



Summit News

September 19, 2008

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 26, Number 3

The School Calendar

September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 19th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students* • Wednesday, 24th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Thursday, 25th, Picture retakes, 2:45-4:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 1st, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.* A - L • Thursday, 2nd, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.* M - Z • Friday, 3rd, Summit Charter Day, NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 8th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Wednesday, 22nd, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library
November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 11th, NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 12th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Monday, 24th – Friday, 28th, NO SCHOOL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 5th, Professional Development Day, ½ day for students. • Wednesday, 12th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Wednesday, 17th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library • Friday, 19th, First semester ends • Monday, 22nd, Winter breaks begins.
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:15 p.m.</p>	

The Campaign for Summit Strong Bodies, Strong Minds

Dear Summit Families,

We were thrilled to open our new wing in August. It was the culmination of many years of planning and negotiating with BVSD, and more than twelve years of living with about half the per-pupil square footage as other middle schools had. As you know, one of the conditions for getting the \$5.5 million in bond funding for this wing was our agreement to raise \$1.5 million to build a gym.

For many years we've lived with a multi-purpose room that didn't meet any of its purposes particularly well. Our new gym won't be the fanciest gym, but it will be:

- ◆ A gym that is tall enough for basketball, and big enough for volleyball
- ◆ A gym that incorporates modern safety features and accessibility standards
- ◆ A gym that has attached locker rooms and restrooms
- ◆ A gym that will let us host home games with enough room for spectators
- ◆ A gym that doesn't have to serve as a cafeteria in its spare time
- ◆ A gym that can be used for youth sports in the evenings, weekends and summers

It will be our gym, and with your help it will be under construction this March, and finished about nine months later. Summit has never been about the building. We've made do, and done very well despite the many facility issues. We're committed to remaining a small school where every student is known. But we're also committed to having a gym that is functional for middle school students. We know that our kids are far more than good students – they're engaged in sports, in service, and in clubs and activities of all different kinds.

Our alumni families, whose children will never directly benefit from the gym, have already contributed more than \$450,000 of the \$950,000 total already raised. They believe that Summit was important for their children, and is worthy of continued support. They tell us that their children, who are in high school, college, and graduate school, still benefit from the Summit experience. I'm not sure about you, but I never stepped foot on my junior high school campus once I graduated. I certainly never felt that it was important to send them a contribution. But even though – and perhaps especially since – our daughter is a senior in high school, our family has pledged support for this capital campaign. We want the kids who are here now, and who will be here in the future, to have reasonable facilities that support a full and rich middle school experience. Our Summit experience was truly priceless, and this gift is an important way that we can give back to a school that gave us so much.

We'd like to thank the 130 families who are already helping to make our new gym a reality, and we invite those who have not yet contributed to consider a contribution now. While some families can give more, and others less, an average donation of \$1,000 per Summit student will help make it possible for us to dig dirt this winter. Please contact us at development@summitmiddleschool.org and let us know how you would like to support our effort.

All the best,

Barb Kostanick
Capital Campaign Chairwoman

The Counselor's Corner

Kendra Bartley

Helping your Child with Homework

When students are having difficulty getting homework done and handed in on time, there are a number of ways parents can help. You can assist your child by making sure that study time begins with a planner check, to determine what homework needs to be done. It is also good to put away papers and organize the backpack on a daily basis, before starting homework.

You and your student may look at unit plans and calendars provided by English, social studies, and science teachers, or check the Summit homework website, at www.schoolnotes.com, to verify that all assignments are written down in the planner. Later this year, teachers should have homework assignments posted on their web page of the Summit website. Also consider large and long-term assignments and their due dates, and if needed, assist your child with breaking these assignments down into parts that can be accomplished each day. Then have your child make a separate "To Do" list of the work to be accomplished that night. The list should be prioritized, and an estimate made of how long it will take to complete each item. Your child should then be able to make a plan for getting the work done.

Once your child has started to work on the assignments, it is usually best to "back off," and provide assistance only when asked. Then, at the end of the study session, you might ask to see what your child has accomplished. If your child has difficulty remembering to turn in homework, it may help to provide a homework pocket folder for keeping all assignments that need to be turned in the next day.

If your child is new to Summit, concentrate on setting up a good study routine, and be patient and supportive! It may take a while to adjust to the demands of middle school, and managing the homework load. As time goes on, however, your child should be taking more and more responsibility for knowing what homework needs to be done, and getting it completed. The goal is for your role to continue to diminish, so that your child will soon be successfully managing all homework on his/her own!

FYI

State Pupil Count Period

Summit's state funding is dependent on the number of children attending Summit during the school year. This year, the pupil count period will be from September 24 to October 8. Please make every effort to have your child in school all day during this count period. Please avoid scheduling anything that would take your child

out of school during this time (appointments, trips, etc.)
Every student counts!!

Check out Summit's new website at:
www.bvsd.org/schools/summit
(It's still under construction but has lots of up-to-date info, and our old website is no longer being maintained.)

Help us get “easy” money for Summit

Safeway 10% Back to Schools Promotion

Check your recent Safeway shopping receipt and you'll see that Safeway will donate money to Summit based on your shopping in the Back to School months. There are 3 easy ways to redeem this donation:

- Bring your Safeway receipt into the Summit office and we'll enter the redemption for you – just drop off a copy of your receipt in the box in the office.

OR

- Go to Safeway's redemption site at <https://secure.backtoschools.escrip.com/school.jsp?mode=searchresults&id=164752658>
Enter either your redemption number (if you have it) or your Safeway Club Card number

OR

- Email either your redemption number from a recent receipt or your Safeway Club Card number to us at development@summitmiddleschool.org and we'll take care of it!

We have to redeem all coupons by October 13, so please send in as soon as you can!

From the office: Mystery phone calls from Summit?

We often receive calls from parents saying that they have just received a call from the school and want to know who called them. Calls can be made from any of our 35 phones, so we rarely know who called you! If someone in the Office or the Health Room calls you, he or she will leave a message. Please check your voicemail before you call us, and ask your student to always leave a message when calling you. This will help to eliminate worry when you see that you had a call from Summit.

From the health room: Guidelines for keeping your student home:

The beginning of any infectious illness is usually the time it is most likely to spread to others. This is also the time your student is probably feeling unable to participate in class. In order to keep everyone healthy, we ask that you observe the following guidelines and keep your student home if s/he exhibits any of the following:

- Fever, vomiting or diarrhea: Your child should remain home for 24 hours after symptoms (including fever) end.

- Strep throat: Your student may return to school after taking the antibiotic for 24 hours, feeling better and being free of symptoms
- Eye: Any eye infection must be treated by a physician before the student returns to school. If antibiotic therapy is prescribed, the student must remain home for at least 24 hours after treatment has begun and must be free of eye drainage.

Great Job September Fest Crew!!

Thank you to Michelle Liefer and the entire September Fest committee for a job well done. The many, many Summit Families who came out last Sunday had a great time. Hopefully this was just the first of many September Fest Events.

Web Help Needed!

The Board is looking for a volunteer to help them update certain portions of our new website. If you are interested please contact:

Yizi Xu (yizi.xu@summitmiddleschool.org) or Maggie Yost (Maggie.yost@summitmiddleschool.org)

National Junior Honor Society students were inducted Wednesday evening 9/17. We were on a retreat in the mountains Thursday and Friday, September 18 – 19, to elect officers and plan for the year. We are collecting personal hygiene supplies for those in need this month for our *Showers to Go* project. Collection bins are in our history classrooms.

Thank you for your hard work!

The following people came to the Parent Work Party on September 7th and contributed to the completion of a variety of projects around the school. Thank you!!

Molly and Laura Nasky
Johanne Albrigtsen
Rob Mogenthal
Mansour Alipour-Fard
Anne Lang
Page Zekonis
Beth and Adam Zarian
Paul, Anna and Jack Balaguer
Amy Beringer
Dana Van Loon

Community Connections

Thanks to all who attended our first Community Connections meeting! If you were unable to make it to the meeting and want to be on our email list, please email Maggie Yost at mhyost@aol.com

Our next meeting is Friday, September 26th, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room off the library.

Parent Book Club

Please join us for this year's kickoff meeting of the Summit Parent Book Club. We will read and discuss books that are focused on adolescent development, parent-teen communication, and other parenting topics of interest throughout the year. Our first book is *Breaking the Code: Two teens reveal the secrets to better parent-child relationships* by Lara Fox and Hilary Frankel. We will meet on Tuesday, October 21st in the Summit library from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Please contact Kim Haines if you have any questions. (hainesk@indra.com or 303-546-0900)

This book is a challenge to find, so you may want to start searching now. It is available at www.half.com but Amazon is out of stock.

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

If you have any questions or think you can make one or more of our Monday hikes, please contact Michele Fishman to get on the email list for hike info, directions, updates or cancellations: michelefishman@hotmail.com

This coming Monday, September 22 we will meet at 8:40 and be on the trail at 8:45 sharp. The McClintock - Enchanted Mesa Loop Trail is just five minutes from school; it's a one-hour hike, on a forest trail with gorgeous views and parts where your heart will pump!

Meet Another New Face

Blair Tyse

Blair Tyse comes to Summit having taught math predominantly to high school students. She has taught at Pinewood High School in Los Altos Hills, CA, Bellerme in San Jose, CA, and Shining Mountain Waldorf High School here in Boulder. The math subjects she has taught range from Elementary Algebra, Proof Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. Throughout her teaching career, she has also taught SAT Preparation privately to more than 800 high school students in a 12 year period, and is thought of as an SAT Master. She also works with reading disadvantaged students as a reading specialist after years of volunteering her time with inner-city students in California.

In 2005, Blair happily moved from California to South Boulder with her husband and two sons. Growing up in California, she attended high school in the Stanford University neighborhood, and was a cheerleader and competitive swimmer. She attended and swam for the Air Force Academy until, when in her junior year, a head injury accident forced her

permanently out of the military. She graduated with a degree in Physics and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Arizona, and went on to work as an engineer for Ford Aerospace, building weather and communication satellites.

After years of 80 hour work weeks, both she and her husband Erik decided to start their own work in education with their SAT Tutoring company, Minds In Motion. Helping students overcome their fear of test taking and of reading and math became a passion for both of them. After 10 years of successful work, however, the lure of a simpler, less stressful life in Boulder took permanent hold. The Rockies were calling and they had to answer. Now Erik enjoys volunteering as a Ski Patroller at Winter Park, and the whole family gets to enjoy the mountains as they had always dreamed to.

Aside from skiing, Blair loves to play with her kids, sing, run and bike ride.

Blair is thrilled to be teaching again and looks forward to many fruitful years at Summit.

The Campaign for Summit
Strong Bodies, Strong Minds

List of Donors to The Summit Capital

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Cathy & Jim Young
Elliot Young & Diane Schwemm
Rich Vermiere & Rosalie Hein
Huiling Wang & Chunyi Xu

* Alumni families whose children have all graduated from Summit already.

International Club 2008-2009

Wendy Blakemore, sponsor

We are up and running with more members than we can seat and a lot of enthusiasm for the coming year! New members are welcome through September.

I would like to congratulate our new officers:

President: Amber Richey
Secretary: Shannon Rosenblum
Activities Director: Jackson McLellan

We have many activities already planned for fall along with many wonderful member suggestions for projects and cultural exploration.

Conference Snack Sales

Let's begin! Please support us for another year, as we will be selling snacks and water at Fall Conferences on Oct. 1 and 2. We will have many options available and we thank you in advance for taking advantage of these great treats while waiting to talk to your child's teacher. Also available: a few remaining International Club cookbooks, The Melting Pot and our personal label candies, Choco Rocks and Sunbursts.

Whole Foods Dinner

A belated thank you (as we did not have summer newsletters) for all of your support for our Whole Foods Thursday Night Dinner fundraiser on July 17th. We earned nearly \$500, which will be donated to a variety of charitable organizations. We will announce the recipients in the next Summit News.

Fall Plans

Adopt-A-Road: We clean 51st St. from Jay Rd. to the Boulder Reservoir entrance every fall and spring.

Heritage Survey: We will update our Summit Heritage map by adding the countries and states of our newest students.

Speakers: Our Summit community and club members will speak about their various cultures and interests during our meetings. On the slate: China and Chile.

The Corn Maze: An annual or bi-annual activity for club members to "just have fun!"

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 on Summit's World Wide Web pages at <http://www.summitmiddleschool.org> and at the school in the wall boxes in the main hallway.

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.

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 procedure at the beginning of the calendar year.

Summit fills openings from its waiting list throughout the fall semester.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

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