



Summit News

September 4, 2009

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 28, Number 2

The School Calendar

September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, 7th, Labor Day, NO SCHOOL Wednesday, 9th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library Wednesday, 16th, Helping Your Child Succeed at Summit, 6:30 pm Thursday, 17th, Meet and Mingle, 7:45-9:00 am Thursday, 17th, Community Connections meeting, 8:30 am at Summit Friday, 18th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students* Wednesday, 23rd, Board meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday, 1st, State Pupil Count Day Monday, 5th, Picture Retakes beginning at 3:05 pm. Tuesday, 6th, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 pm* (A-K) Wednesday, 7th, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 pm* (L-Z) Friday, 9th, Summit Charter Day, NO SCHOOL Wednesday, 14th, Board Meeting at 6:30 pm, Summit library Thursday, 15th, Vision & Hearing Screening Friday, 23rd, First Quarter Ends Wednesday, 28th, Board Meeting at 6:30 pm, Summit library Friday, 30th, HW Free/Family weekend
November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday, 11th, Veterans' Day, Summit IS in session (but BVSD does not have school) Wednesday, 11th, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Summit Library Monday, 23rd – Friday, 27th, No school, Thanksgiving Holiday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday, 4th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students* Monday, 21st, Winter Break begins
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 p.m.</p>	

SeptemberFest 2009
Sunday, September 13th
3:30-6:00 at Summit

Games, activities & treats for the whole family
 Popcorn & Root beer Floats
 Door Prizes
 Dodge ball
 Rubik's Cube Competition
 Lawn games & more

Free to Summit students & their families.

Please email your questions to Michele Leifer, mleifer@comcast.net
 A final planning meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 8:30 in the Library.
 Please feel free to join us!

Rain date is September 20th.
Please call 303-601-2316 on September 13 if you think the event might be cancelled & want to check.

From the Dean

Students at Summit have amazing teachers, learn incredible things and stretch themselves in ways they never imagined. But a school is much more than a place for students to learn. A school is a community. In this community, our students also play, make life-long friends, learn the value of sportsmanship, strengthen their character, give back to the community and learn to be leaders. I wanted to take this occasion to share some of the opportunities we have at Summit and to remind families of some of our policies.

- **Athletics:** From the beginning of school through mid-May, there is always some sport available for students. We currently have twenty-two boys participating in Intramural Basketball with Coach Harris. The season will culminate with a round-robin tournament at a district school on Monday, September 14th. The location will be announced soon and will be posted on Summit's website. Other upcoming sports include:
 - Interscholastic 8th Grade Girls' Basketball, September 28 – October 30
 - Intramural 6th/7th/8th Grade Coed Flag Football, September 25 – October 16
 - Interscholastic 8th Grade Boys' Basketball, November 3 – December 16

Please visit <http://bvsd.org/schools/summit/academics/sports/Pages/default.aspx> or speak with Mrs. Koch for more information.

- **Student Council:** Student Council meets Wednesdays after school and provides students with leadership opportunities and a voice in their school. Elections for Student Council will begin on September 10th. We had an informational meeting on Wednesday, the 2nd. If your student was unable to attend please have him/her speak with Mrs. Koch to get the information about running.
- **Other Clubs:** There are many other opportunities to get involved. At the middle level, we largely communicate these opportunities through announcements at school and students decide for themselves what they are interested in. Some of the clubs we have include:
 - Chess Club, meets Thursdays after school with Mrs. Ayi-Bonte
 - Math Counts, meets Mondays after school with Mr. Seibel
 - Net Zero Club, meets Tuesdays at lunch with Mr. Garcia and Mr. Goettsche
 - Juggling Club, meets Fridays at lunch with Ms. Thompson
 - Yearbook Club, meets Mondays after school with Ms. Baruch
 - International Club with Ms. Laub, meetings will be announced soon

- **Behavior:** Behavior is as important a part of a student's development as classes, sports and leadership. Our approach to discipline here at Summit is one that believes both in maintaining an environment conducive to learning and keeping all children safe, while at the same time helping students to learn from their mistakes and grow. When students are referred to the office, they will be asked to reflect on the incident in writing before speaking with me, so that they can begin to think about how their actions affected not just themselves, but the larger community. They will be asked to consider:
 - The harm caused (to other kids, teacher/school, and to themselves),
 - How they can repair the harm, and
 - If the action has happened before and if they need additional help in avoiding it in the future.

Such reflection is followed by a meeting with me in which we discuss the situation and determine appropriate consequences. Students are allowed input, though the final decision rests with me and/or Mr. Finell. Paramount in any discipline referral is that students are treated with respect. I feel strongly that children are not to be blamed, but that behaviors can be discussed and learned from.

- **Attendance:** Last year we implemented a new attendance policy with the goal of getting more kids in school and to prepare them for the rigorous attendance demands of high school. This policy resulted in an almost 50% reduction in the numbers of students surpassing the ten day mark, which I believe translates directly to student achievement. We allow students a maximum number of ten days of absence in a school year. These absences can be for any reason, be it for vacations or for illnesses; however, once a student has reached ten days, absences will only be excused with a doctor's note. Credit is allowed for make-up work when absences are excused; no credit is allowed for make-up work when absences are unexcused.
- **Study Hall:** We are aware of the disappointment and frustration some students feel about the new study hall guidelines. The seating chart rule, which is now in place in all study hall sections, is meant only to insure that study hall retains an atmosphere of work and focus. It is not meant as punishment. The restriction on students working outside the study hall classroom is in place only until the construction of the new gym is

complete. Once the area behind the school is no longer the staging area for the construction, study hall teachers and students will welcome outside study once again.

Finally, I wanted to commend all of our students on a great start to the year. Our returning students are being welcoming to our new students, new students are reaching out to make new friends, and our students are working hard in their classes and getting involved in school activities.

FYI

Meet and Mingle

Come meet the school administrators and other Summit parents for an informal get together! Please join Mr. Finell, Principal, Ms. Avallone, Assistant Principal, Ms. Koch, Dean of Student Life, and Ms. Troup, School Counselor on Thursday, September 17, 7:45 - 9:00 a.m. in the Summit Library. Delicious refreshments provided by Summit's Parent Volunteer Committee (PVC).

Please RSVP to the Summit Office, (303) 499-9511 or summit.office@bvsd.org by Tuesday, September 15. We look forward to seeing you!

2008-09 Lunch account update from Mr. Finell:

I understand that our lunch service provider from last year, Connie Gordon of Fast and Fresh Foods, owes some Summit families money due to positive balances on their accounts at the end of the last school year. If you still have a positive balance on your account from last year I would appreciate knowing how much you are still owed. You can e-mail me at david.finell@bvsd.org to let me know.

Summit Library Hours

The library is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, the library hours are extended and it will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Introducing Summit School Accountability Committee

The Summit School Accountability Committee (SAC) is formed by the Summit Board for the purpose of self-assessment, seeking input and establishing a school improvement plan (SIP), and reporting back to the school community on the progress of implementing the SIP. We also work with the District Accountability Committee (DAC) to ensure that our SIP meets the DAC requirements, and that we are adequately prepared for the accreditation process which culminates in the form of an on-site review once every five years. The following are our SAC members for the 2009—2010 school year:

Yizi Xu, Chair, board member, yxu.at.summit@gmail.com
Leslie Burns, parent, burnsles@msn.com
Elaine Corey, parent elainecorey@earthlink.net; Elaine Corey also represents our school on DAC.
Elizabeth Hubert, parent, elizabethh@bixbyschool.org
Chitra Seshan, parent, chitra@narb.com
Haydee Ayi-Bonte, teacher, haydee.ayibonte@bvsd.org
Kelli Frykholm, teacher, kelli.frykholm@bvsd.org
Cynthia Kolanowski, teacher, cynthia.kolanowski@bvsd.org
Tom Seibel, teacher, thomas.seibel@bvsd.org
Amanda Avallone, assistant principal, amanda.avallone@bvsd.org
David Finell, principal, david.finell@bvsd.org
Valerie Koch, dean of students, valerie.koch@bvsd.org

We will hold our first meeting on Thursday, September 10, at 3:30 pm in the school library. At the meeting we will review data from assessment tests and from several surveys to form a broad assessment of our successes and challenges, from which we will discern trends and patterns that will become areas of focus for developing our SIP for the 09 - 10 school year. If you are interested in how the process works or you have particular concerns that you want to share, please feel free to come to our meetings or contact any of the members. As we work toward a final version of our SIP, which has a tentative due date of October 9, 2009, we will keep you informed and continue to seek and incorporate input from the school community.

This year Summit is due for an on-site review from DAC for accreditation. Although the actual review is tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2010 and will be concentrated in a few days, the preparation for it will be an on-going and multi-aspect process for which we will ask for help from our parents from time to time. So, you volunteers out there: we'll be calling - thank you!



Creating a Caring, Connected and Safe Community in Partnership with All Adults and Youth

PEN School Team Members

Please Join us for

PEN 101

Wednesday, September 9

4:30-7:30pm

Lafayette Public Library

775 W. Baseline Road, Lafayette

All PEN School Team Leaders and PEN School Volunteers, as well as interested participants (such as counselors, interventionists, administrators, teachers) are invited to this Annual “PEN 101” Introduction to the Parent Engagement Network as part of PEN’s commitment to provide Coaching and Training for all PEN volunteers.

This will be an interactive session that will showcase the “PEN model” of “how to put on a PEN Community Conversation/ Interactive Gathering.”

We will cover:

PEN’s exciting status: Self sustaining!

School Team Toolkit

History and accomplishments

Calendar 2009-2010

Chris King letter of support

Organization, Action Teams

“How to get Started and sustain your efforts”

Other items per your requests

Visioning into Action

Monthly Coaching/Training

Inclusiveness

PEN/Thrive Integration

Book Groups

Fundraising

Looking Forward to Seeing you, as we Kick-off another exciting year!

Contact: Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach Foxxbetsy123@msn.com or 720.563.7007

In partnership with  **Boulder Valley**
School District
Excellence and Equity



in partnership with

“Creating a Caring, Connected, Safe Community in Partnership with all Adults & Youth”

2009– 2010 Community Conversations ALL EVENTS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

September 2 Wednesday	Louisville Middle School 6:30-8:30pm	“How are All the Children?” 8 th Annual PEN Kick-off Power of Parents Sparking the Hidden Strengths of Our Youth	Welcome: Chris King, Superintendent, BVSD Stephanie Hoy Exec. Director, Assets for Colorado Youth www.buildassets.org
September 16 Wednesday	Platt Middle School 6:30-8:30pm	Raising Girls With Positive Self-empowerment Personal foundation and conflict management skills for success	Rachel Simmons, Oprah-endorsed National Speaker and author, “Odd Girl Out” & “Curse of the Good Girl” www.rachelsimmons.com
September 23 Wednesday	Broomfield High School 6:30-8:30pm	Sparking a Community of Connections Learn techniques for breaking down barriers and strengthen connection with your kids, other youth, and the community	Ed Gerety Author and National Presenter www.EdGerety.com
October 19 Monday	BVSD Education Center 6:30-8:30pm	Harvesting Healthy Families Nourishing the Mind, Body, Soul and Community	Community Collaborative: Bryce Browne, Bryce@growefoundation.org www.growefoundation.org
November 19 Thursday	BVSD Ed Center 9:00-11:00am	Teaching Heart <i>Recognize and Develop Social and Emotional Intelligence</i> <i>The Key to a Child’s Success and Wholeness</i>	Tom McSheehy, therapist and Educator www.teachingheart.com
December 14 Monday	Centaurus High School 6:30-8:30pm	Celebrating Diversity and the Power of Community <i>Practical skills for authentic connections with each other</i>	Community Collaborative: Bill De La Cruz, De La Cruz Consulting Inc., b.delacruz@comcast.net
January 13 Wednesday	Louisville Middle School 6:30-8:30pm	High Performance Parenting Skills for Parenting in Our Fast-Paced World	Adam Fels, LMS Principal Adam.fels@bvsd.org
January 28 Thursday	Monarch High School 6:30-8:30pm	HOPE: You Are Not Alone Suicide Prevention and Depression Awareness <i>Voices of Strength, empowerment, & resources</i>	HOPE Coalition of Boulder County www.hopecoalitionboulder.org
February 18 Thursday	BVSD Ed Center 9:00–11:00am	Body Wholeness <i>Creating Accepting Relationships with Our Bodies, Education and Resources around Disordered Eating</i>	Community Collaborative: Isabelle Tierney, The Body Beloved Revolution isabelle@bodybeloved.com
February	Evening	Beauty Mark A film Challenging our View of Beauty	PEN FUNDRAISING EVENT Stay tuned for details
March 11 Thursday	BVSD Ed Center 9:00–11:00am	Compassionate Communication Deepening parent/child relationships	Jeff and Traci Bushnell www.centerforcompassionateconnections.org
March 16 Tuesday	Peak to Peak 6:30-8:30pm		
April 1 Thursday	BVSD Ed Center 9:00-11:00am	Transitions Tools elementary through high school	Sue Wong , Practical Parenting expert rockymtdahlia@hotmail.com
May	tba	8th Annual PEN Celebration	

PEN Community Conversations:

9:00-9:30 Networking

9:30-11:00 Presentation

* Build Relationships and Networks of Communication

*Engage parents, youth, and community members to increase resiliency and thriving in our youth

*Provide Research-based information and best practices on preventing high risk behavior

Questions: Contact Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach foxbetsy123@msn.com, 720-563-7007

For resources, updates and other information, please visit: www.parentengagementnetwork.org



Creating a Caring, Connected and Safe Community in Partnership with All Adults and Youth

"How Are All the Children?"

8th Annual PEN Kick-off

THE POWER OF PARENTS

Sparking the Hidden Strengths of Our Youth



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

6:30-8:30PM

LOUISVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

1341 MAIN STREET, LOUISVILLE

6:30 Networking

7:00 Welcome: Chris King, Superintendent, BVSD

Presentation: Stephanie Hoy, Master Trainer & Exec. Director,

Assets for Colorado Youth Stephanie@buildassets.org

Discover key ways for parents and other caring adults to help all youth succeed by nurturing their SPARKS: the hidden flames in kids that excite them and tap into their true passions.

All parents wish to raise children who lead lives of **purpose and passion**. This wish becomes all the more important—and elusive—in a world that is changing rapidly.

Purpose and passion are the hallmarks of a life that matters, a life worth living. They are the source of joy and happiness. All adults learn this basic truth, yet often discover it later in life. The greatest gift parents can give their children is to help them discover and act on this truth now.

"When kids can name a spark...

Every outcome you and I care about

Changes drastically...

Peter Benson, author and President Search Institute.

Childcare available, RSVP required

Contact Kathleen Sepeda

Kathleensepeda@aol.com

303-506-8929

Translation provided



Contact: Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach Foxbetsy123@msn.com or 720.563.7007





Dear Students and Families,

Your school did an impressive job last year as one of Eco-Cycle's first Green Star Schools. The amount of trash the school sent to the landfill was reduced by more than half through recycling and composting! This couldn't have been accomplished without the support and participation of the entire school community. As a new school year begins, we look forward to working with you to continue and even surpass last year's success!

Now that your school has implemented school-wide composting, the next step is to tackle the trash that is still leftover - those snack wrappers, juice pouches, pudding cups and other disposables that can't be recycled, composted or reused. It may sound tricky, but here are some **simple tips for creating a lunch that is waste free:**

- use a reusable lunch bag or box
- pack food in reusable containers
- bring drinks in refillable or recyclable containers
- save and reuse plastic bags
- create cloth napkins from old clothes
- provide reusable forks and spoons (cheap stainless-steel utensils are available at thrift shops)



Even doing one or two things from the list above will make a big difference. By the way, did you know that waste-free lunches are good for your wallet as well as the environment? A recent study reveals that packing lunches in reusable containers instead of using disposable, individually packaged items can save \$240 over the course of the school year.

By being part of a Green Star School, you are helping to set a new precedent for taking care of our community and the Earth. Your school will serve as a model to others throughout the nation as it moves toward Zero Waste.

Sincerely,
Eco-Cycle's School Recycling and
Environmental Education Program



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.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

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