

Summit News



Volume 32, Issue 4

October 7, 2011

Summit Calendar

October	
October 10	Late Start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time) 8th grade girls basketball game, 4:00 pm
October 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, A-H Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
October 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, I-Z
October 14	Summit Day - no school
October 17	8th grade girls basketball game, 4:00 pm
October 18	Vision and Hearing screening
October 19	1st quarter ends 8th grade girls basketball game, 4:00 pm
October 21	8th grade girls basketball game, 4:00 pm
October 24	Late start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time) School Starts at 8:55 am
October 26	8th grade girls basketball game, 4:00 pm Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
October 28	Student Council sponsored Halloween Dance, 3:05-5:00 pm
October 29-30	Homework 'free' and family weekend
November	
November 4	Summit International Night, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
November 9	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
November 16	High School Transition Program for 8th grade families, 6:30-8:00 pm
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Holiday - no school
November 26	Late start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time)
November 30	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library

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Parent/Teacher Conferences

Summit Middle School Parent / Teacher Conferences
October 12, 2011: (A - H)
October 13, 2011 (I - Z)
 (Students dismissed at 12:15 pm)

FULL TIME TEACHERS

Ms. Baruch	1:30-3:30 and 3:45 - 6:30, 10/12 only
Ms. de Nobrega	1:30 - 3:30 and 3:45 - 6:30
Ms. Drozda-Freeman	1:30 - 3:30 and 3:45 - 6:30
Ms. Frykholm	1:30 - 3:30 and 3:45 - 6:30
Mr. Garcia	1:30 - 3:30 and 3:45 - 6:30
Mr. Goettsche	1:30 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30
Ms. Kapsak	1:30 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30
Ms. Keeney	1:30 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30
	2:00 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30, 10/12
Mr. Kilgore	1:30 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30, 10/13
Ms. Laub	1:30 - 3:45 and 4:00 - 6:30
Ms. Rabinovich	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30
Mr. Seibel	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30
Ms. Spangler	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30
Mr. Teasdale	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30
Ms. Thompson	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30
Mr. Vigil	1:30 - 4:00 and 4:15 - 6:30

PART TIME TEACHERS

Ms. Barton	1:30 - 3:30, 10/13 only
Dr. Bradley	1:30 - 4:00, 10/12; 4:00 - 6:30, 10/13
Mr. Cowley	1:30 - 3:30, 10/12 only
Ms. Davids	3:30 - 6:00
Ms. Dozauer-Ray	1:30 - 3:00
Ms. Lamond	1:30 - 3:30
Ms. Martin	4:30 - 6:30
Ms. Sukiennicki	1:30 - 3:30, 10/12; 3:30 - 6:00, 10/13

***REMINDER* We no longer print schedules. Please print your student's schedule from Infinite Campus prior to conferences. Thank you.**

Except as otherwise noted, full-time teachers will be available both days except during break times, which are approximate. Part-time teachers will be available for conferences only part of October 12 and/or 13. Please check the chart to the left for exact times for all teachers.

Conferences will be held in the Library and various classrooms. Conferences for Choral and Instrumental Music will be held in the music portable (E). Meetings with Ms. Lamond will be held in the conference room (123) opposite the offices. A detailed schedule is posted on the Summit website and will be in the main hallway when you arrive.

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED. JUST DROP IN!



Helpful Hints For P/T Conferences



1. You do not sign up for conferences as you may have done when your child was in elementary school, rather just come and wait your turn to speak to teachers. If you have a conflict on your assigned day, you may come on the alternate day (we are not able to schedule an alternate time for conferences). We understand this system may not allow you to meet with every teacher, but it provides a balance for parents and teachers' needs, and is the standard used at middle and high schools.
2. 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.
3. **There will be lines so expect to wait. Please bring something to read or do while you are waiting.**
4. Books and magazines or other items may not be used as placeholders in a line. Please be courteous to the other parents who are waiting.
5. **Conferences should last about five minutes.** Please be respectful of this time limit. **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. If additional time is needed, set up an appointment in the next few days to continue your discussion (this may be by phone or email if a teacher is unable to meet in person).
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 promptly at 6:30 p.m.
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, s/he 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. If you are unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher(s) directly to discuss any questions you might have.



Dress Code Reminders

Parents, we need your help. As we know, current fashions include short-shorts for girls. Every day there are dozens of girls wearing shorts that are not appropriate for school, and are not the length required in our dress code. At Summit, shorts are expected to reach the length of one's fingertips, when arms are by one's side. It is uncomfortable for both students and staff to address the dress code concerns, and we are finding these discussions are not changing students' choices. Your support at home can make a difference. One suggestion is to help your child to reflect on whether his/her clothes are appropriate for school each day. Proper dress demonstrates respect for self and others, as well as the wider school community. Beginning next week, students in short-shorts will be asked to change into their gym shorts (or clothes from lost and found) for the remainder of the day. Thank you for your support!

Managing Absences and Make-up Work



Missing school is difficult. We recognize that students will miss school due to illness, sometimes for several days at a time. This letter provides a reminder of the **support systems and procedures** available when students return from an absence. We do 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, students have **two days** to complete work missed for every one day absent. However, on the **third consecutive day** of absence, parents may contact the office (summit.office@bvsd.org or call 720-561-3900) 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 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, but cannot re-teach entire lessons. Upon return, students should **plan to meet with their teachers at office hours** to develop a fuller and more detailed make-up plan. Office hours are posted on our website under *Academics*. If just one day was missed and office hours are more than two days away, the student should make a lunch or study hall appointment with the teacher.

Students and parents are encouraged to check teacher websites, then **Infinite Campus (IC), to track assignments** that were due during the absence and identify when these assignments need to be turned in. A link to IC exists on our website *Parents* page and on the BVSD homepage. We **just added a report feature that lists all missing assignments in one click**. When in the parent portal simply select the reports tab and click on missing assignments. If a student **misses a test**, the test is usually made up during study hall and available for the student to take by a certain date. **Science labs** are made up during after school office hours. To help students learn difficult concepts they missed or may not yet fully comprehend we offer **Math Lab all day on Tuesdays and English Lab all day on Wednesdays** in the conference room across from the office. Students may sign out of study hall to attend the lab; this is highly recommended any time a student is needing extra help or struggling with a concept.

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 **when students need support the most**, as when 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. This letter is on the *Parents* page of the Summit website.

Mr. Galvin & Ms. Burrows

In Case of Inclement Weather

As the season for winter weather approaches, we wanted to remind you of how to know when Summit is closed. School closure information will be posted on BVSD's website (www.bvsd.org) and will be conveyed to the following local radio and television stations before 6:30 a.m. **Remember, if BVSD is closed, Summit (as a BVSD school) will also be closed!**

If Summit is not closed during inclement weather or less than ideal road conditions exist, please remember to allow extra time to get to school so that your student will be on time! **If BVSD is on a delayed start**, Summit will start on time, but you may use your own discretion as to when you are comfortable getting your child to school. We will work with each family on a case by case basis.

KGNU	88.5 FM	KWGN-TV	Channel 2
KTCL	93.3 FM	KCNC-TV	Channel 4
KPTT	95.7 FM	KMGH-TV	Channel 7
KBCO	97.3 FM	Bldr P.A.-TV	Channel 8
KRFX	103.5 FM	KUSA-TV	Channel 9
KBPI	106.7 FM	KDVR-TV	Fox 31 News
KHOW	630 AM		
KOA	850 AM		
KKZN	760 AM		



Summit Teacher Websites

Teacher websites offer very helpful information – from special class announcements to homework assignments to how to best contact teachers.

Here's how to find the teacher websites: go to Summit's website <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit/Pages/default.aspx>, and click on the Staff Directory tab. This will bring up a list of the teachers. Here, you can click on each teacher's website at the far right of the page. Here's a direct link: <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit/staffdirectory/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have questions, please contact the Summit office for help (summit.office@bvsd.org or 720-561-3900).

Box Tops For Education



The Net-Zero Club is collecting BoxTops for Summit.

Last year, Net-Zero raised approximately \$200.00 just from collecting BoxTops. For those parents interested, registering on the BoxTops website and shopping through BoxTops can earn Summit additional funds. For those who have been collecting BoxTops over the summer, please bring them to school and drop them in the collection box in the office so that we may send them off before the November deadline.

Any questions? Feel free to email me at ninadonohue@comcast.net. Thank you for helping! Nina Donohue

Student Lunch Accounts

Having trouble keeping track of when to add money to your student's meal account? Tired of getting negative balance reminder phone calls and emails? With payforit.net you can set up a low-balance email reminder for when your student's account gets below a level you choose. This is a free service, with no obligation to use Payforit to add money to your student's account. Best yet, there is no transaction fee if you choose the convenience of online payments. Visit PayForIt.net and set up your account today! BVSD Food Services

Homework Free Weekends

A few years ago, Summit began offering a homework 'free' and family weekend once each semester. This school year, these weekends will be October 29/30 and April 7/8. Homework 'free' weekends are meant to support family time and provide a little bit of break for our students from their homework load.

However, we do want to clarify a couple of things regarding these weekends.

When we say homework 'free,' we mean that assignments are not given on Friday which are due the following Monday.

Long-term assignments are still in place, and your child may still choose to spend time working on these. There may also be upcoming assessments he or she may choose to study for over that weekend. And, of course, there will probably be shorter term assignments which will be due the week after the homework 'free' weekend (in the Tuesday – Friday range). Therefore, it may be better to look at these weekends as homework 'reduced' weekends rather than completely homework free.

We do, of course, hope that students will plan their time so that they do have the ability to do something fun and relaxing with their families on these weekends, and we hope parents will encourage their children to do so.

Mr. Finell

8th Grade Boys Basketball



8th grade boys basketball is coming up: the season runs October 28th – December 15th. The deadline to sign up is 9:00 a.m. on the morning of November 4th. Practices are held every day after school until about 4:30 p.m.

If your child is interested in being on the team all you need to do is pick up an interscholastic athletic form from the bulletin board outside of the office, complete, sign and turn in to the office with a check for \$85. You may also access the form here: <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit/academics/sports/Pages/default.aspx>

Your child also needs a current sports physical on file at the office (physicals are good for one year from the date of the physical). Don't miss out on this great athletic opportunity!

Phone Messages and Forgotten Items

The middle school years are a time of emerging independence. We want to help foster student responsibility, including being prepared for school every day. We appreciate the level of parent support at Summit; however, there are times when we can over-function for students. When a student experiences the natural consequence for not bringing in a lunch or a homework assignment, this helps him/her to become more responsible and develop greater independence.



Assignments, lunches, forgotten projects, flash drives and sports equipment are being delivered to the office each day. Because it affects all students' learning, our policy is that office staff will not interrupt class to let students know that an item has been dropped off. Please remind your student that when they suspect that you might have dropped off something they forgot, they should check for it on the round table in the office. Similarly, we would like to promote after-school plans being made prior to the school day. Again, the numerous interruptions to deliver phone messages can be problematic. Should there be an emergency, we will of course deliver a message. Students also have access to the student phone and can be responsible for checking in with you after school if plans are tentative.

Thanks for your help.



Support Summit Sports!

The coaches at Summit would like to encourage everyone to come out and support our Huskies at the annual flag football intramural tournament, which will be held at Summit on Monday, 10/17 at 4:00 p.m.

We would also like to encourage anyone in the community to cheer our lady Huskies 8th grade basketball team as they play home games in our new gym! There are schedules posted in the Summit Hallway and on the Summit website: <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit/calendars/Pages/default.aspx>.

Summit International Night



Summit's International Night
Join the festivities and support the Huskies!
November 4th, 4:00-7:00 pm

Dear Summit families,

Please mark your calendars for Summit Middle School's first International Night on Friday, November 4th, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be food, activities, dance and music performances from countries around the world.

You can help make this event a success by:

- Performing a music piece, a traditional dance or reciting poetry/song in another language
- Suggesting and/or running activities such as henna tattoos, traditional games, calligraphy in another language
- Hosting a country display table (handcrafts, pictures, traditional clothes, etc.)
- Donating food or dessert

For activities, display tables or performances, please contact Mina Comailian (mcomailian@yahoo.com) or 720-249-2590. For donating food/dessert: please contact Julie Bala (juliebala@yahoo.com) or call 720-890-9523.

Hope to see you all there!

Food information for Summit International Night

Many parents have asked about the details of the food /dessert part of the International Night. We are excited by the interest we have received so far! The food stations will be set up in the school cafeteria, each highlighting a different country or region from around the world. Tickets will be available at the door (for a suggested donation price), and these tickets will be exchanged for a sampler portion of food from each station. Ticket donations help support our school.

It would be great if each parent or a group of parents could bring a dish representing their heritage. You can bring decorations for your stalls and even get dressed in your traditional cultural garb. The dishes should be enough for about 40 people. You (or someone from your group) will serve the food or dessert you provide. However if you are unable to serve, we can assign volunteers to serve the dish you have provided. Please bring the necessary utensils for serving and/or keeping your food warm or cold. Plates, spoons, forks and napkins will be provided.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julie Bala at 720-890-9523 or email: juliebala@yahoo.com



Summit Bicycle Lesson and Safety Grant

We are happy to announce that Summit was recently invited to participate in the **BVSD BLAST (Bicycle Lesson and Safety Training)** program for the next two years (2011-2013). This is the outcome of our having joined a multi-school grant application that recently was awarded \$50,000 in federal funds through the *Colorado Safe Routes to School Program*. Special thanks are owed to Marc Vigil for writing a letter of support. We look forward to the program coming to Summit in April 2012. The program will serve students in 6th and 7th grade during a total of four PE periods in late April. A more detailed synopsis of the program is provided below. Although this may seem early, our participation in the program requires student and parent surveys to be filled out by the middle of October. To this end, Summit 6th and 7th grade students will take a brief anonymous "hands-up survey" during PE class and a parent survey link will be emailed out soon.

What is BLAST? The **BLAST (Bicycle Lesson and Safety Training)** program is designed to teach students the skills and knowledge required for safe and effective cycling. This [curriculum](#) has been developed by bicycle education advocates and reviewed by educators and parents from BVSD.

The BLAST program is taught by trained BLAST instructors in PE class. Topics are covered in a classroom setting and hands-on bicycle riding in a controlled environment. **BLAST** is a primer for students to gain an understanding of how to safely operate a bicycle in a variety of situations. The class aims to produce cyclists who ride safely and skillfully. It equips students with the knowledge of smart cycling and provides an opportunity to practice bike skills. During physical education periods, BLAST Instructors who are trained to League of American Bicyclist standards teach a pre-ride bicycle check and helmet fitting, as well as lead students through bike drills giving attention to safety skills such as a power start, signaling turns, and the emergency stop.

Why is BLAST important? Cycling provides many benefits both to the individual and the community. There are wide-reaching social, economic and environmental impacts of utilitarian cycling, and it is also a growing form of recreation and fitness. However, most cyclists (children and adults) are unaware of the laws and conventions that govern cycling on public byways and lack formal training in safe riding skills. For more information please visit: <http://www.bvsd.org/transportation/toschool/blast/Pages/default.aspx>

Bike Safety Alert



If your student rides a bike to Summit, please go over the "rules of the road." We are very concerned over the safety of our students as we have been getting reports of reckless riding.

In particular, many of the students on bikes whiz through the stop sign at the intersection of 46th and Hanover without stopping at all. Also, some students have been cutting between cars lined up to turn left on Broadway from Hanover, unaware of oncoming traffic and putting themselves at real risk of being hit.

Please remind your child to stop and look both ways at every stop sign, and to follow all traffic safety rules!

Summit in the Nutcracker Ballet!



Did you know that 8 students from our school have been selected by audition to dance in the Boulder Ballet/ Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra 2011 production of the Nutcracker?

They are: Esther Barnett, Camille Britton, Katariya Edfors, Anna Kauffman, Beatriz Kuperus, Raquel Kuperus, Katherine Lapp and Eliza Schwartz.

You can see them dance on November 25, 26, or 27 at Macky Auditorium on the CU campus. Order your tickets today using the Summit Middle School form at the end of this newsletter and our school will receive 20% of the cost as a donation from Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra/Boulder Ballet. There is a red collection box in the Summit office where you can turn in your forms, or you may give them directly to Suzanne Kauffman. Order forms are due by end of school on October 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne at 303-517-2019 or suzanne@acroname.com.

Nutcracker Ballet Order Form



BOULDER BALLET & the BOULDER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
with the
BOULDER CHILDREN'S CHORALE
Present

The Nutcracker

Friday November 25, 4PM
Saturday November 26, 2PM & 7PM
Sunday November 27, 2PM

Macky Auditorium, on the University of Colorado Campus

Treat your family to one of the front range's premier productions of the holiday classic, and support your school at the same time! Boulder Ballet and the Boulder Philharmonic will donate 20% of ticket sales through this program to Summit Middle School. Last year, over \$6,300 was donated to Boulder County schools!

Choose your seating section and write the ticket quantity on the form below. Return this form along with a check (no credit cards please) for the grand total to your *School Representative* by October 28th. Make the check payable to **Boulder Philharmonic**. The donation checks will be distributed to School Representatives at a special reception at the Dairy Center for the Arts, on November 12th at 6 PM. Tickets will be distributed starting November 15.

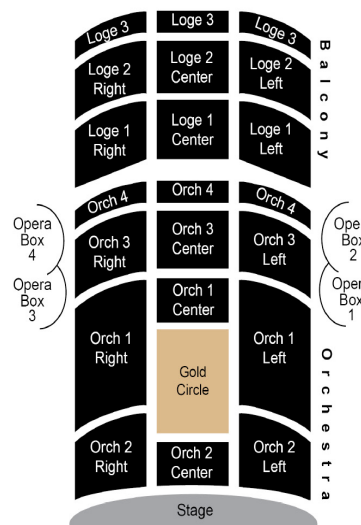
Parent's name _____ Student's name _____

Class/teacher _____ Parent's phone _____

School Representative Suzanne Kauffman Phone 303 517-2019

For ticketing questions, contact Shelley Sampson at the Boulder Philharmonic box office: (303) 449-1343 Ext. 2, or e-mail ssampson@boulderphil.org.

Section	Friday 4PM	Saturday 2PM	Saturday 7PM	Sunday 2PM	Total per section
Opera Box - \$82					
Gold Circle - \$67					
Orchestra 1 - \$44					
Orchestra 2 - \$52					
Orchestra 3 - \$28					
Orchestra 4 - \$15					
Loge 1 - \$62					
Loge 2 - \$32					
Loge 3 - \$15					
Box office fee					\$5.00
Grand Total					\$





Introducing Pennies for Thought

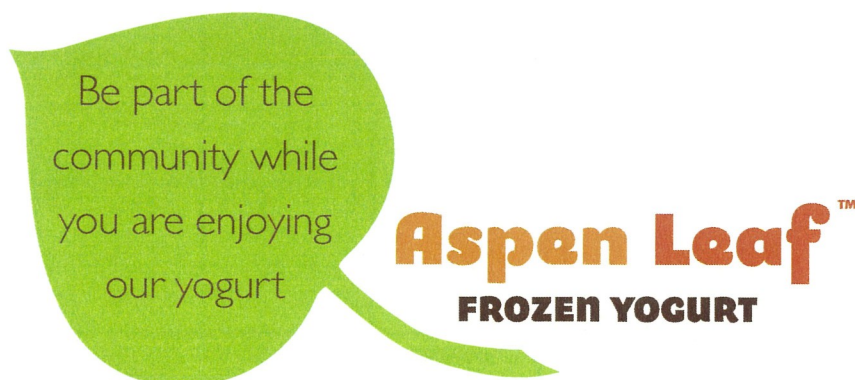
Aspen Leaf Yogurt's Community Giving Program

We will donate one cent for every ounce of yogurt and toppings
that we sell to causes you care about

local non-profits • schools • youth organizations

October's Pennies for Thought Proceeds will Benefit

Summit Middle School



www.facebook.com/alyboulder

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
<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

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