

Summit News



Volume 31, Issue 5

March 4, 2011

Summit Calendar

March	
March 4	8 th Grade Girls Volleyball Game, 4:00 pm
March 7	8 th Grade Girls Volleyball Game, 4:00 pm
March 8	CSAP Testing 8 th Grade Girls Volleyball Game, 4:00 pm
March 9	CSAP Testing Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library 8 th Grade Girls Volleyball Game, 4:00 pm
March 10	CSAP Testing—8 th grade only
March 11	NJHS Mini-Olympics and Pi(e) sale, 3:05-5:00 pm, Gym
March 15	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am, Library
March 17	New Student Registration Night, 6:30 pm, Cafeteria Parent Chat, 8:15 am, Library
March 18	3 rd Quarter Ends
March 21-25	Spring Break
March 28	Summit in session!
March 30	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library

April	
April 1	3 rd Annual Celebrate Summit Event, 7:00 pm, BMoCA
April 13	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am, Library Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library

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Thank You For Supporting Summit

Thank you to the following community members that recently supported Summit's fundraising campaigns:

Gail and Frank Arant
Ball Corporation (matching gifts)
Leslie and Peter Burns
Cindy Ding and Yizi Xu
David and Dorey Finell
GE Foundation (matching gift)
Rob Keeley and Peggy Driscoll
Tim Perley and Penny Axelrad
Larry and Beth Zarian



We still need your help. If every family can make a contribution in whatever amount is appropriate for them, we will achieve our two annual fundraising goals of retiring the gym debt and offsetting state cuts to our operating budget. Our ability to meet both of these financial objectives is critical to our school.

Please make your contribution today. You can either donate online (go to <http://www.bvsvd.org/schools/summit> and click on the **Donate Now!** link) or write a check to Supporters of Summit, Inc. and mail it to the Summit Office at 4655 Hanover Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305.

Thank you,

Your Board of Directors

Please Vote!



All community members should have received their board election ballot this week. Please take the time to review this information and participate as a voting member in this important election. We are fortunate to have an excellent slate of board candidates again this year, all of whom are very well-qualified and interested in serving our school. Candidate statements and resumes are posted on our school website (<http://bvsvd.org/SCHOOLS/SUMMIT/BOARD/Pages/CandidatesforBoard11-12.aspx>) for your information.

We hope you will attend Summit's Annual Community Meeting on Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. This meeting will include brief presentations by the board candidates and a Q&A session, in addition to a "state of the school" financial presentation by Liz Snowden, our current Board Treasurer and Chair-Elect.

Please place your ballot in the locked ballot box at the school front office by 3:30 p.m. on March 17, 2011. You may have your child perform this task for you, or mail it to the school.

2011-2012 Calendar Update

Dear Summit Parents:

Summit's 11-12 calendar is now on our website under Quick Links: <http://bvsvd.org/schools/summit/Pages/default.aspx>. You may have already noticed this in the calendar, but just another heads up that next year Summit will be ending a bit later than the rest of BVSD. Although the rest of the district is ending before the Memorial Day Weekend (on Friday, May 25, 2012), Summit's last day will be Friday, June 1, 2012.

Summit's goal is to have 180 teaching days as part of our educational mission, whereas the rest of BVSD usually has 172 teaching days. As always, there will be a few other days during the school year when Summit's calendar and the rest of BVSD are not in alignment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Finell, Principal



Parent Chat: March 17



To promote participation in our important Summit Annual Community Meeting on March 10th at 6:30 p.m., we are moving the proposed Parent Chat to March 17th in the Library. At the Parent Chat, we will focus on the differing ideas about what it takes to raise healthy, happy, successful youth. There is a wide spectrum of approaches and perspectives, including those shared in the recent film "Race to Nowhere" as well as the book *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. Join us on March 17th at 8:15 a.m. to share your perspectives and to join as a community in support of our students.

Summit Annual Community Meeting

The Summit Annual Community Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. This year, Student Council members are hosting "Cupcakes for Community" prior to the meeting, in support of community building and getting to know our Board candidates. The community gathering time will be from 6-6:30 p.m. We hope you will join us!

The Summit Annual Community meeting is an important one and will cover several important topics:

1. School successes in the past year.
2. What is Summit about? A brief presentation of how we meet the goals of our mission statement.
3. School Finances: Learn how the recently announced cuts to K-12 education will impact Summit.
4. Board Elections: Community members will have a chance to meet and ask questions of board candidates.

All members of the Summit community are strongly encouraged to attend.

NJHS News

On Friday, March 11th, 2011, Summit's chapter of National Junior Honor Society will be hosting the first Mini-Olympics! It will be after school in the gym until 5:00 pm. Teams will consist of four students each, and they must be either mixed gender or mixed grade level. There will be a team fee of \$5, and all proceeds will go to a children's soccer team in a poor South African village. Please make sure that your child has gym appropriate footwear. If you have any questions, please contact project chair Gwen Leifer. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!

For the same project, NJHS will also be selling slices of pi(e) on Monday 3.14, and we will have a pie raffle as well. Students and faculty may reserve a slice of pi(e) for \$2.00 and raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. See Gwen Leifer or Jena Brooks with questions.

NJHS parents, please contact Mr. Seibel or Mrs. Kapsak if you can help us. Thank you.



Summit Sports



We have two great athletic opportunities coming up at Summit. **6th, 7th and 8th grade boys' soccer** starts March 7th and goes until April 8th. **6th and 7th grade girls' volleyball** starts March 14th and goes until April 12th. If your child is interested in playing on one of these teams, the office will accept paperwork (athletic form and check for \$45) until the morning of March 11th for soccer and until the morning of March 18th for volleyball. Here is the link to the athletic packet: <http://bvsd.org/schools/summit/academics/sports/Pages/default.aspx>. Don't miss out on these fun sports opportunities!

Summit Alumni National Merit Finalists

Congratulations to the following Summit graduates who have been chosen as National Merit Scholarship Finalists in 2011:

Boulder High School

Peter Repucci
Jesse Shapiro

Fairview High School

Benjamin Alpert
Samuel Berens
Kerry Betz
Victor Chen
Christopher Guthrie
James Hastie
Jiri Hladis
Willis Kuelthau
Larissa Kunz
Elisabeth Meyer
Christopher Parlier
Charles Xu

More than one million juniors in the nation took the qualifying PSAT exam in the fall of their junior year. Only 15,000 were selected to become National Merit Finalists. All Finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2011. Congratulations!

Mr. Finell



Parent Engagement Network presents

Keeping Adolescents Safe

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

As concerns rise regarding teen substance abuse and other risk behaviors, many parents out of fear are “clamping down” and policing their own children. Many “experts” are recommending parents periodically search rooms, monitor cell phone use, text messaging, computer use, and Internet sites visited. The real challenge for parents of teens is trying to balance developing a trusting relationship with looking out for your child’s well being. If we have difficulty calming our fears, there are far more effective and respectful ways to help ensure that our children avoid a wide range of risk behaviors:

- **Engage in frequent, mutually respectful, discussions regarding these behaviors.** Try and listen more than lecture. Encourage your child to share his/her point of view. There is a wealth of evidence that when parents effectively communicate their concerns regarding risk behaviors, children engage in them far less often.
- **Encourage your child to participate in the discipline plan regarding risk behaviors and consequences.** This will increase the likelihood that they will take responsibility for their behavior and truly learn from their mistakes.
- **Give fair warning.** When/if you are considering monitoring your child’s behavior, let them know the reasons that you are doing so and be honest with them about what you are going to do. Losing the element of surprise is far outweighed by losing their respect.
- **If your trust is violated, provide your child with opportunities, guidance and encouragement to regain your trust.** We learn through our mistakes. Take advantage of these teaching moments and encourage your child to learn from their mistakes.

Trying to find the right balance between trust and oversight will help ensure that we develop healthy, respectful, and lasting relationships with our children.

To learn more about how to help your child stay safe, participate in the next FREE Pathways to Parenting Success interactive panel:

What: Protecting Your Child From Risky Behaviors

When: Monday, April 4, 7:00-8:30pm

Where: Boulder Valley School District Board Room (6500 Arapahoe, Boulder) or watch live on Channel 22

Submit questions: www.BoulderPsychologicalServices.com/channel-22 .

UPCOMING PEN EVENT:

Soul of Parenting

Presenters: Batya Greenwald & Laura Weaver

(In memory of Rachael Kessler, author of the ground-breaking book, Soul of Education)

www.passageworks.org

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30-8:30pm, Naropa PAC Theater (2130 Arapahoe, Boulder)

More info: www.BPSBoulder.co

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website: www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN chair (pjn6225@yahoo.com, 303-880-6030) or Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach, (foxbetsy123@msn.com, 720-563-7007).

Dr. Jan Hittelman, a licensed psychologist, is Director of Boulder Psychological Services and the Founder of the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent via email to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com, or by phone: 720-217-3270

Summit News

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

Telephone: 720-561-3900
Attendance: 720-561-3902
Fax: 720-561-3901

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 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ali Gidfar, Chair, agidfar.at.summit@gmail.com
Liz Snowden, Treasurer, lsnowden.at.summit@gmail.com
Polly Dawkins, Secretary, pdawkins.at.summit@gmail.com
Dita Hutchinson, dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com
Sue Kunz, skunz.at.summit@gmail.com
Robin Luff, rluff.at.summit@gmail.com
Debra Ritzwoller, dritzwoller.at.summit@gmail.com
Chitra Seshan, cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com
Douglas Steen, dsteen.at.summit@gmail.com
David Finell, Principal, david.finell@bvsd.org (ex officio)