

Summit News



Volume 31, Issue 8

April 15, 2011

Summit Calendar

April	
April 15	½ Day, (Students in class 8:00 am – 12:10 pm) Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:00 pm
April 18-22	Staff Appreciation Week
April 20	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
April 21	Alumni and Teacher Appreciation Event, 3:15 pm, Cafeteria
April 23-24	Homework Free/Family Weekend
April 27	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
April 29	Summit Day – No School

May	
May 5	Volunteer Tea, 7:30 am
May 9	Drama Rehearsal, 5:30 pm, Louisville Middle
May 10	Community Connections Meeting, 8:15 am, Library Drama Performance, 7:00 pm, Louisville Middle
May 11	Spring Art Show, 5:00 pm, Cafeteria Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library Instrumental Music Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria
May 13	½ Day (Students in class 8:00 am – 12:15 pm) Professional Development Meetings
May 18	Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, Boulder High School
May 19-26	Finals Week
May 25	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Library
May 27	Last day of classes 8 th grade Graduation

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Summit 2010-11 Parent & Student Survey Results



The parent and student school satisfaction surveys may be a distant memory, but the Summit School Accountability Committee (SAC) has been busy delving into the valuable feedback from all of you. As the SAC members worked on the analysis, we were impressed by the thoughtfulness and maturity of Summit student responses. We would like to share with you some of the key findings.

Students and parents alike indicated that Summit has many positive characteristics. We have a very safe environment with an extremely low level of students experiencing the behavior concerns typical of middle school. The excellence of teachers and other adults at Summit were lauded by both students and parents. Students made numerous positive comments about the adults they interact with, and their suggestions reflected a thoughtful consideration which indicates engagement with their school and classes. With wonderful staff, it is not surprising that the measures of overall satisfaction with Summit were also very high. Ninety-six percent of our parents are satisfied with the educational experience at Summit, 96% are satisfied with the level of challenge their child experiences, and 94% are satisfied with the level of communication that they receive.

The survey results also indicated themes in areas for improvement including: homework, use of Infinite Campus (IC) and teacher websites, and more accessible teacher office hours. In response to these comments, the administration will continue to work towards improving the consistent

use of these tools across all courses.

Comments on the homework load were numerous and 30% of our parents feel it is too much. This is going to be a challenge for our community to resolve because we overwhelmingly approve the overall Summit effect, and we need to carefully find ways to find the right balance for each student and family to challenge each student appropriately and to their full extent. With clear evidence that we have a very engaged and talented community where teachers, parents, administrators all care deeply and have the same vision for our students' education, we expect that we can work through this together. **Please take a moment to read Amanda Avallone and David Finell's piece in the next newsletter (April 29) on how each of us can be involved in improving this statistic one child at a time.**

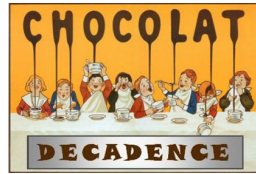
Results indicated the effective use of updated teacher websites and IC was greatly appreciated by both parents and students. When comparing to last year's results we find that there has been significant improvement in the use of these tools. Many more (90%) of the courses reporting greater than 95% of the parents satisfied with websites and find IC useful for the course. Our administration will be looking into addressing the few courses with less than 80% satisfaction level, using the most effective websites as models. Regarding IC, the administration will be reviewing the current policy on IC updates to allow for timely feedback that enables quick intervention when needed, while discouraging obsessive checking of IC.

Finally, the survey indicates that most office hours are useful, but access to them can sometimes be problematic when multiple subjects in a student schedule occur on the same afternoon. The administration and staff recognize the value of office hours and are considering options for scheduling teacher time to allow students better access for all their courses each week.

Thank you all for your input! If you would like to be further involved in this process, consider joining the SAC. Contact Chitra Seshan at cseshan.at.summit@gmail.com.



Celebrate Summit 2011



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SUMMIT!

We had a wonderful turnout at Celebrate Summit this year. Over 250 people attended, we raised \$40,000 and celebrated our wonderful community together... it was a fantastic event! The funds raised - together with outstanding pledges - will enable us to retire the gym loan. As a result, our community can once again direct its annual giving to Summit's operating budget during the challenging financial times ahead.

In addition to the success of this fundraising event, we wish to acknowledge the generous financial contributions of Summit's parents and alumni over the past three years. Without all of your support, we would not have achieved this important milestone.

We are grateful to our generous sponsors and volunteers who made Celebrate Summit such a success:

Community Partner

Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

In-Kind Donors

Mike's Camera	Liquor Mart Boulder	Natural Habitat Adventures
Nanette Schunk	Wisteria Flower Shop	Boss Printing
		Jim Hooley

All the wonderful families and businesses that created and donated the amazing Silent Auction Baskets

Celebrate Summit Event Committee

Polly Dawkins	Robin Luff	Barb Knapp	Allison Platt
Debbie Gould	Michelle Harvey	Amy Britton	Michele Leifer
Chris Velds	Kim Tomsic	Mina Comalian	Peyton Lester
Siga Andrew	Wendy Komarnitsky		Anne Shusterman

Volunteers

Lisa Brussell	Nancy Broadfoot	Shelli Angel	Garam Choi
Pauline Lahey	Ann Zachwieja	Sarah Lems	Nancy Davis
	Dita Hutchinson	Shelly Sapsin	

Special Thanks

Mrs. Kapsak and the Summit NJHS students and Fairview NHS students
 Our fabulous Basket-Making Pixie Families BC Force Soccer Team addressing the invitations
 The Velds Family for the *Chocolove* Favors
 Shelly Hendrick, Debby Hanssen, Laurie Kuelthau,
 Jennifer Piper, Julie Scott and Tami Gallotte

Celebrate Summit is made possible through the generosity of our local business partners and donors. Please consider returning that support to our community.

Volunteer Tea At Summit

In order to thank all of our amazing parent volunteers for their help this school year, Summit is hosting a Volunteer Tea on Thursday, May 5th, from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. If you volunteered in any capacity at Summit this year, please stop by so that we can say “thank you- we couldn’t do it without you!” The Summit faculty and staff will be providing breakfast goodies for our wonderful volunteers!



Summit Alumni Invitation

What better way thank our Summit teachers than to have Summit alums express their appreciation! Local Summit alums are invited back as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the Cafeteria - come say hi to our teachers and connect with each other! Please encourage your child to join us! RSVP or questions: AmyBeringer@comcast.net

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2011

Time: 3:15 - 4:30 pm



Boulder Valley 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, 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, bike 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.

Parent Engagement Network Presents

Thriving During the Teenage Years

Effectively Communicating with your Teen

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

Just when we're getting our parenting down, our children become adolescents and our old parenting strategies no longer are as effective. As our children change developmentally, so must our parenting techniques. The normal developmental progression from pre-adolescence to young adulthood requires a shift from dependence to independence. As parents, we need to teach our children how to behave more responsibly and yet not make their decisions for them or oppose their efforts to take control over their lives. Ideally, we want to nurture their responsible independence. The best strategy to promote a healthy shift from dependence to independence is regular and frequent use of empowerment. Whenever possible, include your child's voice in conversations regarding school, discipline, risk behaviors, rules, etc. If the issue at hand is major and you do need to provide a consequence, empower your child by involving him/her in the discipline plan. If possible, do it at a less volatile time to promote a more productive discussion. As children grow older, parents need to place more and more of the decision-making responsibilities on them. As parents we are often reluctant to do this because we fear that our children will use poor judgment and make mistakes. While this may be true, how else will our children eventually learn to make good decisions? We learn through trial and error. Our children need to make mistakes along the way so that they can learn from them.

As our children shift from dependence to independence, we as parents need to shift from controlling to advising. The most important reason for this is that your child needs to learn to make his/her own decisions to function effectively as a young adult. In addition, the more controlling the parent, the more likely the teenager is to rebel and eventually defy the parent. In this scenario everyone loses. The parent is frustrated and the child loses the opportunity to get useful advice from someone with a lot more life experience. In reality, a parent has very little control over an older teenager's behavior. You can't control their school effort, the friends they choose, the places they go, etc. If you try to maintain control, it's often a recipe for disaster.

To learn more about becoming a more effective communicator and having more of a positive influence on the teenagers in your life, participate in the next FREE Pathways to Parenting Success interactive panel:

UPCOMING PEN EVENT:

Teen Speak

Monday, May 16, 7:00—8:30 pm

Meadows Branch Library (4800 Baseline Rd, Boulder)

Facilitators: Susan Denison, LCSW and Elizabeth Matthews, LPC

Cost: Free

More info: www.BPSBoulder.com

UPCOMING PEN EVENT:

PEN'S 9th ANNUAL CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Monday, May 9th, 11 am - 1:00 pm

Spice of Life Event Center

Featured speaker: Amanda Trosten-Bloom

Director for Corporation for Positive Change

More info: www.positivechange.org

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

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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>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

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