



# Summit News

November 20, 2009

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 28, Number 7

## The School Calendar

### November

- Week of Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, Lost and Found items donated
- Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>, No school, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Monday, 30<sup>th</sup>, School resumes

### December

- Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library
- Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students\*
- Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup>, Art Show, 5:30 – 7:00 then Instrumental Music Concert, 7 pm
- Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, 14<sup>th</sup>, Summit History Day
- Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup>, Choir Concert, 7 pm
- Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>, Drama Class performance, 7 pm
- Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>, Winter Break begins

### January

- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup>, School resumes
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library
- Monday, 18<sup>th</sup>, Martin Luther King Day, NO School
- Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>, Dedication of the New Gymnasium 8:00 – 8:40 a.m.
- Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>, Summit Science Fair, first round
- Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library

### February

- Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup>, Science Fair, Round 2
- Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library
- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup>, NO School, Presidents' Day
- Friday, 19<sup>th</sup>, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup>, Parent Teacher Conferences\* (L - Z), 1:30 pm
- Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library
- Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup>, Parent Teacher Conferences\* (A - K), 1:30 pm
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup>, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students\*

\* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 p.m.

**DEDICATION OF OUR NEW GYMNASIUM ON JANUARY 19, 2010, 8:00 - 8:40 A.M.**

*ALL SUMMIT FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO THE DEDICATION OF OUR NEW GYMNASIUM ON JANUARY 19 AT 8:00 A.M.*

### SUMMIT'S SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS (2009-2010)

Members of this year's School Improvement Team:

Amanda Avallone, Haydee Ayi-Bonte, Leslie Burns, Elaine Corey, David Finell, Kelli Frykholm, Valerie Koch, Cynthia Kolanowski, Thomas Seibel, Chitra Seshan, Yizi Xu

#### Equity Goal

"Students will receive timely identification and supports/interventions as needed, whether or not they have been previously identified as needing supports for 504, IEP or other disabilities."

Continued effective implementation and refinement of Response to Intervention (RtI) is the focus of our Equity Goal in order to help all of our students access our challenging curriculum and achieve at their potential with proper support. Given that RtI is a state-mandated program, we want to ensure that our system is effective for our students, responsive to our mission, and supportive of our curricular goals.

### **Achievement Goal**

**“Identify among incoming 6th graders those with marked deficiencies in math skills, help them to gain sufficient academic growth in their first two years at Summit, so that they are on track to perform at grade level by their 8th grade year.”**

Our Achievement goal is centered on our Numeracy class. Students enter Summit with a wide range of skills and content knowledge in mathematics. Those students with gaps are identified through MAP, CSAP and Summit’s placement assessment. We have found these students are at high risk of failing to master Pre-Algebra benchmarks. Our goal is that students who complete Numeracy in sixth grade will have successfully completed Algebra by the end of their 8th grade year.

### **Climate Goal**

**“In collaboration between home and school, students’ capacity for success with Summit’s program will be expanded by helping them strengthen their repertoire of skills and work habits towards managing their work load and responsibilities.”**

Our Climate goal is focused on helping to give our students the skills they need to manage the demands of an active life and a rigorous academic program.

**\*Note: Summit is going through re-accreditation this year and our site visitation review will take place on April 14 and 15, 2010.**

## **FYI**

### **MathCounts school competition**

The MathCounts school competition will be held on Tuesday, December 15 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the school library. Students will participate in three rounds of solving challenging math problems. The results of this competition will be used to select the four students who will go on to represent Summit Middle School in the Chapter competition, which will be held in February. These four students will also be competing for individual honors. We will also be sending an additional four students to the Chapter competition who will be competing as individuals only.

Best of luck to all MathCounts participants!

### **Summit's National Geographic GEO BEE ...**

will be held in all Summit history classrooms on Thursday 12/17 and there will be one winner from each classroom. The 15 classroom winners will compete again on Friday 12/18 until only 10 remain and then we go right into the school level competition.

Parents/families of those 15 classroom-level winning students will be invited to attend. One student will win our school-level competition. That winning student will take a written exam in the principal's office in early January. If our school winner scores among the top 50 students in all of Colorado, he/she will compete at the state level in the spring of 2010. Good luck to all.

### **News from Choir and Drama**

Summit's choirs--Silver Rain & Concert Choir--are performing a concert on Tues., Dec 15 at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in downtown Boulder (across from Hotel Boulderado on the north side). Admission is free. Come join us for a lovely celebration of tremendously varied music!

Summit's drama class is presenting "Orphan Train", a one-act play, on Wed, Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Southern Hills auditorium. Admission is free. The play is based on fact and revolves around the orphan trains that took street kids from cities like New York to towns out west in order to give them homes. This was a charitable effort that spanned many decades (circa 1850-1920). The play is easy for kids to relate to, poignant, funny, and has a beautifully crafted script.

### **Open Enrollment 11/30/09 – 1/15/10 and Returning Student Info**

If you have a son or daughter in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and would like him/her to come to Summit next year, please remember to participate in BVSD's Open Enrollment process. The form will be available online 11/30/09 at <http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx> and the entire process can be completed online this year. The online process must be completed (or the paper form turned in to BVSD) by January 15, 2010. Be sure to check the sibling preference on the form if you have an older child at Summit. Also, please let the Summit office know about any 5<sup>th</sup> grade siblings who are open-enrolling to Summit as we will arrange for a sibling shadow day in February before the school choice decision must be made. For more information, or to sign up for a Summit tour, see the Announcements section on the home page of our website at [www.bvsd.org/schools/Summit](http://www.bvsd.org/schools/Summit).

You will also need to participate in open enrollment for the 2010-11 schoolyear if you have moved during 2009 and you are now outside the BVSD boundaries. Please let the office know if this is your situation so that we may advise you.

If you already know that your current 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade student will NOT be returning to Summit next year, please let the office know this, also. Thanks!

### **Come See the Artists of Summit!!!**

There has been a change in location for the art show. Instead of having it in the MPR we will be having it in the Summit library. The show is on Thursday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and will feature a collection of artwork from the fall art classes at Summit. You are invited to view the art exhibit from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the library at Summit.

## **Thank you...**

We wish to thank the following families that have contributed to our annual fund, **Tools for Learning**, in the past two weeks of the campaign:

Anonymous (1)  
Angelique Layton and Jeffrey Anderson  
Gail and Frank Arant  
James and Maura Christoph  
Jeff and Kelli Frykholm  
Kim and John Haines  
David and Dierdre Kopel  
The Valdemar F. Larson Memorial Fund

Then there will be a music program featuring Summit's Instrumental Music classes starting at 7:00 p.m. in the MPR. Please come to see and listen to the talented and creative Summit community.

### **Have any leftover paint?**

#### **A request from Susan Baruch**

I am planning to paint a mural at Summit and am looking for any extra house paint someone might have. I am looking for paint cans that have either not been used or are still half full. Please email me at [susan.baruch@bvsd.org](mailto:susan.baruch@bvsd.org) if you have any paint to donate or know someone who might.

### **Mark your calendars**

***for the Annual Summit Holiday Book Fair at Barnes & Noble 12/12 – 12/13. Shop and enjoy special Summit events on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 pm!!!!***

Please visit Barnes & Noble on Pearl Street in Boulder on Saturday, December 12th through Sunday, December 13th from 9am – 10pm. Present your voucher and Summit will receive a percentage of all purchases (except gift cards). Make your list now and do your book, movie and music shopping on these days. It's easy! Just print the voucher attached to this newsletter and take it with you when you shop. It's good in the Café too, so be sure to have a cup of coffee while you shop. Extra vouchers will be available at the store. AND, be sure to join Summit families on Saturday from 3:30 – 6pm, to listen to a performance by Silver Rain, view student art work and get a free henna tattoo!

Contact Lisa Searchinger at [l.searchinger@comcast.net](mailto:l.searchinger@comcast.net) or 303-442-4498 with questions.



Your Child's Education:  
**PRICELESS**

Melissa and David Lurie  
Peter and Elena Mathys  
Vincent Mione  
John and Sally Morley  
Steve and Jennifer Piper  
Joel and So Rosenblum  
Michael and Donna Walters

We have made a good start towards our annual goal, but still have not heard back from more than half of our families. This year, the state of Colorado is contemplating significant reductions in education funding which would negatively impact schools, especially charters like Summit. As a result, your TFL donation is more important than ever. We

budget for an average contribution of \$350 per student but realize that some families are in a position to donate more or less than this requested amount. We need each and every family at Summit to contribute to our annual fund, at whatever level is appropriate for them.

Please make your donation to **Tools for Learning** before year-end, and qualify for a current year tax deduction. You may simply drop off your pledge card and payment at the Summit Office or mail it to:

Tools for Learning  
Supporters of Summit, Inc.  
4655 Hanover Ave.  
Boulder, CO 80305

Please contact our board representative at [dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com) or call Dita Hutchinson directly at (303) 499-9467 if you have any questions.



### **Capital Campaign**

We very much appreciate the generosity of our most recent donors to the capital campaign. Thank you for your support of our soon-to-open gym.

Robert Sukiennicki  
Susan and Michael Kranzdorf  
Mansour Alipour-Fard  
Mr. and Mrs. Taco G. Velds  
Anonymous  
Kaufman Family  
Debbie & Tom Gould

Haydee Ayi-Bonte  
Laura & Peter Burke  
Barb & Chris Kostanick  
Lyons Family  
Ila Slimowitz and Michael  
Kracauer  
Wendy & Alek Komarnitsky

Paul McCue & Holly Sprenkle  
Buchholz Family  
Meghan & Greg Guerin  
Michelle Wieber & Eric Stevens  
Francois & Stella Pradeau  
Yizi Xu & Cindy Ding  
Anne & Jay Toslosky

We apologize if any names were missed. Please let us know and we will correct that omission before the next list. Also, if you would prefer to have your name listed differently, just let me know and we will be happy to do that.

Julie Scott  
[juliana.scott@bvsd.org](mailto:juliana.scott@bvsd.org)

### **Thank you for staff gift bags:**

Thank you to the following donors who made contributions towards the November gift bags for the Summit staff: Seth Ellis Chocolatier, Whole Foods, Polly Dawkins, Savory Spice and Pangea.

Also, many thanks to Michelle Harvey for all her work pulling together the lovely gift bags for the Summit staff – they are so appreciated!

## ***NEED A HAND WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?***

We can help if:

- You are a U.S. citizen or a legal alien and a resident of Colorado,
- You pay a heating bill to a fuel provider or your heat is included in your rent,
- Your income is within the following guidelines:

<b>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</b>	<b>GROSS MONTHLY INCOME</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,670</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$2,246</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$2,823</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$3,976</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$4,553</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$5,129</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$5,706</b>
<b>EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON</b>	<b>\$577</b>

**For additional information call toll-free  
1-866-HEAT HELP**

**(1-866-432-8435)**

**or**

**Boulder County Social Services**

**303-678-6097**

**APPLICATION PERIOD**

**November 1 - April 30**

**[www.leapoutreach.com](http://www.leapoutreach.com)**

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**Summit Middle School**

# **Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR**

**December 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Barnes & Noble**

**2999 Pearl Street, Boulder**

**Shop 9am – 10pm and Support Summit!**

**Join us for these fun activities on Saturday the 12th:**

- Henna Tattoos 3:30 – 6:00
- Silver Rain Musical Performance 4:00
- Advanced Ceramics Class Art Show 3:30 – 6:00

Contact Lisa Searchinger for more information:  
303-442-4498 or [l.searchinger@comcast.net](mailto:l.searchinger@comcast.net)



**Barnes & Noble  
BOOKFAIR**  
supporting  
**Summit Middle  
School**

December 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

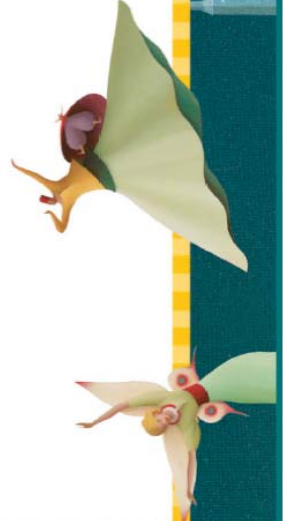
Barnes & Noble

2999 Pearl Street, Boulder

519306

**Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.\***

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks and other select items are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.





## **Free Parent Education! Brainstorm Panels: Supporting Our Non-Traditional Learners**

Held at the Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe in Boulder  
6-8:00 p.m., no registration required

Welcome to the 3rd year of offering these informative and dynamic panels of professionals sharing their expertise to help parents improve children's health so they can learn and grow. Though it grew out of the ADD group, these panels are for any parent or educator who wants to learn more about how to support kids' bodies and minds. With information from nutritionists, pediatricians, therapists and other specialists, participants have left with ideas, tips, resources and possibilities.

### **Monday, October 19: Harvesting Healthy Families** *(in collaboration with Parent Engagement Network (PEN))*

Ann Cooper, BVSD Lunch Lady  
Jane Reagen, Growe Foundation  
Isabelle Tierney, Body Beloved Revolution

### **Thursday, January 7: Cultivating Lively Minds**

Dr. Zack Alme, D.C., Wellness Coach  
Joanne Neiman, M.A., L.P.C., Psychotherapy - Brainspotting  
Judy Converse, MPH, LD, RD, author of *Special Needs Kids Eat Right*  
Linda Cain, MSED, Educational & Therapeutic Consultant

### **Monday, March 15: Supporting Strong Organization**

Dr. Liz Turner, D.C., Family Chiropractic  
Mary Collette Rogers, Kitchen Coach  
Kristin B. Powell, Ph.D., PLLC, Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology  
Deborah Kratovil, Learning Pathways



### **You're invited to join the BVSD ADD Parent Support Group!**

This safe, compassionate, informative group is open to parents throughout the year. Come every month or whenever you can. We share our stories, concerns, experience and resources.

Co-facilitated by BVSD school psychologist, Dani Rudkin, PsyD and Anna Stewart, Parent Liaison from the BVSD Parent Support Center.

**Mondays from 6-8:00 p.m. at Fireside Elementary School in Louisville**  
**MEETING SCHEDULE: November 16, December 7, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10**

Please contact Anna at 720-561-5918 or email to [anna.stewart@bvsd.org](mailto:anna.stewart@bvsd.org) for more information and registration.

## 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.bvsvd.org/schools/summit](http://www.bvsvd.org/schools/summit)

Janet Schultz, Editor, [cojayhawks@aol.com](mailto: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://bvsvd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

*Dita Hutchinson*, Vice Chair, [dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com)

*Liz Snowden*, Treasurer, [lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com)

*Polly Dawkins*, Secretary, [pdawkins.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:pdawkins.at.summit@gmail.com)

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*Yizi Xu*, [yxu.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:yxu.at.summit@gmail.com)

*Sue Kunz*, [skunz.at.summit@gmail.com](mailto:skunz.at.summit@gmail.com)

*David Finell*, Principal, 303-499-9511, [david.finell@bvsvd.org](mailto:david.finell@bvsvd.org) (ex officio)