

Summit News



Volume 31, Issue 7

April 1, 2011

Summit Calendar

April	
April 1	3 rd Annual Celebrate Summit Event, 7 pm, BMoCA
April 6	7 th , 8 th grade field trips
April 13	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am, Library Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library
April 15	½ Day, (Students in class 8:00 am – 12:15 pm), Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 18-22	Staff Appreciation Week
April 20	Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library
April 21	Alumni and Teacher Appreciation Event, 3:15 pm, Cafeteria
April 23-24	Homework Free/Family Weekend
April 27	Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library
April 29	Summit Day – No School

May	
May 9	Drama Rehearsal, 5:30 PM, Louisville Middle School
May 10	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am, Library Drama Performance, 7:00 pm, Louisville Middle School
May 11	Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library Instrumental Spring Concert, 7 pm, Cafeteria
May 13	½ Day (Students in class 8:00 am – 12:15 pm) Professional Development Meetings
May 18	Choir Concert, 7 pm, Boulder High School
May 25	Board Meeting, 6 pm, Library
May 27	Last day of classes 8 th grade graduation

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Principal's Column

Celebrate Summit

Sixteen years ago, in 1995, a small group of parents met in an office near Table Mesa and Tantra to discuss trying to open a new middle school in the Boulder Valley School District. Fairview High School had just started its International Baccalaureate program and these parents felt there was not at the time a middle school in the district which was rigorous enough to adequately prepare students for the demands of Fairview's I.B. program. They asked the School Board to start a more academically challenging middle school program within one of the district's existing middle schools but this request was denied.

The first charter school in the United States had opened the previous year, in 1994, and some of these parents suggested looking into starting a charter school instead. They worked tirelessly to do the necessary research and put together the lengthy required charter application. It was also denied.

These parents then appealed to the State Board of Education and, by a vote of 4 to 3 in favor of Summit, BVSD was directed to reconsider our charter application. It was then approved.

And so it was that by the narrowest of margins Summit came into existence. But the work had just begun. A site needed to be found, teachers and staff needed to be hired, curriculum and policies needed to be written, a budget needed to be created, students needed to be enrolled, - a school needed to be created from scratch.

Due to an amazing amount of hard work on the part of Summit's founding parents, Summit Middle Charter School opened in 1996, housed in modular classrooms at Southern Hills Middle School. The parents who started the school did not know how many students would enroll and the scenario of 'what if you gave a party and no one came' was very

much on their minds. Nevertheless 250 students enrolled the first year.

In the 15 years since Summit has graduated over 1,600 students who have gone on to do wonderful things with their lives, in high school, college and beyond. We have continually strengthened and improved our program and have become one of the highest performing middle schools in Colorado. We have had an enormous impact on raising the standards for middle school education throughout the Boulder Valley School District. Some of our founding parents were also instrumental in creating Peak to Peak Charter School in Lafayette a few years later.

Tonight at 7:00 p.m. our school community is coming together at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art to celebrate Summit. I hope to see you there! If you did not yet buy tickets they will be available at the door.

One of the amazing things about Summit is how it has continually reinvented itself as new families have come to the school. The wonderful parent volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to put together tonight's wonderful celebration are an example of this ever-renewing dedication to our school and a recognition of the impact Summit has had on all of our lives. I thank them for their hard work.

Tonight let us have some fun, enjoy delicious food and drink, visit with friends, and raise some much needed money, all in support of our school. Let us celebrate Summit, - for it is indeed a school worth celebrating!



Summit Needs You!

Are you looking for a way to get involved at Summit, but are not able to help during the school day? We need you! I am looking for parents interested in serving on the Summit School Accountability Committee (SAC) or in serving as the District Accountability Committee (DAC) representative for our school for next year. If you can help, please contact me, Chitra Seshan, at cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com. You will be involved in acquiring and analyzing data on what is working well at our school and what could use improvement. You will work with teachers and administrators to determine annual school improvement goals for Summit based on indicators from the data. Typically, we meet eight times a year from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, with additional work delivering and analyzing the school survey in January/February. The school DAC rep serves on the SAC and also attends the district meetings on the first Tuesday each month from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We will need three new parent SAC representatives next year, with one of the three also serving as a DAC representative. Thank you!



Parent/Teacher Conferences, April 15, 1:30-6:00 pm

There will be a half day of school on April 15, with school beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 12:10 p.m.

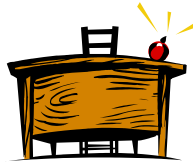
Some "Helpful Hints" for Successful Parent/Teacher Conferences:

- Prioritize the 2 or 3 teachers with whom you really want to speak. You will not be able to get to all of your children's teachers. We only have half of the normal time for conferences. If both parents/guardians will be attending conferences, you may want to divide up to see teachers separately.
- If you feel that your child is doing well at Summit and there is no pressing need for you to have a face to face meeting with his/her teachers, consider not attending conferences. Lines will be long and perhaps there is no real need for you to wait for several hours to speak with two or three teachers. Teachers do welcome e-mail communication from parents as an alternative way of touching base. Writing to teachers for an update on how your child is doing is *not* an imposition, so please consider this as an option.
- Nevertheless we expect there will be *long* lines so expect to wait. Please bring something to read or do while you are waiting.
- Books, magazines or other such items should not be used as placeholders in a line. Please be courteous to the other parents who are waiting.
- We are not going to use the cafeteria for conferences. All conferences will be held in classrooms or in the library. A schedule of when and where teachers will be available will be e-mailed home by the school office next week.
- Conferences will last about five minutes. Please be respectful of this time limit. Teachers have been told to stay within this time limit if other parents are waiting and teachers will be using timers to help with this.
- Please be respectful of teachers' times for breaks, and of their need to get home at the end of the day. We will be closing up promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Please remember that parents and teachers know the same students but in different environments. These points of reference may cause differences in what each person observes related to student behavior. If a parent or teacher feels that a conference is going poorly, they may ask for an administrator to join them.

Thank you.

Mr. David B. Finell, Principal



John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award

John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award

Summit has again been selected by the Colorado Department of Education to receive the John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award. This award is given annually to those schools in the state with the highest student achievement levels on the statewide assessments (CSAP). Go Huskies!

Summit Students Demonstrate Support For People of Japan

On Thursday, March 17, all Summit students participated in an assembly sponsored by Student Council and International Club, and filmed by NJHS. The students demonstrated their support for the people of Japan following the recent earthquake, tsunami and ensuing troubles. Students in the Multi-media Productions class at Summit created and edited a video of this assembly. You can view the video on YouTube at the following link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcZ-WFDN7Gs&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1



Summit Sports

Parents, please let your student know about our upcoming track season. All middle school students can participate. The track season begins April 13th and concludes May 19th. If your student is interested in being on the team, you can pick up an interscholastic athletic form from the bulletin board outside of the office, fill it out and turn it back in to the office with a check for \$85. The form is also available at <http://bvsvd.org/schools/summit/academics/sports/Pages/default.aspx>. Students must also have a current (within the last 12 months) physical on file in the office. Don't miss out on this great athletic opportunity!



An Invitation for Summit Alumni

What better way to thank our Summit teachers than to have Summit alums express their appreciation! Summit alumni are invited back from 3:15 - 4:30 on Thursday, April 21st as part of Teacher Appreciation Week to say hi to our teachers and connect with each other. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the cafeteria. Please encourage your child to join us! RSVP or questions: AmyBeringer@comcast.net



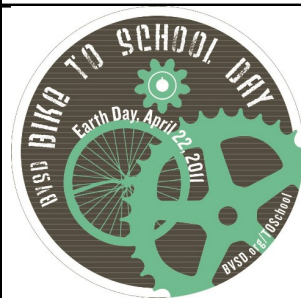
2011 Fairview High School Pops Show

Hooray for HOLLYWOOD

Fairview High School presents this year's Pops Show: *Hooray for Hollywood*, playing April 7, 8, and 9 at 7:00 pm and a matinee on April 9 at 2:00 pm. Over 170 singers, dancers, and instrumentalists will combine their talents to present a marvelous collection of movie music from every decade. Join the cast on a journey that begins with the classic songs made famous by Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, and Judy Garland. Revisit your favorite numbers from the generations of movies that include *The Lion King*, *Men in Black*, *Austin Powers* and contemporary films like *Twilight* and *Slumdog Millionaire*. This is a show with something for everyone!

The Fairview box office opens on April 5 at 10:30 and will be open daily until 3:15, and 45 minutes before each show. Tickets are \$8.

BVSD Bike to School Day



BVSD Bike to School Day is Earth Day, April 22, 2011. The third annual human powered event celebrates walking and biking to school as a way to take part in daily physical activity that is fun and refreshing, and good for the Earth.

This year's event will be simple and fun, a day all students and staff will enjoy. All registered participants will receive:

- A free school lunch and coupons at local stores.
- A chance to win prizes, such as bikes and tune-ups, helmets, bike lights, jerseys, bells, and more.
- The school with the most registered participants, based on percentage, will be awarded a RUSH Smoothie Party!

BVSD Bike to School Day registration opens on Friday, April 1 at BVSD.org/TOSchool. Be part of the FUN!

Thank you to our partners: BVSD Safe Routes to School Program, BVSD School Food Project, Cateye, Community Cycles, Full Cycle, and RUSH.

Summit News

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Summit News is available at
<http://bvsd.org/schools/summit/newsletters/Pages/default.aspx>

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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

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