



Summit News

March 19, 2010 Boulder Valley's First Charter School Volume 29, Number 5

The School Calendar	
March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 19th, 3rd Quarter ends • Monday, 22nd, Spring Break begins • Monday, 29th, School resumes • Wednesday, 31st, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, 3rd, Homework-free weekend • Wednesday, 7th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library • Sunday, 18th, Celebrate Summit, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, 4:00 pm • Wednesday, 21st, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library • Thursday, 22nd, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 am. • Friday, 30th, Summit Day, NO School
May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 12th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library • Friday, 14th, ½ day Professional Day* • Friday, 20th, Community Connections meeting, Library • Wednesday, 26th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library • Friday, 28th, 8th grade graduation • Friday, 28th, last day of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 2nd, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 pm.</p>	

The Principal's Corner
David Finell

Dear Summit Families:

As you read in the last Summit News, Ms. Avallone will be taking a leave of absence for the first semester of next year so that she can join her husband, Bryce, in Nevada where he is leading a consulting project. As Ms. Avallone wrote, she plans to use this time for "writing, personal scholarship, and other activities on [her] lifetime 'to do' list." We all wish her well and look forward to seeing her back fully rejuvenated for second semester. The rest of the administrative team will be covering her administrative responsibilities for the first semester and we are in the process of hiring to fill her English IV and Literacy teaching responsibilities for this time period as well.

Ms. Koch has also let the Summit community know that she and her husband, Chris, (who also taught at Summit for many years), have accepted teaching positions at The International School of Zug and Luzerne in Switzerland. They and their girls will be moving there this summer, and I know you join with me in wishing them much happiness and success. Ms. Koch is a founding teacher at Summit and has been here for 14 years. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all she has given to Summit!

I wanted to let the Summit community know that as a result of the difficult financial realities that are affecting education in BVSD and nationwide, we will not be rehiring for Ms. Koch's position. Instead we will be parceling out her responsibilities to other people, primarily to myself and other people on the administrative staff. I think it is important that the administration at Summit take the lead in tightening belts during these challenging budgetary times.

With a much leaner administrative staff next year, especially for first semester, we will strive to keep things running at the same level of quality. However, if our turn-around time is a little slower than you have come to expect I ask for your understanding.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Finell,
Principal

In addition from Mr. Finell: another safety reminder, this time from a Summit parent:

"I am sure you get tons of emails about the craziness of the kids walking on Tantra to the buses. However, I think yesterday's warm weather brought out a little too much extra energy in a few. One kid had climbed up on top of the bus stop building (north side) and was jumping up and down. Others were pushing each other into the street. It's usually pretty bad on the south side too. The other day the kids had found a grocery cart and were pushing each other rapidly down the sidewalk. I don't mean to "tattle" but not only does it look bad...it's just a matter of time before someone gets hurt."

Please, please – encourage your children to practice good safety on their way to and from school!

FYI

Breakfast at Summit

Did you know your student can purchase breakfast at Summit every day school is in session? The breakfast menu can be found at:

<http://bvsd.org/food/Pages/BreakfastMenu.aspx>.

Breakfast costs \$1.50 per student and is free to all students on a free or reduced meal plan.

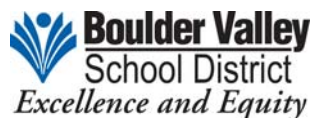
BVSD School Lunch

A lot of people have noticed all the changes happening in BVSD's school lunch program this year. Questions have been pouring in to the Nutrition Services department, so they put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions (or FAQs) and answers. This document is now available in both English and Spanish on the Nutrition Services website at

<http://bvsd.org/food/Pages/default.aspx> (top item in the right column). If you have a question that you would like answered and added to the FAQs, please email your question to ann.cooper@bvsd.org. Thank you for supporting BVSD school lunches!

Standing Committee on Assessment

BVSD is convening a Standing Committee on Assessment to advise the system. The committee's first task will be to draft guiding principles and identify the priorities for BVSD's assessment work. Fifteen members will be selected for this committee to include one administrator from each level (elementary, middle,



high), three parents (preferably one from each level) and three teachers from each level. To apply for membership on this committee, please complete an application, which can be found at

<http://bvsd.org/learning/Pages/default.aspx>.

Applications are due April 12, 2010. Applicants will be notified April 19, 2010. The first meeting will be Thursday May 6, 4:30-7:30 PM.

National History Day News

Congratulations to all Summit students who participated in the Regional History Day competition on Saturday, March 6. The top four finishers in each category move on to the state competition; thirteen Summit students will be competing in the State History Day at CU-Denver on May 1st.

Summit students swept the top four places in the Historical Paper category:

- 1st Place: Jessica Piper
- 2nd Place: Laura Hutchinson
- 3rd Place: Tessa Peterson
- 4th Place: Kaetlyn Arant

In the Individual Exhibit category, Emily Engelhardt took 4th place.

In the Group Exhibit category, Sam Alipour-Fard and Noah Mihelic won 4th place.

In the Individual Performance category, Anna Balaguer took 1st place.

Jack Hunsaker won 1st place in the Documentary category.

In the website category, Chloe Pradeau won 2nd place, Caitlyn Lee and Vivian Wang took 3rd, and Clifford Lester placed 4th.

Congratulations to all Summiteers who competed in Regional History Day!

Congratulations – Summit MathCounts Team!

Congratulations to Albert Soh for winning the state MathCounts championship for the 2nd consecutive year. The state competition was held on March 13 at the Colorado School of Mines. Albert will be one of 4 students who will make up the Colorado MathCounts team at the national competition to be held in May at Disneyworld in Florida.

Finishing 7th overall was Larry Zhang, and Yunyu Lin and Christine Soh finished 15th and 17th respectively.

So how did the Summit do in the **team** competition? The Summit team is Albert Soh, Larry Zhang, Jay Kranzdorf, and Rose Wang. For a remarkable 5th consecutive year, Summit has been crowned MathCounts champions for the state of Colorado. Way to go!!

Congratulations to all MathCounts participants, and good luck to Albert at the national competition.

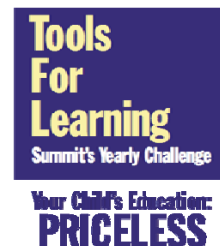
Newsletter Editor Needed

The *Summit News* will need a new editor next school year. If you like the idea of “volunteering from home” then this may be the job for you. The newsletter is created in Word so no special publishing software is needed. Let me know if you are interested and I will be happy to fill you in before this year ends. Contact Janet at cojayhawks@aol.com

Tools for Learning Update...

We wish to thank the following contributors to our **Tools for Learning** campaign since the last newsletter:

Anonymous (2)
Shannon Derby
Michelle and Ron Harvey
Lynn and Jay Stein
Bonnie Chaim and Brad Weisman



Thanks to all of the families that have donated generously to our campaign thus far - together we have raised over \$83,000. Many of you attended our annual community meeting last week and had the opportunity to hear our board treasurer, Liz Snowden, present an overview of our school's finances and the impact of reduced public funding to our school. We discussed how TFL has evolved - from a fundraising campaign for purchasing classroom and other equipment for our school - to an increasingly important source of general operating funds. In fact, this is one of the advantages of our charter school model, in that your financial contributions can go **directly** to funding Summit's teachers and other important operating expenses.

This year's goal of \$100,000 is now within reach. If every Summit family contributes whatever they can, we will be able to meet our fundraising goal. Remember to take advantage of any employer matching gift programs that might be available to you, as this usually doubles your donation. Feel free to contact Dita Hutchinson at dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com or any other board member if you need additional information or assistance with matching gifts. Please donate today.

Thank you!
Summit Board of Directors



BOLDERBOULDER

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Middle School Challenge program was developed in 1996 to encourage middle school students to participate in after-school fitness programs and develop a life-long commitment to health and fitness. The program gives students the opportunity to meet challenges, work towards goals, and feel a sense of pride in their school and individual accomplishments. The program culminates with students running in the Bolder Boulder, together with other middle school students from around Colorado, their friends and families.

Summit Middle School has participated in this program since 1999, **winning awards for best participation and fastest school** from 2002 - 2005. Let's make this year another winning year!

After-school training runs will be available starting **April 15th** and will meet for 6 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:15pm. **There is no cost to you. Participating students do need to fill out an intramural athletic form (blue stripe), so that the coaches have contact information in the event of an emergency and should register for the race.** Students are encouraged to train both days with their coaches during the week and at least once on weekends. Track athletes may count their practice time.

- **Middle School students and staff receive a \$13 discount off of their registration** for the Bolder Boulder race and, in addition to the regular t-shirt, receive a goody bag and a special Middle School Challenge t-shirt.
- **Registration will be online with instructions to come soon.**
- Note: Students may choose to have their packets delivered directly to Summit, where they will be distributed in May.
- If you cannot register online, please pick up a registration form from the student information board and be sure to hand this form in to Mrs. Koch or her box in the office.
- Students can choose to run with their peers in the Middle School Waves or in any other wave for which they qualify (need to turn in a qualifying time from last year or another qualifying race from 2009)
- **Registration deadline for the Middle School Challenge is April 22nd!!!** You may still register after this date, but you won't receive the discount, extra goodies, nor count towards Summit's participation.

PARENTS: Your help is needed. Training runs will happen alongside track practice, and parents are needed to run with the kids on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. If you can help, please contact Siga Andrew at siga@d-rive.com or Michele Leifer at mleifer@comcast.net.

Please note: Parents and non-middle school siblings may register through the Middle School Challenge site and may have their packets delivered to Summit for pickup, but will not receive the discount or the extra goodies. They also do not count toward the total number of students running for Summit.

Summit News

Summit News is the official newsletter of Summit Middle School, 4655 Hanover Ave.,
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Mr. David Finell, Principal. Ms. Amanda Avallone, Assistant Principal.

Ms. Valerie Koch, Dean of Student Life.

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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.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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