

Summit News



Volume 32, Issue 6

November 4, 2011

Summit Calendar

November	
November 4	Summit International Night, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
November 9	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
November 14	Late start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time)
November 16	High School Transition Program for 8th grade families, 6:30-8:00 pm, Library
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Holiday - no school
November 28	Late start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time) Open Enrollment period begins
November 29	School tour* - reservations required
November 30	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
December	
December 1	School tour* - reservations required
December 5	School tour* - reservations required
December 8	School tour* - reservations required Parent/Student Information night* - 6:30-8:00 pm
December 9	1/2 day—Professional Development Meetings
December 12	Late Start, 9:00 am (Collaboration Time) Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, Southern Hills auditorium
December 13	History Day - 7th grade
December 14	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm Band/Strings Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
December 15	School tour* - reservations required
December 19 – 30	Winter Break, No School

*Denotes an Open Enrollment event for prospective families.

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Summit Survey

Dear Parents and Students,

Student and parent surveys are an important way for Summit administrators, board members and teachers to receive input about how well we are educating your children. This input helps us recognize areas where we have done well with regard to our mission and goals. It also brings our attention to areas where improvement is needed in order to help ensure we are always working to keep Summit the best it can be.

The School Accountability Committee (SAC) has finished updating and revising survey questionnaires and will be asking students and parents to take them during the coming week with SurveyMonkey, an online provider of survey service. Summit parents whose email addresses are in Infinite Campus have already or will shortly receive an email invitation from SurveyMonkey. Please save that email as it contains a link that would allow you to access your survey page. The students will take the student survey, which is different from the parent survey, using computers in the school library during one of their study hall periods during the next week.

One of the things the survey asks is for you to estimate the average time that your child spends on homework. One challenge we are facing is that modern computers are so successful in disguising work as play (and vice versa) that it is very hard to tell when one stops and the other begins. So please try (and talk to your child about this, too) to separate these activities as best you can when answering this question. On the other hand, do not forget or neglect to count the homework time that your child spent at school, for example, during the Study Hall period.

In February many of you will receive email notices from the school district about the district's parent survey that is coming your way at that time, and may be wondering if it is the same as the Summit survey. The answer is that they are different. Every school in the district participates in the district survey, which seeks parents' input in areas that are important to the district. Summit is probably the only school in the district that conducts its own survey in areas that are important to our school. The scope and depth are very different between these two surveys. We consider them complementary to each other, and encourage our parents to participate in both.

Again, thank you for taking the time to give Summit the honest and constructive feedback we need in order feel validated for the things we are doing well and to help us see ways in which we can continually refine and improve our program.

Sincerely,

David Finell, Principal



Technology at Summit



Technology is an important part of our lives; at times it can be hard to imagine how we functioned prior to cellphones, computers, and the internet. Over time our schools have become filled with technology and our practices as teachers and administrators are now dependent on technology. As such, teaching and learning with technology are essential for the Summit school community. Part of my role as Assistant Principal is to oversee our school's effective use and integration of technology into all areas of school operation from printing student reports in the office and fixing printing problems in the computer lab, to purchasing new software which will enhance our school curriculum and the teaching methods of our talented staff. I have been contributing this way to schools for nearly twenty years and I am very excited to continue this work at Summit.

I wanted to update you on some areas of technology that we are currently focusing on. Throughout the school year and into next year we will be updating and increasing the effectiveness of our school website. This process has already begun and you may have noticed new links, content and a more uniform appearance, but we have much left to accomplish. We have trained additional staff and board members in *SharePoint*, our web management software. We are looking forward to BVSD's upgrade to a newer version of this software early this winter. Website features which I encourage you to use include *Infinite Campus*, of course, but also *EZ Access* which is available on our *student* page. Click on the *EZ Access* directions to see how your student can upload school files to home and home files to school. The *Summit Calendar*, accessible always on the

left side bar, details all ongoing events each month. Our *clubs* page under the *students* tab shows which clubs meet when and where; students may join clubs at any time. The *counseling* page, also under our *students* tab, contains wonderful new videos and pictures of our most up-to-date events from this school year and provides answers to many frequent questions about student scheduling and course placement. Finally, our parent and board volunteers are working diligently to make our fundraising efforts and volunteering opportunities easier to access and understand through the use of *PayPal* and *PTO Manager*. Please view the updated *fundraising* and *parents* tabs.

Regarding technology and curriculum, one of our annual school achievement goals is to evaluate our Technology Literacy curriculum. Thus far in this process we are focusing on the six very well-articulated new BVSD technology standards as a starting point for developing uniform Summit Technology Standards which will guide our teaching of technology skills. We plan to conduct a short online assessment of technology skills for our students at all grade levels to inform our discussion of adopting new technology standards. Adopting new comprehensive technology standards will allow us to review and adjust our technology course offerings and our technology skill integration accordingly. Happy keyboarding!

Sincerely, Mr. Galvin, Assistant Principal

High School Transition Night

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, November 16th in the Library, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL 101: An introduction to high school registration, course offerings, and requirements for graduation. We will also review the opportunities that will be available during Open Enrollment to explore high school options.

SUMMIT PARENT/STUDENT ALUMNI PANEL: Summit graduates and their parents will share information on those factors that influenced high school choice as well as "tips" on how to transition well to high school. The panel will primarily be a question and answer format, so please come with questions in hand.

This program is designed for parents. There will be a presentation for students in school the week of November 28th.

Matching Grants

Many large corporations (e.g. Ball, IBM, Sun Microsystems, etc.) give matching grants to schools. If you are a Summit parent who works for a corporation that gives matching grants, would you please contact Summit Board member Ahmad Akrami at aakrami.at.summit@gmail.com to let him know. Such matching grants have always provided a strong source of donations to the school and your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you,

David Finell

Required English Texts

Dear Parents of Students in English I, II, III, and IV:

This is a reminder that families are required to purchase assigned novels (but not anthologies) for English classes at Summit. It is very helpful for our students to have their own copies of our novels as they can make notes directly in the book. This is great preparation for high school where making notes is the standard practice. This will also help Summit offset the continuing cuts to K – 12 education in Colorado. We appreciate your support on this.

If such purchases are a hardship for any family, please contact our Business Manager, Shelly Hendrick, (shelly.hendrick@bvsd.org) directly and Summit will take care of the cost.

Sincerely,

The English Department

Ms. Frykholm, Ms. Rabinovich, Ms. Spangler and Ms. Sukiennicki



Financial Support

The decline in our economy has impacted families in a myriad of ways. Please know that there is support at Summit, whether in the reduction of fees, participation in the free/reduced lunch program, assistance with field trips, background check fees or support during the holidays.

Please contact Elizabeth Burrows at elizabeth.burrows@bvsd.org or Shelly Hendrick at shelly.hendrick@bvsd.org. These requests and supports are confidential.



National Junior Honor Society

Summit's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) has organized many projects recently. Our recent two day bake sale benefiting the AIDS orphans in a Zulu Village in South Africa raised over two hundred dollars. Thank you Summit!

Last week many students came into Mrs. Kapsak's room to pick up trick or treat boxes for UNICEF. One hundred percent of the sixth graders participated along with many 7th and 8th graders. Every penny helps a child in need somewhere around the world. We need all of the boxes returned even if there is not any money in them. You could always drop in some of your own allowance, right?

NJHS is holding a Thanksgiving food drive for the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA). EFAA is asking for non-perishable goods and they ask that you do not bring Ramen noodles. Bring good food you would actually eat to your history classroom. The food drive will take place from November 14th to the 16th (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break), and we hope you will participate. Help those who are hungry right here in Boulder county.

-The NJHS Officers

PE T-Shirts

Need a Summit PE T-shirt?

Gym shirts are for sale in the office. We now have a full complement of sizes available. Shirts are \$5.00 each.



Top Ten Tips for Choosing One's High School

1. Review each school's website with an eye towards the programs offered as well as the information shared during open enrollment events.
2. Attend Information Nights at **all** of your high schools "of interest."
3. Schedule Shadow Days and/or tours so that you may experience firsthand the school's culture. Talking and hearing about a school are different than experiencing a school.
4. Make a list of qualities that are important to you, in regards to your high school experience. Do you value programs in the arts or theatre, the opportunity to play varsity sports, participation in the IB program, a more diverse student body? Consider your long-term hopes and goals as you look towards your academic and co-curricular experiences in high school.
5. Consider the size of the school, student support programs offered, student/teacher ratio, student/counselor ratio and post-secondary planning programs. Will you be supported in the ways you need?
6. Talk with students and parents who have experience with your schools of interest. Identify questions or areas of concern so that you may better understand the unique strengths and challenges of each school.
7. For students, talk with friends from Summit and friends from elementary school about their high school intentions. Having connections in high school is important and helpful!
8. For parents, attend the High School Transition Night at Summit on Wednesday, November 16th from 6:30-8 p.m. in the library. This program will include a parent/student panel who will speak to experiences in choosing one's high school as well as "tips" on the transition to high school.
9. Information on high school graduation requirements and high school course registration will occur at Summit. Review the course offerings at your schools of interest so that you become more familiar with your future options.
10. Meet with Ms. Burrows, who is here to help you with this process!



BVSD Nutrition Services

1. 2011-12 Lunch Prices: Elementary Lunch \$2.95. Middle School Lunch \$3.00. High School Lunch \$3.25. Reduced Meal Price \$0.40. Adult Lunch \$3.95. All lunches include an entrée plus unlimited salad bar and 1% organic milk!
2. 11/3 New Menu Item Spotlight: Have you tried the new Chicken Chilaquiles? It's a traditional Mexican casserole dish made with sautéed onion, garlic, green chiles, chicken, a little gravy, diced tomatoes, corn, and crispy corn tortillas, topped with cheddar cheese. It came up on the menu Thursday, November 3rd and will be offered regularly.
3. 11/16 New Menu Item Spotlight: Our new Chicken Fajitas are made with fresh sautéed red and green bell peppers and onions, tossed with yummy strips of tender chicken and seasonings. Served with fresh whole grain flour tortillas and cheddar cheese. Try it Wednesday, November 16th!
4. 11/30 New Menu Item Spotlight: What kid doesn't love pasta? Cheesy Baked Pasta Marinara blends real ricotta, parmesan, and mozzarella cheeses with scratch-made Italian red tomato sauce and penne marinara, then baked fresh to a yummy, cheesy deliciousness. Try it Wednesday, November 30th!

Find more descriptions of new menu items on our website at: <http://www.bvsvd.org/FOOD/Pages/LunchMenu.aspx>



**The Corden Pharma Colorado*
Regional Science Fair
Is Looking for a Few Good Judges!**

Who: Undergrad seniors, master’s degrees, post-grads, professors in the sciences and science professionals who like working with young students!

When: Thursday, February 23, 2012
Senior division: 8:00 - 11:30 am; Junior division: 12:30 - 4 pm

Where: Glenn Miller Ballroom at CU Boulder

Why: To inspire the next generation of young scientists with your intelligence and expertise.

Project categories: Animal Sciences, Behavioral & Social Sciences, Chemistry, Earth & Space Sciences, Energy & Transportation, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Computer Sciences, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physics and Plant Science

Contact: Anitta Frant at anitta@comcast.net or 303-443-7548
Ellen Debacker at Ellen.debacker@bvsd.org or 720-561-6813

Register at: www.bvsd.org/sciencefair/Pages/judgeregistration.aspx

* Formerly Roche Colorado

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>



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