



Summit News

October 17, 2008

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 26, Number 5

| The School Calendar | |
|---|--|
| October | November |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 22nd, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Thursday, 23rd, Community Connections mtg., 8:30 a.m. in the Library conference room. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 11th, Veterans' Day, NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 12th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Monday, 24th – Friday, 28th, Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL |
| December | January |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 9th, Art Show, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. then Summit Band and Orchestra concert, 7:00 p.m. in Multipurpose Room. • Wednesday, 12th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Friday, 5th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students. • Wednesday, 17th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Friday, 19th, First semester ends • Monday, 22nd, Winter Break begins. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 6th, School resumes • Wednesday, 14th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library. • Monday, 19th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 28th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library. |
| <p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:20 p.m.</p> | |



Dear Summit Families,

Today, we are kicking off Summit's Tools for Learning Yearly Challenge.

Summit is recognized as one of the **BEST** middle schools in the United States because students have the *tools* they need to succeed. Each year, the state and BVSD revenues received are not enough to cover the full operating budget for the school. Your contributions to the Tools for Learning annual fund close this gap. We need the support of all of our Summit families to help guarantee Summit's tradition of excellence.

TFL raises money for the current and ongoing needs of Summit. When you attended conferences a few weeks ago, you may have seen the "price tags" around the building that specifically illustrated where your donation dollars go.

TFL dollars also allow Summit

- To attract, support and retain highly qualified teachers by supplementing salaries
- To provide consistent funding for essential student resources
- To strengthen and enhance all of Summit's unique programs including History Day and Science Fair

Our goal is to raise \$100,000. If each current Summit family contributes \$350 to TFL we **will** meet our goal. We realize that students come to Summit from a wide variety of economic situations, and some will give significantly more and some will give significantly less. We just ask that you please participate in a manner that is comfortable for you. We appreciate ALL of our donors. Additionally, please keep in mind that 100% participation from our community helps Summit secure grant funding.

As members of the Summit Middle Charter School community, we are committed to keeping Summit an exceptional learning environment. In an effort to sustain and enhance all of our programs, we seek to fully involve parents, grandparents, alumni and friends. If you would like to help us with this effort or have any questions, please feel free to e-mail our team at annualgiving@summitmiddleschool.org.

Please look for further information and for your Tools for Learning pledge cards in your mailboxes next week.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aline Christianian
Tools for Learning Chairwoman

FYI

RTI at Summit

Within the next month, all parents of BVSD students will receive a brochure from the district describing its new approach to supporting students, called RTI (Response to Intervention). Summit Middle School supports RTI's broad goals of identifying struggling students, using achievement data to monitor progress, and providing appropriate interventions as needed. However, because Summit is a charter school, the way RTI is implemented may look different in some respects from the district's model.

One of Summit's goals for the academic year 2008-2009 is to develop, pilot, and document our own RTI process to meet state requirements, serve the needs of our students, and fulfill our unique mission as a school. Work began on this project last year, and RTI remains a focus for this year as well. Specific information about Summit's RTI process will be available to parents once the model has been refined and documented.

Cold and Flu Season is Approaching

To help ward off colds and flu:

- Wash your hands *frequently* to prevent the spread of germs
- Make sure you drink enough water to keep yourself hydrated
- Eating healthy foods, exercising and getting enough sleep aids in boosting your immunity.

Summit Directories are here...

We will be sending the 08-09 Summit Directories home with students on Friday, October 17 – please check those backpacks! Thank you to Mary Janda, Amy Adams and Anne Hearn for their work on this!

Be a Good Neighbor!

Adobe Animal Hospital, near the corner of Tantra Avenue and Table Mesa Drive, has asked our students going to the RTD bus stop to **please** avoid cutting

across their parking lot to the bus stop. There have been recent near misses with cars and students in the lot. Please emphasize with your student that this is a safety issue as well as one of respecting private property – let's be good neighbors!

Keep Your Eyes open for ...

One of our students lost his Geography book the first week of school. If, by any chance, the book has turned up at your house, please return it to the office or to Mr. Alex Garcia. The book number is 03-09-6. Thank you.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Thank you to many for making the Vision and Hearing Screening run smoothly Thursday, October 16th. If the technicians had any concerns about your student, you will receive a letter in the mail.

Thank you to the teachers for interrupting your first and second period classes to accommodate the need to test so many students.

Thank you to the following volunteers for giving us your time and assistance that morning: Allison Hybertson, Sharon Kocina, Mary Janda, Ann Kitayama, Cynthia McCreery, Nancy Billica, Yoshi Koester, Michele Leifer, Trina Peterson, and So Rosenblum.

Parent Engagement Network News

November 13th, PEN is bringing Corey Jones, Brignac Consulting to Boulder to talk about the Spirit of Culture. Corey will be presenting during the regular PEN meeting from 9 – noon at the BVSD Ed. Center and again from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. at New Vista High School. PEN has a new website. Visit www.parentengagementnetwork.org to get additional information on any PEN events.

What is STEM?

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM represents a national initiative to increase the skills of students in these four important areas. The upcoming **STEMapalooza** event helps celebrate these disciplines for all kids while engaging them in STEM-related activities.

Important details: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on October 24 – 25 at the Colorado Convention Center. Open to the public. It will be a fantastic two days for students of all ages to participate in lots of STEM activities from astronomy to energy to engineering and rocketry. Don't miss the FUN!

Community Connections **Parent Education & Social Activities**

International Gathering

All parents with origins or experience overseas and/or interest in foreign travel and culture are encouraged to contact Dita Hutchinson at ditazap@mac.com or 303-499-9467. The group will meet occasionally for coffee and discussion.

Parent Book Club

Summit Parent Book Club
October 21st
Summit Library
6:30 – 8:30

Book: *Breaking the Code* by Lara Fox and Hilary Frankel
If you need a copy of this book,
contact Kim Haines at hainesk@indra.com or 303-646-0900

Summit Mom's Monday Morning Mingle *Walk/Hike*

If you can make one or more of the walks or hikes, please contact Michele Fishman to get on the email list for directions, updates or cancellations: michelefishman@hotmail.com

Passive Income Fundraising

We don't sell cookie dough or wrapping paper at Summit, but we do, on occasion, choose fundraising opportunities that we call "passive income" programs. These include shopping you may already be doing where we have an opportunity to earn a percentage for the school. Upcoming programs in this area are:

Saturday, November 29th
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Barnes & Noble on Pearl in Boulder
Shop during these hours and a percentage will go toward Summit!

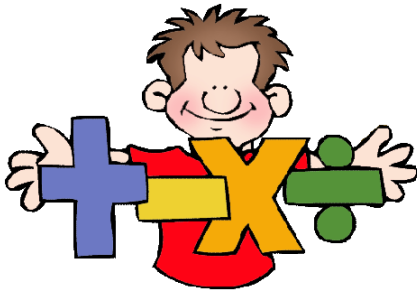
Scripts Program for the Holidays

Watch your Summit mail for information on a program we will be running through November to purchase gift cards to hundreds of stores with a percentage of the value coming to Summit.

Next Community Connections Meeting: Thursday, October 23rd at 8:30 a.m. in library conference room.



Math News for 7th and 8th graders:



UNC Mathematics Competition

Challenge in Problem Solving

First Round: October 31 or November 1, 3:30pm to 5:00pm
in Portable A
Final Round will be administered at UNC from 1 PM - 4PM
on January 31

The top students in each grade in the Final Round will be invited along with parents and teachers to a banquet in their honor on the UNC campus at the beginning of April to receive prizes for their achievement.

Register with Mrs. de Nobrega to receive practice tests with answer keys.

Student Council News

Student Council wants to inform students of some upcoming events and share what is going on. The first dance will be on Halloween night, from 3:05-5:00 p.m.. Admission will be \$4.00, and includes a slice of pizza. There will be many great activities, such as a cakewalk, piñata, games, cookie decorating and video games.

We are also sponsoring Spirit Week during Halloween Week. Monday will be Crazy Hair, Twin in Your Pajamas Day; Tuesday will be Opposite Gender Day; Wednesday will be Generation Day (6th graders dress as babies/toddlers, 7th graders dress as middle aged people; 8th graders dress as senior citizens; and teachers dress as teenagers); Thursday will be 60's/70's Day; and Friday will be Costume Day. On Halloween, we will sponsor a costume contest. Students will have the opportunity to win a prize in their second period classes and advance to the final all-school competition at lunch.

We went on our annual fall retreat to Estes Park Center-YMCA of the Rockies on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3. The council had elections, played team-building games, and did a leadership training course. The new officers are:

President: Gini Yost
Vice President: Maxx Chance
Secretary: Meaghan James
Treasurer: Lily Goldner
Head of Publicity: Tessa Peterson

Thank you to Eileen Howarth and Bob Newell for chaperoning and driving, and to Maggie Yost, Trina Peterson, Ann Kitayama, Penny Axelrad, Rich Howarth, Deirdre Kopel and Janice Garbarini for driving and making this possible. Student Council had a great time and planned lots for the year. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

eco-cycle

Working to Build Zero Waste Communities



Curious about composting? Wondering about worms?

*As a thank you to Green Star School families for their support,
Eco-Cycle will be offering free:*



Composting with Worms workshops *for the entire family!*

Pre-registration for the workshops is required!

Attend the workshop and receive:

- a free worm bin and bedding
- a 30% discount on red worms to start your bin
- training to set up your bin
- tips on maintaining and troubleshooting your bin

**Composting with worms is a great way to reduce your organic wastes at home
and a fun activity the whole family can do!**

Join us at:

**Community Montessori on Monday, October 27, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Louisville Elementary on Wednesday, November 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Summit Middle School on Thursday, November 20, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

You must pre-register for this workshop.

*To register or for more information, please call Nancy at Eco-Cycle:
303-444-6634 x118*

*If you leave a message to register, please include your name, phone number,
the date and time of the workshop you plan to attend and the number of
people attending with your party.*



Funded by Eco-Cycle and the Red Empress Foundation

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.bvsd.org/schools/summit and at the school in the wall boxes in the main
hallway.

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Some activities and events announced in Summit News are not sponsored or endorsed by Summit Middle
School or the Boulder Valley School District.

MISSION OF SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 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 and a desire for self-development
- 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 the International Baccalaureate program and other college-preparatory high school programs

ENROLLMENT IN SUMMIT

Summit Middle School is a tuition-free, public charter school in the Boulder Valley School District, serving grades 6, 7 and 8 through mixed-age classes grouped by ability, interest, motivation, developmental level, and mastery of previous material - taught by teachers who are specialists in their subject areas. Prospective students register through the District's open-enrollment process at the beginning of the calendar year. Please go to BVSD's Open Enrollment link for more information: <http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

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