and underwear visible to others are examples of clothing considered inappropriate for school. Short shorts and tank tops with straps less than ½ an inch wide are also not acceptable. Dress that is dangerous or so distracting that it clearly interferes with the teaching or learning process may not be worn. Apparel that endangers the student while s/he is participating in classroom activities, such as labs, industrial arts, and shop-type classes, will not be worn. The decision as to the safety or suitability of the clothing is a matter for the instructor's judgment. Sunglasses and hats are not to be worn in the building. Hats may be worn on Fridays.

Students will be asked to change clothing that depicts/promotes tobacco, alcohol or drugs, gang association, is obscene or disrespectful, promotes sexual/ethnic/racial harassment or presents offensive images.

Summit News

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

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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.bvdsd.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.

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://bvdsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

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