



Summit News

April 17, 2009 Boulder Valley's First Charter School Volume 27, Number 7

The School Calendar

| April | May |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 22nd, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Friday, 24th, Summit Day, NO SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 7th, Choir Concert, 7 p.m. • Friday, 9th, Board Meeting, 12:00 p.m., 850 6th St., Boulder • Wednesday, 13th, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Wednesday, 13th, Art Show, 5:30-7:00 p.m. and Instrumental Music Concert, 7 p.m. • Friday, 15th, 1/2 Day, Professional Development Day* • Wednesday, 20th, Guys & Dolls Performance, 7 p.m. • Monday, 25th, NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day • Tuesday, 26th, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Friday, 29th, Last Day of school, 8th grade graduation. |
| June | July |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 3rd, Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Summit Library | |
| <p>* Conference and 1/2 Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 p.m.</p> | |

From the Principal's Office

Mr. David Finell

In the days before the historic inauguration of our first African-American president, Barack Obama, in January, the faculty and staff at Summit decided to get the whole school together to watch this special occasion. However, the logistics of this proved to be quite challenging. So what was the problem?

Well, we have only one cable connection in the school that allows for live video streaming and it is a computer connection in a classroom that could not fit the entire student body, faculty and staff (about 350 people). We thought we would ask Comcast for a very long cable and run it down the hallway from this classroom to the Multi-Purpose Room. But we were told that we could lose quality of image over such a long distance. Besides, 350 people watching one computer on a cart in the MPR would create a situation in which many people would not even be able to see what was happening.

We thought about renting a large screen television but the logistics of getting one here on short notice made this seem rather problematic. Besides our one video streaming connection was for a computer not a television.

BVSD said we could not stream onto our computers as it would shut down the system and with so many people doing this anyway they thought the system might go down all the same. In addition we could not fit everyone into the computer labs.

Finally, a solution emerged: Comcast told us they could put a three way split on the connection and convert it for 24 hours to a television cable line. They came and hooked up three cables off this one line, which we then ran to televisions we brought into the three social studies classrooms.

Once we knew we could actually work out how to view the ceremony we then had to quickly create a special schedule for that day and teachers had to adjust lesson plans accordingly. On the day of the inauguration students and teachers

cleared out desks in these rooms and we were able to have each grade in their own social studies classroom watching the ceremony, about 120 people in each classroom.

Many people pitched in so all could watch the inauguration. It was a wonderful experience to be together watching history being made and observing the smooth transition of power embodied in our electoral process. All of the students were beautifully behaved and teachers did their usual magic in designing relevant, scholarly lessons and activities leading up to and following the event.

I felt this small incident was a microcosm of Summit at its best: great teachers and staff being creative and flexible, problem solving together, willing to lend a hand to make something worthwhile happen, engaged and polite students, a strong learning community, and a shared pride in the value of being informed and participating citizens. I think this culture of scholarship and service continues year after year to attract an amazing group of teachers, administrative staff, parents and students to Summit. As a result we see exceptional things happening here. Some examples:

- We rejoice in the degree and variety of community service in which our students are engaged, their generosity, their sense of purpose and idealism.
- We see how kind, considerate, respectful and responsible the vast majority of our students are in their daily interactions with each other and with the adults at the school.
- We see how well Summit students perform in events such as History Day, Science Fair, Math Counts, Chess Competitions, National Geo Bee and other similar activities.
- We see students engaged in a well-rounded education that includes leadership and service opportunities (like Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Net Zero and International Club), as well as art, music, theater, sports, technology, and other fascinating electives.
- We see that Summit students are consistently among the top scoring students on CSAP each year. In 2008 Summit was, in fact, the highest scoring middle school in Colorado on CSAP.
- We see our success in the challenging and engaging teaching and learning that takes place each and every day in every classroom at the school. As I walk around the school I am continually amazed by the dedication and skill of our faculty and staff.
- We hear how well prepared our graduates tell us they are when they get to high school and how much they appreciate the foundation Summit gave them.
- We continue to delight in the high degree of parental involvement and support that continues to be such a hallmark of our school.
- We see the commitment and time that has resulted in our newly remodeled and expanded campus and our beautiful new gymnasium that we will break ground on May 28. (I hope everyone in the Summit community will try to attend this groundbreaking ceremony!).

So as the year begins to wind down I think back on Inauguration Day and all that had to be done to enable us (students, teachers and staff) to be able to be in those social studies classrooms watching such an historical event. I think that pulling that off says a lot about Summit and it is one of the reasons why I continue to be proud and grateful to be the principal here.

All the best!

Mr. David B. Finell, Principal

More News from the Principal's Office...

Ms. Elizabeth Burrows Hired as School Counselor

It is my pleasure to introduce you to our new Counselor at Summit, Ms. Elizabeth Burrows, who will be taking over after Ms. Bartley retires at the end of this current school year. Ms. Burrows earned her MSW in 1993 from Smith College. Her BA is from St. Lawrence University in Anthropology (Cum Laude). She was also the recipient of the Faculty Scholar Award.

The hiring committee felt she was an outstanding candidate due to her strong clinical background in social work combined with her experience over the past fifteen years working directly with young people as a counselor, providing the types of supports and programs that we need at Summit. This includes such things as providing social/emotional support, academic guidance, transition to high school, 504 coordination, and Response to Intervention. She has dealt repeatedly and skillfully with the kinds of complex situations that come across a counselor's desk and require

extremely sensitive and competent handling. She impressed us all as having a true understanding of adolescence and a deep appreciation for this time in our children's lives.

For the past five years Ms. Burrows has served as the School Counselor at the K - 8 Barstow Memorial School in Vermont. From 2001 - 2004 she was a School Social Worker and School Counselor at two different high schools at both ends of the educational spectrum. From 1999 - 2001 she was the School Counselor and Social Worker at P. S. 1 Charter School in Denver. From 1995-1998 she was the Home-School Coordinator at the Rutland Intermediate School in Vermont. In short, we feel fortunate to have found such a lovely person with such a great range and depth of professional experience.

Ms. Burrows will be moving to Boulder this summer and will be at Summit for the start of the new school year beginning in August.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Bartley for her twelve years of work on behalf of the children, parents and teachers of Summit. Ms. Bartley was a founding parent of Summit as well and has been a key person in the school's growth and success over the years. I know you will join with me in thanking her for all she has done for our school and wishing her much happiness with her retirement.

I would also like to thank all of the members of the Counselor hiring committee for all of their hard work: Ms. Valerie Koch, Ms. Debra Ritzwoller, Ms. Robin Luff, Ms. Cheryle Kapsak, Mr. Thomas Seibel, and Ms. Karen McCarthy.

Mr. David B. Finell

FYI

Tdap REQUIRED FOR:

6TH, 7TH, 8TH

Pertussis (whooping cough) can be a very serious disease in infants and small children. It has been found that siblings who have Pertussis disease can frequently expose other children in the household. Colorado ranks fifth of all states in the country with this disease. Per Colorado state law, Tdap vaccine will be required for all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide an updated record of immunization to the school. If you do not wish your child to have this vaccine for personal or religious reasons, please sign a waiver that is available in the Health Room. A medical exemption must be signed by a physician.

Parents of 6th graders: The most commonly used vaccine for Tdap in the Boulder area requires that the child be at least 11 years old. If your child is entering 6th grade and is not yet 11, please check with your provider ahead of time to see if you will need to wait until the 11th birthday.

Read more about health requirements later in this newsletter.

Heartfelt Thanks to our Parent Volunteers

We have had an incredible Staff Appreciation Week here at Summit – from crêpes to salad to a take-home dinner to a chocolate fountain, we just can't thank you all enough for your time and donations. These special treats have made our week!! A huge thanks to Bigi Schanz for coordinating this event. From the Summit Faculty and Staff

8th GRADE FAMILIES:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

8th Grade Graduation Party at the Meadows Club in Boulder

Who: All 8th graders are invited

Where: The Meadows Club (5555 Racquet LN, east of 55th Street) in Boulder.

When: Thursday, May 28th, 4-8 pm.

What: Lots of fun activities including swimming, basketball, games, music, barbeque, and a raffle!

Note: A Permission slip for this event can be found at the end of the newsletter. Please fill out and return this slip with \$10 to the collection box in the Summit office. Questions: Contact mary.rios@comcast.net

Summit School Improvement Team Needs You!

Summit's School Improvement Team (SIT) is looking for a few parent volunteers for the coming school year. In particular, we are seeking a parent volunteer to represent our school at the District level on the District Accountability Committee (DAC). SIT is responsible for setting school improvement goals and for monitoring and reporting to DAC and our school committee on our progress toward achieving these goals. Another major task that SIT undertakes is the annual Summit students and parents satisfaction survey. SIT members include parent volunteers, teachers, school administrators, and a representative from the Summit Board. Of all the SIT members, the DAC representative is unique in that this person takes

on additional responsibility to serve on the DAC. Here is a short description of the DAC duties: attendance at monthly meetings, participating on one of the subcommittees, and attendance at training for and learning about the TIES (Tools of Inquiry for Equitable Schools) process. Additional information can be found at <http://bvsvd.org/dac/Pages/default.aspx>. Because of the unique responsibilities of this position and the associated learning curve, we would prefer to have a parent volunteer from the current or incoming 6th grade families, so that this person can serve in this role for at least two years to ensure greater continuity.

yizixu@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Congratulations, Mr. Seibel!

Math teacher Tom Seibel was recognized for his outstanding contributions to Summit as an Impact on Education Finalist at the Awards Dinner last night. Congratulations, Tom – Summit is so very proud of you!

Please contact Summit SIT chairman Yizi Xu at

Spring Semester, Final exam schedule, 2009

Summit Middle School teaches an academically rigorous, standards-based curriculum. Students are expected not merely to spend a certain number of days in each classroom, but also to master particular skills and content. Systematic assessment of student progress, therefore, is central to the curriculum—teachers need to know how much of the course material students have learned and retained throughout each year of study. One of the main reasons Summit teachers plan “finals” (whether exams, projects, or writing assignments) for the last two weeks of each course is to determine the “exit status” of each child in the class.

To keep the student workload manageable, Summit teachers stagger their final activities over the course of a week. Our goal is to allow students to devote all (or almost all) of their homework time to preparing for one subject on the eve of the final.* This is not to suggest, however, that “cramming” the night before is sufficient; students should begin their preparation well in advance of the actual “finals” day.

The finals schedule for 2009 is as follows:

| Date | Subject |
|---|---|
| Finals will be taken during your child's regular class on the following days: | |
| Tuesday, May 19 | Proof Geometry (turn in Geometry textbooks) |
| Wednesday, May 20 | World Language (turn in WL textbooks) |
| Thursday, May 21 | English (turn in English textbooks) |
| Friday, May 22 | Social Studies (turn in Social Studies textbooks) |
| Tuesday, May 26 | Math (turn in Math textbooks) |
| Wednesday, May 27 | Science (turn in Science textbooks) |

***Note:** Some activities may take longer than one class period, so some “spillover” is inevitable. The goal, however, is that no additional studying or preparation should have to take place after the official “final” date.

Please note:
Textbooks MUST be turned in to the teacher on the day of the final in that class! Please make sure to bring them on that day.

Thanks to the great success of Celebrate Summit, Tools for Learning has raised \$81,400. Thank you to all of you that helped make that possible! You have put TFL within reach of our goal of \$100,000! We're almost there, Summit.



Parents, we need your help! Your continued contributions are imperative to

- retain our incredible teachers
- maintain small class sizes and
- continue to offer unique classroom programming for all of our children

Donations at any level are greatly appreciated as we strive for 100% participation. Please send your contribution to:

Supporters of Summit
Tools for Learning
c/o Summit Middle School
4655 Hanover Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305

Thank you to those that have recently contributed to the TFL campaign!

Liz Berry and Don Gips
Robert Campbell and Chitra Seshan
Paul and Michele Dusenberry
Roberto and Tina Fontillas
Hunter and Janet McDaniel
Suzanne and Thomas Metzler
Theresa and Rodney Russ
Dennis Von Rotz and Linda Rock
GE Foundation

Juliet and Nigel Brown
Lis Dierauf
Claire Fargo and Donald Preziosi
Michael Kracauer and Ila Slimowitz
Rich McDonald
Audrey Reil
Howard and Jenny Soh
Global Impact
ITT Visual

International Club

Lucky Lollypop Sale

Many thanks to all of the students and staff who supported the Lucky Lollypop Sale just before Spring Break. We earned about \$475! Over 40 excited prize winners, plus many observers, had a great time choosing their prizes. A check was sent to La Puerta Abierta, a library in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, that we helped found several years ago. Some of the money will also help offset the high costs of the May Carnival. My heartiest thanks to all of the club members who worked daily to promote sales, package pops and staff the sales table!

Tantra Creek Clean-up

Monday, April 20th we will do our spring clean-up of the creek in the Tantra Park south of Summit. Lisa Dierauf will again mentor our efforts. Through this city program we hope to allow a clean and uncluttered flow of water.

Adopt a Road Clean-up

In early May we will do our spring clean-up of 51st St. from Jay Rd. to the Boulder Reservoir through the Boulder County Adopt a Road program. It is always a fun-filled day and we enjoy leaving the community a cleaner and prettier place.

May Carnival

The annual International Club Carnival has tentatively been scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, after school from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be fun inflatables outside and many indoor carnival games. There will also be lots of food and beverages. Mark your calendars!! We will again invite the incoming 6th graders to join the fun and meet some new Summit friends.

Student Health Information

Immunization Requirements for all middle school students:

- **DTaP** – 4-5 shots (5 for students new to Colorado schools)
- **Tdap** – 1 shot
- **Polio** – 3-4 shots (4 for students new to Colorado schools)
- **Hib** – No requirement
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) – 2 shots
- **Hepatitis B** – 3 shots (one brand only requires a two dose series. Proper documentation is acceptable with brand name, doses and dates.)
- **Varicella** (Chicken Pox) – 1 shot (or a lab test showing immunity or a disease history from a health care provider is acceptable)

Immunization Clinics:

The following is a list of immunization clinics offered through the Boulder County and Broomfield county Public Health Departments. Please call for an appointment.

Cost: \$14 - \$15 per shot but no child will be turned away.

Boulder Public Health Department
3482 North Broadway
303-413-7500

Wednesdays: 1pm to 6:45pm

Longmont Public Health Department
529 Coffman Street (2nd floor)
303-678-6171


Mondays: 1pm to 6pm

Broomfield Public Health Department
6 Garden Center
720-887-2200

Tuesdays: 9am to 4pm
Thursdays: 8:30am to 4pm


Physicals:

- It is **recommended** that all students entering 7th grade and all those new to the District receive a physical examination. Most physicians have the examination report forms.
- A yearly physical is **required** for all students participating in extracurricular school sports.





eco-cycle

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities



Eco-Cycle Delivers Free Compost for Summit Middle School

As a way to thank Summit Middle School for participating in the Green Star Schools waste reduction project, Eco-Cycle will be delivering a truckload of finished compost to your school on **April 27-28**. It will be available from **7:30 AM until 5:30 PM** for students, parents and staff of Summit Middle School to take home (bring your own bags, buckets, shovels and trowels; **no pick-up truck loads please**.) The compost can be used on gardens and houseplants. Your school helped create this compost by separating food waste and non-recyclable paper from the waste stream. We look forward to continuing this innovative project, making Summit Middle School one of the first schools in the nation to move towards Zero Waste.



2009 Summit Middle School ALL 8th Grade Class Graduation Party

The ALL class Graduation party is a non-Summit Middle school sponsored event planned and supervised by Summit parents but not part of the Summit Middle School related graduation activities. For any questions on this event please contact: mary.rios@comcast.net

This form along with payment can be dropped off at the school office in the box labeled 'Graduation Party'.

We would like to have all forms and payments submitted to the office by May 15 in order to determine numbers and food budget.

Date: Thursday May 28
Time: 4pm - 8pm
Location: The Meadows Club
5555 Racquet Lane, Boulder, Co 80303
Cost: \$10 includes entry and all food, drinks
(Please indicate if you need assistance with this cost)
Food: BBQ with burgers, dogs, chips, drinks and more
Activities: Swimming, basketball, volleyball and more

_____ has my permission to attend the Graduation party for Summit 8th graders. I understand that Summit Middle School is not responsible for any aspect of this event and it is outside of normal BVSD activities.

Please pay with cash or a check made out to Mary Rios.

_____ (\$10) included -or- _____ Financial assistance needed

(Parent Signature)

(Student's Name—printed)

You're invited! Please spread the word.



BVSD Bike to School Day

Earth Day - 04.22.09

Tighten your shoe laces and dust off a bike for BVSD Bike to School Day to be held on Wednesday, April 22, Earth Day. The entire BVSD Community – K-12 students, staff, and parents - is invited to Walk & Roll to school. Join colleagues and families across the district to ring in the spring with a refreshing trip to school.

BVSD Bike to School Day promotes activity and health for your body and our Earth. Spice up your daily trip to school and get some exercise to boot. Students and staff register on-line at saferoutes.bvsd.org and enter a drawing for prizes. The school with the highest participation of students and staff will be rewarded with a Rush Smoothie Party. BVSD Commuters of the Year will be recognized.

This inaugural event is brought to you by the BVSD Safe Routes to School Program. Twenty-three elementary and middle schools already participate in the Safe Routes to School program where parent champions are leading the charge to put more students on foot and bikes. Aiming for less reliance on automobiles and greater use of clean human power, the parents organize educational activities and fun events such as BVSD Bike to School Day that yield benefits leading to less traffic, cleaner air and renewed spirits.

Please visit <http://saferoutes.bvsd.org>

- * On-Line Registration (available now on above website)
- * Promotional Material Available for Download
- * Drawing for Prizes
- * Rush Smoothie Party for School With the Most Participation
- * For more information, contact the Event Coordinator, fawnda@comcast.net

Landon Hilliard
BVSD Transportation Department
TO School Program - Walking, Cycling, Bus Riding
landon.hilliard@bvsd.org
303-245-5931

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.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.

MISSION OF SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 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 and a desire for self-development
- 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 the International Baccalaureate program and other college-preparatory high school programs

ENROLLMENT IN SUMMIT

Summit Middle School is a tuition-free, public charter school in the Boulder Valley School District, serving grades 6, 7 and 8 through mixed-age classes grouped by ability, interest, motivation, developmental level, and mastery of previous material - taught by teachers who are specialists in their subject areas. Prospective students register through the District's open-enrollment process at the beginning of the calendar year. Please go to BVSD's Open Enrollment link for more information: <http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

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