

Summit News



Volume 32, Issue 3

September 16, 2011

Summit Calendar

September	
September 16	1/2 Day: Professional Development Meetings School day for students: 8am-12:15pm
September 19	New Principal Candidate on Campus Parent Q&A with principal in MPR, 8:30 am
September 20	New Principal Candidate on Campus Parent Q&A with principal in MPR, 8:30 am
September 26	Late start—Collaboration Time School Start at 8:55 am
September 29	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
September 30	State Pupil Count day

October	
October 4	Picture retakes, 3:10—3:45 pm,
October 10	Late Start— Collaboration Time School Starts at 8:55 am
October 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, A-H
October 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:30-6:30 pm, I-Z
October 14	Summit Day—no school
October 18	Vision and Hearing screening
October 19	1st quarter ends
October 24	Late start—Collaboration Time School Starts at 8:55 am
October 26	Board Meeting, 6:00 pm
October 29-30	Homework “free” and family weekend

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Summit Sports

We have two great athletic opportunities coming up here at Summit. **8th grade girls interscholastic basketball starts September 21st and goes until October 26th.** The deadline to sign up for 8th grade girls basketball is 9:00 a.m. on September 23rd. The other sport coming up is **intramural flag football which starts September 26th and goes until October 17th.** Flag football is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders, both boys and girls. The only exception is if an 8th grader plays interscholastic football for another school then he cannot sign up for flag football. The deadline to sign up for flag football is 9:00 a.m. on September 30th.

All Summit sports practice every day of the week after school and go until about 4:30. Coaches will provide more information by sending an email or a note home with student participants. Both interscholastic and intramural sports require an athletic packet from each student for each sport with parent/guardian signatures on the relevant forms. These packets can be found in the main hallway at Summit or on our website at the following link: <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/summit/academics/sports/Pages/default.aspx>

A current sports physical is required to participate in interscholastic sports (intramural sports do not require this). A sports physical is good for one year after the date of the physical. Don't miss out on these great athletic opportunities.

Lost and Found

There are lots of lost and, eventually, found items at Summit. All items, whether labeled or unlabeled, will be gathered on the lost and found shelves on the east wall of the cafeteria. If an item is labeled with a student's full name, we will do our best to reunite it with the student, but we can't guarantee that.

At the end of September, we will be donating items to a local charity organization. (Valuable items like eyeglasses, phones, wallets, iPods, etc. will still be held for safekeeping in the office.) We will put out all items (other than valuable ones) on a table in the cafeteria on Monday, September 26, so that students/parents may look through it more easily. We will announce this to students in our Daily Announcements sheet. Anything turned in during that last week of September will not be donated until the next month. Please do check the lost and found frequently for any items you are wondering about!

Safety in Summit Parking Lot

We ask that those of you who drop your children off on Tantra or in the school parking lot be extra vigilant about safety. We have noticed some speeding, some driving against the arrows in the parking lot and even a couple of near misses! Please drive slowly, pull up as far as you can and watch for bikers, skateboarders and walkers all around you. In the future, we will be noting license plate numbers for those who are driving unsafely and will ask the school resource officer to speak with the drivers. We all need to work together to keep our children safe!



Destination Imagination

An existing 6th grade Destination Imagination team is re-forming this year and looking for a few 6th grade team members to fill out the roster. Destination Imagination is a team-based, creativity competition (see www.IdoDI.org). The team will be working on the theatrical (fine arts) challenge and will start in a few weeks. Weekly practice (Monday right after school) and several hours of individual work per week are needed through the season which ends in late May. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the team manager, Susan Dalgleish at sddalg@comcast.net. Practices will be held at the Dalgleish residence.



Summit's 2011-12 Annual Fund

Making the choice to join a charter school brings a unique set of wonderful opportunities as well as responsibility. Each year we ask for the support of our parent community to raise funds for Summit programs. Fundraising support from Summit's current parents and alumni is critical.

Our primary goal this year is to get 100% participation in 100 days. So by January, we are hoping that every family at Summit will have pledged or contributed to the 2011-2012 Annual. We hope to raise \$100,000 this school year, with a suggested contribution of \$350 per student.

Just a reminder, and for those new to Summit, the Annual Fund is Summit's largest and most important fundraiser of the year. The Annual Fund covers the gap between BVSD and CO state school funding revenue and expenses for the current school year. The Summit Annual Fund helps:

- Support academic enrichment, student programs, and teacher support
- Provide activities and events that develop and strengthen the school community
- Ensure the continued innovation and advancement of Summit's program offerings for your children -- both today and in the future

Please remember, no gift is too small; our goal is 100% participation!

If you have any questions about the Annual Fund or Corporate Matching, or you would like to join the Development Committee please contact me via email or phone. To donate right now and get us closer to our 100% goal, please send or bring in your check to the Summit office. Or give online after September 21st at <http://www.bvsvd.org/schools/SUMMIT>. Checks should be payable to "Supporters of Summit (SOS)" the 501c3 charity that supports Summit's high quality educational programs. Your donations are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SUMMIT!

Barb Knapp
Summit Middle School Development Committee
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Comcast \$9.95 Internet Deal

BVSD has recently learned that Comcast is offering a \$9.95 deal for Internet service. This is only for families that qualify for free lunch (this does not include those who qualify for reduced price lunches). Also, Comcast has some restrictions such as that the family has not had Comcast internet service for at least 90 days and that they have no outstanding bills to Comcast. More information is available on their website at <http://www.internetessentials.com/>

Here is the phone number Comcast has provided for people who are interested:

1-855-8-INTERNET

1-855-846-8376

Summit's Parent/Teacher Organization

Looking for a fun way to meet other Summit parents, and participate in some exciting events?
Join Summit Community Connections!

Summit Community Connections was created to:

- Offer an opportunity for Summit parents to socialize throughout the year
- Provide activities and events that develop and strengthen the school community
- Engage and inform parents on issues related to Summit's programs and children
- Raise funds to support academic enrichment, capital improvements, and teacher support

Summit Community Connections

Summit Community Connections (SCC) is the Parent/Teacher Organization for Summit. Community Connections was founded by Summit parents in 2007 and is open to all members of the Summit community. If you would like to be involved, please join us during the school year at our one-hour meetings typically held on the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings and event announcements are listed in the school's newsletter and on the school website. Parents, teacher liaisons and administration are welcome to attend meetings. No RSVP is required. Meeting minutes will be posted on the school website.

Community Connections supports Summit in many ways:

Community Events:

SCC sponsors a variety of community events for Summit students, staff, and their families. Some of these include our Back-to-School Picnic, Summit Speaker Series, and Student Service Learning Projects. These events promote and celebrate our school community.

School Support Services:

SCC offers or supports several services to the school community including the Volunteer Coordination, Yearbook, Back to School Events, School Photos & Vision/Hearing Screenings, School Directory, Staff Appreciation, and Social Media/Website support.

Fund Raising:

Various teams plan and execute the major SCC fundraising events throughout the school year. The money that is raised, in turn, supports Summit programs, including classroom tools, academic and extracurricular programs, capital improvements, and teacher needs. The major SCC fundraisers are the annual Direct Appeal campaign, Fall Heritage Festival, Bingo Night(s) and Celebrate Summit. Ongoing fundraising efforts will also include: Boulder Ballet Ticket Promotion, Aspen Leaf *Pennies for Thought* and others. Each event has a dedicated chairperson(s) and event team.

The next Community Connections meeting is on Tuesday September 27th from 8:15-9:30 at Caffé Sole.

Come on out for a coffee and some conversation -- and bring your friends!

Questions or to sign up for a committee, please contact Mina Comailian mcomailian@yahoo.com, Barb Knapp bknapp.at.summit@gmail.com, or Polly Dawkins pdawkins.at.summit@gmail.com

Barb Knapp

Summit Middle School Development Committee

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Back to School Picnic

Summit's 2011 Back to School Picnic

THANK YOU to everyone who came out for the first Community Connections event of the year!
It was a fun afternoon – parents, teachers and students came together to celebrate the start of the school year and make Summit beautiful!



Parent Engagement Network presents: Thriving During the Teenage Years

Tackling Technology

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

In the fast-paced world of ever-evolving technology, it is difficult for parents to keep up. Children are spending more time in the virtual world resulting in less time for old-fashioned pursuits like having a face-to-face conversation, playing outside, or going for a bike ride. The speed of this technological evolution often outpaces a parent's ability to develop effective strategies to address it.

While we cannot stop technological progress, here are some suggestions to consider:

- **Consider your own behavior:** How much time do you spend in front of a screen, talking on your cell phone, or watching TV? Like it or not we are the role models for our children and need to try and practice what we preach.
- **Create technology-free days:** Consider setting aside time in the evenings and/or the weekends for everyone in the family to turn off cell phones, iPods, televisions, videogames, computers, etc. and actually interact with each other.
- **Discuss technology etiquette:** Make sure that your children understand appropriate uses of technology in terms of treating others with respect and only communicating in ways that would make you proud.
- **Make technology a privilege, not a right:** Consider having your child earn technology time as a function of meeting their responsibilities at home and in school. Imagine if every hour of technology was a function of actually interacting with others in the real world without plugging in to something.
- **Develop family rules regarding technology:** Include your children in discussions about turning their phones off after a certain time at night, how much is too much daily screen time, the importance of other activities like exercise and in-person social interaction, as well as how to prioritize other responsibilities with leisure pursuits.
- **Keep a realistic perspective:** Remember that part of your difficulty with accepting all of this technology is that it is more foreign to you than it is to your children. When I was a child it certainly seemed like a simpler time for parents. Back then parents were in fear of rock and roll music, confident that it would unravel the fiber of civilization. Somehow we survived that as well.

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).

UPCOMING PEN EVENT:

To learn essential strategies to help your child successfully navigate the wild world of technology, participate in the next Pathways to Parenting Success workshop:

What: Facebook, Sexting, and Gaming, Oh My!

When: Monday, October 17, 6:30-8:00pm

Where: Meadows Branch Library (4800 Baseline Road, Boulder)

Facilitators: Dan Fox, LPC

Cost: FREE

More info: www.BPSBoulder.com

UPCOMING PEN EVENT:

What: Celebrating Queer Identities: Living Great, Being Terrific! "A Positive View of LGBTQ: Embracing Identity and Cultivating Well-being"

Featured speakers: Sharon Rostosky PhD
Ellen Riggle PhD

When: Saturday, October 15th, All day conference

Where: CU Boulder's Center for Community

More info: www.bouldersafeschools.org

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 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 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

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