



Summit News

May 21, 2010 Boulder Valley's First Charter School Volume 29, Number 9

The School Calendar	
May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 26th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library • Friday, 28th, 8th grade graduation, 1:00 pm • Friday, 28th, last day of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 2nd, Board Meeting, 8:00 am, Summit Library
July	August
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 13th, New Student registration, 7:30 am • Friday, 13th, First day of school, new students, 8:15 – 1:00. Reception for new parents, 8:15-9:30. • Friday, 13th, Returning student registration, 10:00 – 3:00. • Sunday, 15th, Welcome party for students/new families, 5:00 – 6:30 pm • Monday, 16th, First day of school – all students
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 pm.</p>	

The Principal's Corner and End of Year Report

I used to say that when one is coming down I-70 from the mountains there are those signs we have all seen that warn us to watch our speed; telling us that we 'are not down yet'. The last days of the school year can feel like that - we are almost there but we are not quite there yet. I encourage all of our students to 'stay on their game' until the last day of school, so that the end of the year will finish on a strong note for everyone. As we do come to the end of another amazing school year at Summit, I want to wish each of you a fun and restful summer vacation.

To our returning students – I look forward to seeing you in the fall for another great year of learning. Congratulations on completing your studies this year. You have worked diligently and have grown enormously in mind and spirit.

To our graduates – I commend you on all of your creativity and hard work that you demonstrated during your time at Summit. I trust that the skills and knowledge you have gained here will hold you in good stead in the future, and will help you to succeed in all your worthy endeavors. You are a fine group of young men and women and I know you will continue to make a positive difference in our community and our world. Best of luck in high school. Your teachers and I hope you will come back and visit often.

To our many parent volunteers and supporters – You have done so much for Summit this year, and I thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our school - for your generous financial support and for your many volunteer hours. A *special* thanks to all of the members of the Summit Board and the Chairman, Ali Gidfar, for all of their hard work. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Parent Volunteer Committee and the Chairwoman, Polly Dawkins, for *all* the wonderful things the PVC has done to make our teachers and staff feel so valued, appreciated and supported this year.

To our faculty and staff – Thank you for your hard work and creativity on behalf of your students. Day in and day out your dedication and commitment are what makes Summit one of the best middle schools in the country. Enjoy your well-earned summer vacation!

Farewells

We have some people moving on next year and a special note of appreciation goes to each of them. I know you join me in thanking each of these fine people and to wishing them well.

Malva Freymuth-Tarasewicz, Choral Music and Drama/Musical Theater

Trevor Harris, Physical Education and Health

Elise Hogue, Para Pro

Valerie Koch, Dean of Student Life

Felicity Wong, Library Assistant

Accreditation and School Improvement

I am pleased to report that Summit successfully completed its site visit and re-accreditation process, which is valid for the next 5 years. Some of the input from the site visit report, as well as input from the parent, staff and student surveys this year, has provided guidance to our School Improvement Team and areas that we should focus on over the next few years. This focus will include:

1. Our **Equity Goal** relates to the continued effective implementation of the Response to Intervention (RtI) model, seeking ways to use a wider range of measurable data points in following student progress through the RtI process.
2. Our **Achievement Goal** relates to success with Algebra I, seeking to ensure that as many of our students as possible are solid in Algebra before going on to high school.
3. Our **Climate Goal** relates to the collaboration between school and home to help students strengthen their repertoire of skills and work habits for managing their work-load and responsibilities. As part of this, the faculty and administration will be spending some time looking at the scope of large class projects and how effectively these are currently being coordinated.

It is wonderful to finally have the improvements and additions to our campus completed. Being able to move into our new gymnasium in January was definitely a highlight of the year! Many thanks to those of you who gave so generously of your time and money to make this dream a reality! I look forward to joining with you and the entire Summit community for our 14th annual 8th grade graduation at Boulder High School on Friday, May 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. David B. Finell, Principal

FYI

Supporting Student Independence

The middle school years are a time of emerging independence. We want to help foster student responsibility, including being prepared for school every day. While we appreciate the level of parent support at Summit, there are times when we can over-function for students. When a student experiences the natural consequence for not bringing in a lunch or a homework assignment, this helps him/her to become more responsible and develop greater independence. There has been an increasing number of assignments, lunches, forgotten projects, flash drives and sports equipment delivered to the office each day. When student materials and/or lunch are dropped off, office staff must interrupt class, which affects all students' learning. We would also like to promote after-school plans being made prior to the school day. Again, the numerous interruptions to deliver phone messages

have become problematic. Should there be a true emergency, we will of course deliver a message. Students also have access to the student phone and can be responsible for checking in with you during lunch and after school if plans are tentative.

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, office staff will no longer interrupt class for forgotten items and/or phone messages. Students will be expected to go to the office at lunch, and check the small round table for any items you choose to bring in for them. This new approach will minimize classroom interruption and support our students in developing independence and life skills, and may even increase your free time!

Textbook Check in

Parents, please help your student remember that textbooks are due to the teacher on the day of the final.

If a student does not return the textbook the day of the exam, s/he will need to call a parent (work, cell, home, etc), and the parent will need to bring the book (or a check payment) to the office immediately.

If necessary, parents should bring textbooks (sports uniform, library book, etc) to the office, write the student's name on a sticky note and leave the item(s) on the small round table. The office will not call students down - students are responsible for looking in the office for the items and taking them to their teachers for check-in.

Students who do not return or pay for school property (textbooks, athletic uniforms, library books) will not have a choice of movies on Thursday afternoon. Furthermore, current 6th and 7th graders will not be able to complete registration next fall and 8th grade cumulative folders will not be sent on to high schools until the outstanding items are returned/paid for. Please help your child remember the school items he/she needs to return!

Bike Safety

If your student rides a bike to Summit, please go over the "rules of the road." We are very concerned over the safety of our students, as we have been getting reports of reckless riding. In particular, many of the students on bikes whiz through the stop sign at the intersection of 45th and Hanover without stopping at all. Please remind your child to stop and look both ways at every stop sign!

German 2 Students Excel on Nat'l German Exam

The National German Exam is not offered until students are enrolled in Level 2 High School, and is therefore rarely taken by middle school students. Nevertheless, Summiteers in the German 2 class achieved an incredible result. Logan Garbarini, Calee Lee and Nikki Weber scored high enough to receive a Certificate of Excellent Achievement from the American Association of Teachers of German. Johanne Albrigtsen, Josh Anderson, Bailey Flanagan, Monika Franaszczuk, Caroline McKee, Jackson McLellan, Veronica Pagowski, Laura Shearer-Cooper, Albert Soh, and Lauren Winchester, who all scored in the 94th

percentile or higher nationally, were recognized by the AATG with additional awards. Josh Anderson and Albert Soh tied for the highest score in the local chapter of Colorado/Wyoming, and their classmates were not far behind. Congratulations to all these outstanding German students!

From the NetZero Club:

We began our year by planting five trees in front of the portables. Soon after, the *Daily Camera* came to write an article about Summit's solar wall in the new gym. We tackled our first grant, to Namaste Solar for solar panels. Our second grant, also for solar panels, was to the Center for ReSource conservation. While we didn't receive either of these grants, we continued on with our goal in mind: to reduce carbon emissions at Summit and in the greater community. In mid-January we went on an educational field trip to CU to learn about alternative sources of energy. Then in April we held school-wide earth day festivities, including a bake sale promoting using alternative transportation to get to school and a raffle for a bike. We're very excited about the success of this year and plan to hit the ground running next year.

8th Grade Graduation party

Head to the end of this newsletter for the information and permission slip for the 8th grade graduation party on May 26.

Thanks to our Office Volunteers!

The office has enjoyed wonderful help this year from our fantastic Summit volunteers. We especially want to thank Nanci Feeney (counselor's office), Anne Hearn, Karen Kent-Pyle, Sue Krantzdorf, Theresa Simonich-Russ, and Janet Schultz (newsletter editor extraordinaire). Thanks for the fantastic help, ladies!

Community Connections Appreciates:

A special thank you to Noodles and Company for their generous lunch donation for our staff!

Help needed: Parent Volunteer for MathCounts

Summit Middle School is looking for a parent volunteer to help coach the MathCounts team for the 2010/2011 school year. MathCounts will meet on Mondays from 3:15 to 4:15 from August 2010 through March 2011. Please contact Mrs. de Nobrega (tanya.denobrega@bvsd.org) if you are interested.



Tools for Learning Fundraising Campaign Update...

We are very grateful to all of our donors - current families, staff, matching gift employers, and alumni - that have supported Summit's annual fund, *Tools for Learning*, during this financially challenging school year. With your support, we have raised \$97,000 to date! Thank you to the most recent contributors to Summit's annual fund:

Zeynep Biringen
 Dale and Kim Hartzell
 Clay and Trish James
 Cheryle and Daniel Kapsak
 Leif and Wendy Redal
 Bruce Trudgill and Louise Fordyce



If you have not yet made your contribution this year, it's not too late! Every dollar we are able to fundraise offsets state funding cuts and supports our operating budget - so your contributions directly fund teacher salaries, small class sizes, technology upgrades and all of the other expenses that we incur in providing an excellent educational experience for our students. Please join those in the Summit community that have pledged to our campaign thus far and help us meet our annual goal of raising \$100,000. Your checks and credit card donations will be accepted throughout the summer.

We are planning some exciting enhancements to our annual fund for next year, including the ability to accept secure on-line donations directly from our website. If you would like to get involved and be part of our fundraising team, or have a specific question about making a donation over the summer, please contact Dita Hutchinson at dhutchinson.at.summit@gmail.com or (303) 499-9467.

Thanks again for your generosity this year and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely, Summit Board of Directors



I drive to school because it's hard to find carpoolers
 I drive to school because RTD is too expensive and too inconvenient
 I drive to school because it's so darn easy.....

I wish I didn't drive to school because traffic is a hassle
 I wish I didn't drive to school because it's a waste of time and gas
 I wish I didn't drive to school because my kids want independence...

These issues and more are what *GobyBus/SchoolPool* will address this coming year at middle schools across Boulder. The initiative is charged with reducing the number of cars dropping off a single student by encouraging the use of carpools, RTD, biking and walking. We'll be offering an array of programs including reduced price bus pass sales, bus buddy programs, carpool matching support and dazzling incentives to persuade parents and students to try alternatives to driving. Here's how Summit kids currently get to and from school as taken from the recent parent survey (161 families responding).

Mode of Travel		Family car	Carpool	RTD	Bike	Walk
'Normal Cold' Weather	to	52%	27%	15%	4%	2%
	from	45%	22%	24%	4%	4%

GobyBus/SchoolPool is funded by a federal "Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant" with additional support from the city of Boulder, BVSD, RTD and Ride Arrangers.

SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS!

From Ms. Haydee Phelps Aji-Bonte, Science Fair Coordinator

Once again, I am thrilled and filled with pride after another year of Summit Science Fair! Congratulations to ALL 8th grade students for their **OUTSTANDING EFFORT** and **VERY IMPRESSIVE** projects! This year there were a total of 96 projects in the Summit Science Fair Round One. The following 46 projects were selected as semifinalists to compete in the Summit Science Fair Round Two:

Johanne Albrigtsen, Charlie Beckman, Matan Bilavsky, Eli Bradley, Jyoti Cambell, Clinton Davis, Michael Dessau, Olivia Feeney, Daniela Fishman, Katie Fitzpatrick, Monika Franaszczuk, Joel Frykholm, Logan Garbarini, Hannah Gould, Ryan Hartzell, Audrey Hearn, Larissa Hunt, Brandon Jacobs, Sarah Kaufman, Lauren Kempton, James Kranzdorf, Calee Lee, Noel Leifer, Jack McClellan, Torin McDonald, Caroline McKee, Austin Metz, Erin Mooz, Tyler Morley, Jacqueline Reed, David Ritzwoller, Shannon Rosenblum, Alan Scheuermann, Dylan Schlager, Hal Schultz, Maddy Searchinger, Albert Soh, Jonathan Tari, Kayla Tawa, Gabrielle Vermeire, Emma Vigers, Rose Wang, Nikki Weber, Raye Weigel, and the teams of Emma Schwartz and Pyrene Steiner and Isabelle Nathanson and Lawrence Zhang

21 of these projects were selected as **Summit Science Fair finalists** and represented Summit Middle School at the Roche Colorado Regional Science Fair on Tuesday February 23, 2010 at The University of Colorado- Boulder campus. They won many honors and awards, listed below:

- ***Johanne Albrigtsen:** 1st Place Jr. Division Animal and Plant Sciences; US Navy and Marine Corps Special Award; 2nd Place Soil and Water Conservation Society Special Award; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Michael Dessau:** 3rd Place Jr. Division Physics
- ***Olivia Feeney:** Judges Special Award for Advanced Level Achievement- Animal and Plant Sciences
- ***Katie Fitzpatrick:** Plant Science Regional Fair Finalist
- ***Joel Frykholm:** Engineering Regional Fair Finalist
- ***Logan Garbarini:** 1st Place Jr. Division Chemistry
- ***Ryan Hartzell:** 3rd Place Jr. Division Medicine and Health
- ***Larissa Hunt:** 2nd Place Jr. Division Medicine and Health
- ***Brandon Jacobs:** 2nd Place Jr. Division Math and Computer Science; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Jack McClellan:** 1st Place Jr. Division Medicine and Health
- ***Torin McDonald:** 1st Place Jr. Division Environmental Science; Thorne Ecological Special Award; City of Boulder Water Quality Special Award; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Caroline McKee:** 1st Place Jr. Division Energy and Transportation
- ***Tyler Morley:** 1st Place Jr. Division Physics; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Jacqueline Reed:** 2nd Place Jr. Division Microbiology
- ***David Ritzwoller:** 1st Place Jr. Division Earth Science; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Dylan Schlager:** 1st Place Jr. Division Engineering; State Qualifier (CSEF)
- ***Maddy Searchinger:** 2nd Place Jr. Division Chemistry; University of Colorado Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Special Award
- ***Emma Shetter:** 3rd Place Jr. Division Behavioral and Social Science
- ***Gabrielle Vermeire:** Plant Science Regional Fair Finalist
- ***Emma Vigers:** 1st Place Jr. Division Microbiology
- ***Lawrence Zhang and Isabelle Nathanson (team):** 1st Place Jr. Division Behavioral and Social Science; State Qualifier (CSEF)

Johanne Albrigtsen, Brandon Jacobs, Torin McDonald, Tyler Morley, David Ritzwoller, Dylan Schlager, and the team of Isabelle Nathanson and Lawrence Zhang were selected at the district fair to represent Summit and the Boulder Valley School District at the Roche Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair, held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins on April 8-10, 2010. All of our students won recognition. The following honors were awarded to Summit students at the state level:

Johanne Albrigtsen:

Allelopathic Effects of Picea pungens

2nd Place Jr. Division Plant Sciences; Colorado Foundation for Agriculture Special Award

Brandon Jacobs:

Hard Drive Sector Size...Does it Impact Performance? **1st Place Jr. Division Math and Computer Sciences**

Torin McDonald:

The Impact of a Coal Mine on Water Quality

Honorable Mention Jr. Division Environmental Sciences; Colorado River Watch Special Award; Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Special Award

Tyler Morley:

Frozen Resistance

American Institute of Chemical Engineers Special Award

David Ritzwoller:

Do Earthquakes on Colorado Follow the Gutenberg-Richter Law?

2nd Place Jr. Division Earth and Space Sciences; Colorado Scientific Society Special Award; National Geophysical Data Center Special Award

Dylan Schlager:

Internet Through A Can???

2nd Place Jr. Division Engineering; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Special Award; US Navy and US Marine Corps Special Award

Isabelle Nathanson and Lawrence Zhang:

Thinking in Color: The Effect of Brain Dominance on How We Learn

Team Nomination Jr. Division Behavioral and Social Sciences; 2nd Place Jr. Division BEST TEAM OVERALL

Summit Alumni were well represented at the district and state level fairs, winning honors and recognition in their categories. For more information on Summit Alumni and the full results of both fairs, you can go to the BVSD website or the CSEF website.

Congratulations to ALL of our 8th grade participants, semi-finalists, finalists, and regional fair and state fair participants and award winners!

**SCIENCE FAIR VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL!
THANK YOU!!!**

A big thank you to **Mr. Teasdale and Ms. Drozda-Freeman** for their support.

Also, a very special thanks to parent coordinator and **SUPER SCIENCE FAIR HEAD-LADY-IN-CHARGE Christy Lapp.**

Thanks to **Al Betz and Rita Boreiko** for setting up the judging schedules...a tremendous feat!

A special thank-you to IRB volunteer members **Jenny Schwartz and Pamela Guthrie** for reviewing all the medical and behavioral science projects for safety.

Also, big thanks to all of the parent and community volunteers who helped us out from the biggest on down to the smallest details, from judging, to scoring, to catering- we could not have done it without you!

MENTORS AND WORK DAYS

Thank you to the following people who came to Summit on Saturday workdays to mentor students and provide valuable guidance for their science fair projects; **Jeff Anderson, Dick Kautz, Gary Strand, Todd Bernatsky, John Cowley, Al Betz, Greg Lems, Chris Cooper, Mansour Alipour-Fard, Julie Paddock, Jenny Schwartz, Marty Snow, and Maria Gambia.** Also thank-you to following people who provided refreshments and lunch for our mentors; **Alison Vigers, Lisa Searchinger, Aline Christianian, Allison Shetter, and Anne Hearn.**

JUDGES

Great appreciation to the judges who spend time reviewing and judging the projects;

Mansour Alipour-Fard, Todd Bernatsky, Al Betz, Martin Black, Margaret Campbell, Antonietta Capotondi, Chris Cooper, Dan D'Ippolito, Dan Dessau, Jim Fitzpatrick, Maria Gamboa, Paul Harrington, Bruce Honeyman, John Cowley, Julie Paddock, Dick Kautz, Si-wan Kim, Steve Koester, Rainer Kunz, Sue Kunz, Kristine Larson, Tom Leifer, Madhavi Chintalapally, Andrew Morely, Malti Nikrad, Ana Nunes, Ann Odasz, Maurisz Pagowski, Zoya Popovic, Liz Reed, Cheryl Reifsnnyder, Mike Ritzwoller, John Schlager, Jenny Schwartz, Alison Shetter, Marty Snow, Ron Van Buskirk, Chris Walker, Jeff Webb, Kathy Young, Robin Betz, Radhika Rawar, Praul Shah, Anne Shusterman, Michael McClellan, Sara Cady, Tom Ingerson, Stefan Popescu and Robert Keeley..We welcomed many new judges this year and judges who never had any students at Summit.

HOSPITALITY

Kathy Dessau for organizing the wonderful lunches for the judges on January 21th and February 4th. The other volunteers who brought food, set-up, and cleaned up the lunches: **Janet Winchester, L.C. Rock, Lisa Brussell, Leyla Jacobs, Anne Hearn, Mary Cowen, J. Rosenblum, Kristine Schlager, Patricia Lilia, Julie Johns, Elizabeth Stiles, Jeaninne Harrington, Shelly Benford, Scott Anderson, Lisa Brussell, Ann Kitayama, Cynthia McCreary, Debbie Gould, Sylvia Tawse, Anne Shusterman.**

LOGISTICS

Anne Toslosky and Amy Beringer for scoring and tabulating the results.
NJHS students for setting up the tables for the projects.

WE COULD NOT HAVE SUMMIT SCIENCE FAIR WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT OF ALL OF YOU!
THANK YOU!

8th Grade Class Graduation Party

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Time: 6pm – 9pm

Location: Club 156 and the Connection
The University Memorial Club
1669 Euclid Avenue (off Broadway)

Cost: \$20 includes entry, all activities and food and drinks
(Please indicate if you need assistance with this cost)

Food: Pizza, veggies, graduation cake, and drinks

Activities: Dancing, bowling, billiards, games, photos with friends and more

(The ALL class Graduation party is not sponsored by Summit Middle School. It is an event planned and supervised by Summit parents and is not part of the Summit Middle School graduation activities.)

Please sign and return this form along with payment to the school office in the box labeled 'Graduation Party'. Please submit it no later than Monday, May 24th.

Thank you!

_____ 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 Aline Christianian.

_____ (\$20) included -or- _____ Financial assistance needed

(Parent Signature)

(Student's Name—printed)

In case of emergency, I can be reached at _____

Summit News

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

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Ms. Amanda Avallone, Assistant Principal.

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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.bvbsd.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://bvbsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

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