



Summit News

December 15, 2006

Boulder Valley's First Charter School

Volume 22, Number 8

The School Calendar

December	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTD teen pass sales, 18th and 19th, 3:15 pm • Wednesday, 20th – Tuesday, January 2nd – NO SCHOOL, Winter Break. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 3rd, school resumes; teen pass sales • Wednesday, 3rd, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, 10th, Winter Instrumental Concert/Art Show at Summit, 7 p.m. • Friday, 12th, First semester ends • Monday, 15th, Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 17th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Friday, 19th, Open Enrollment period ends, 4:00 p.m. • Monday, 22nd, Prof. Devel. day – NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 31st, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 13th, Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.*, last names beginning L-Z • Wednesday, 14th, Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.*, last names beginning A-K • Wednesday, 14th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Monday, 19th, President's Day – NO SCHOOL • Wednesday, 28th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 2nd, ½ Day School Development Meetings* • Wednesday, 7th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, 14th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Thursday, 15th, Annual Community Meeting (Tentative) • Wednesday, 21st, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. • Monday, 26th – Friday, 30th, NO SCHOOL, Spring Break.
<p>* Conference and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:10 – 12:20 p.m.</p>	

From the Principal's Office

-David Finell

Third Highest Scoring Middle School in Colorado – SUMMIT Middle School

The Colorado Department of Education has just issued the School Accountability Report the 2005-2006 school year and lists Summit as the third highest scoring middle school on CSAP in the state of Colorado.

Of the five top scoring middle schools in the state, four of them are charter schools – Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy (1), Summit Middle Charter School (3), Littleton Academy Middle School (4) and Stargate Academy (5).

At the high school level the picture is similarly impressive: Of the five top scoring high schools in the state, three of them are charter schools – Ridgeview Classical High School (1), Crestone High School (3), and Peak to Peak Charter School (#5).

Congratulations to our teachers and students as well as to the other charter schools for a great job.

Well, let's be honest, at Summit (as in most schools) the answer to "what's for lunch?" is, unfortunately, - "mainly junk". Since Summit's inception the Boulder Valley School District has provided our lunch program and it has not always been, (shall we be kind?), a model of culinary excellence and outstanding nutrition. While there are certain basic nutritional guidelines that the district must adhere to for their hot lunch program, they are indeed very basic requirements and the vendor food and snacks do not need to follow any such standards. And very few of our students use the hot lunch program anyway, in large part because the quality of the food is so abysmally poor. The result has always been a kind of lowest common denominator as regards our lunch program.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, I am hoping this situation will change at Summit. I feel we can do a lot better in providing better tasting and healthier food choices for our students. I also feel we have a responsibility to help educate our students for healthy life-long eating habits and that currently we are not adequately fulfilling this responsibility. There is an epidemic of obesity in this country and schools like

What's For Lunch?

Summit should be doing more to help inculcate good nutritional awareness in our students. In addition, the faculty and staff at the school (led by Ms. Koch and our Student Council) feel we should be doing more to make our school a model of sustainability and environmentally sound practices. Therefore, our lunch program next year will strive to be 100% recyclable or composting with our garbage. I have also looked into the feasibility of offering organic food but the cost is prohibitive. We will, however, offer fresh produce and try to support local businesses and farms as much as possible.

I have been meeting with prospective food service providers who can offer this type of lunch program with a wide range of healthy and delicious options. It is proving to be a challenge to find someone willing to do a lunch program for a school as small as Summit, because it is hard to make it profitable with the current numbers of students who buy lunch. However, if we are able to find someone to do our lunch program along the lines I have laid out, I hope it will be used by more students so that it can be self sustaining, even if it costs a little more than what is currently being charged. Also, any new food service provider will continue to offer free and reduced lunches for all students who qualify for such meals, as this is required by law.

I will send out more information on this as things become solidified but in the meantime I would love to hear any ideas/suggestions you might have.

Please e-mail me with your input at:
summitprincipal@summitmiddleschool.org.

Congratulations to our Math Scholars:

On November 14, 2006 approximately 150 Summit students participated during their math classes in the 22nd annual American Mathematics Competitions 8. Our students competed for local and national student and school awards. The purpose of the contest, which covers Middle School mathematics, is to spur interest in mathematics and develop talent through the excitement of friendly competition at problem solving in a timed format. In 2005 over 150,000 students from 2,500 schools participated in the AMC 8 Contest.

I am proud to announce that this year Summit was one of only three middle schools in Colorado to make the honor roll for this AMC 8 Contest. The other two schools to be so recognized are the Challenge School in Denver and Campus Middle School in Englewood.

Congratulations to our students who did such an outstanding job in this competition.

My thanks to Dr. Ingrid Fotino from our math department for organizing the competition at Summit, and to Mr. Seibel, Ms. Davids, Mr. Mueller and Ms. Silva Chang.

Counseling Program Notes

Counseling Groups Begin

Summit offers peer support groups to discuss issues related to family change and divorce. These groups provide an opportunity for participants to develop self-awareness and problem-solving skills. In addition, students focus on identifying personal strengths and ways to experience their life situations positively and constructively. The groups are led by Kendra Bartley, Summit counselor. If you have any questions, or if you would like for your child to participate, please call Ms. Bartley at Summit at 303-499-9511.

Second Semester Schedule Changes

The deadline for elective course schedule change requests for second semester will be Friday, January 19. After that, only core course change requests will be accepted. Due to the high volume of schedule change requests received, we ask that you please do not call or visit the counseling office to request a schedule change. Instead, please submit your schedule change in writing and make sure it is signed by a parent. After the requested change has been processed, a new schedule will be printed and delivered to the student at school.

Update from the Summit Board of Directors

A few notes from the last board meetings:

1. Homework Log

The administration presented initial findings from the homework log done in November. The board had an extensive discussion about the findings and homework in general. Detailed information and results will be published by the administration in a January newsletter.

2. Facilities

The design for facilities remodeling and expansion had extensive reviews and moves forward. A few remaining critical items will be discussed in January to have the final design in line with the available budget.

3. Calendar 2007/2008

The board discussed the impact of a potential BVSD calendar change. As always, Summit aims for a good alignment with the BVSD calendar. However, it must be taken into account that Summit has more teaching days per year than other district schools.

4. Tools for Learning

Thanks for the many contributions made so far, and thank you in advance to everyone who considers a donation over the next months. The funds from the Tools for Learning campaign are essential for Summit's program, and the board looks forward to another successful campaign year.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3. Summit's board members will enjoy the winter break like everyone else. Board meetings are open to the community, and visitors are always welcome.

Rainer Kunz
Chairman
Summit Board of Directors

Thanks for Supporting Summit Students!

Thank you to the many families who have already returned their Tools for Learning pledges. Through November 28th, we have received more than \$26,000 in donations from 52 currently enrolled families and 11 alumni families. This puts us 26% of the way to our goal of raising \$100,000 and represents a participation rate of 20% of our current families.

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT FOR A DONATION IN 2006, please return your pledge card as soon as possible. All donors paying by check dated on or before December 31st will receive a tax receipt for a 2006 donation.

We will publish an update of the donations received to date in each Summit newsletter. If you have mailed your pledge, but your name is not listed below, don't worry! It just means that we have not yet processed your donation – look for your acknowledgment in the next newsletter.

Thanks to the following families, foundations and corporations for their support of the 2006-2007 Tools for Learning campaign:

Current Summit Families

Bradley Alpert and Silva Chang
Barbara Anton
Susan and Rich Becks
Sedat and Zeynep Biringen
Peter and Josie Black
Annette and Stephen Brant
Peter and Leslie Burns
Jay Buster and Hyeawon Chae
Stephanie and Michael Carter
Fei Chen and Pui Tai Kwan
Jim and Maura Christoph
Carol and Mihail Codrescu
Anthony Dreher and Linda Krauze
Maureen and Harold Donahue
Brent and Elizabeth Evans
Jim and Annie Fox
Jeff and Kelli Frykholm
Janna & Dave Gustafson
Robert and Pamela Guthrie
Kris and Debby Hanssen
Cindy and Larry Halpern
Tracie Bascom & Jay Hogan
Sally and Danny Hilton-Chalfen
Ken Iwamasa
Andrea and Claudius Jaeger
Hillary and Eric Johnson
Gary and Shoni Kahn
Karen Meyer-Arendt & George Kakatsakis
Laurie and Camron Kuelthau
Rainer and Susan Kunz

Jeff Webb
Denise and Jerry McIntyre
Dennis Miller
John and Sally Morley
Brad and Kellie Newhouse
Kathy and Stuart O'Steen
Lea and Jim Peshock
William Raup and Pam Lemme
Usha and Mohan Ramamurthy
Elizabeth and David Reed
Michelle and Rowland Rincon
Beth and Terry Rogers
Joel Swisher and Birgit Schanz
Paul and Janet Schultz
James Tanner and Catherine Allegra
David Uhlir and Mary Kraus
Linda Williams and Barry Bialek
Abigail Zalberg
4 anonymous donors
Alumni Families
Carol and Mike Baum
Susan and Paul Brownstone
Ginger Caldwell
Eugene Ching
Judy and Charlie Demarest
Roger and Karen Forman
Linda and George Gerstle
Tricia and Randy Hamilton
David and Deirdre Kopel
Hunter and Janet McDaniel
Miriam Sproul and Wayne Belding
Tim and Linda Stancliffe

Bus Pass Sales:

Dates for the January RTD Teen Pass sales will be Monday, December 18, Tuesday, December 19 and Wednesday, January 3 after school in the entrance hall. Passes cost \$25, and checks should be made out to BVSD.

Workshop for middle school girls interested in Science and Math

Expanding Your Horizons is a conference designed to encourage middle school girls to pursue careers in math and science. Girls meet in small groups for hands-on workshops conducted by women whose professions involve math, science, and technology. Students are chaperoned by university guides during the entire conference.

When: Saturday, Feb. 24, 2007

Time: 10AM-2:15 PM

Location: University of Colorado at Boulder Engineering Center

Fees: Students \$10

Parents who want to attend a concurrent seminar about supporting their daughter's academic success \$10

Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Space is limited so sign up soon!

Pre-registration is required:

<http://www.coaauw.org/boulder>

Plan ahead for CSAP testing

It is not too soon to be thinking about CSAP testing. The 2007 CSAPs will take place starting March 6 and will be scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for two weeks. Please schedule planned absences, medical appointments, or other activities that would conflict with school attendance to avoid these days.

Specific information on testing hours will be provided in the spring, but almost all testing occurs between 8:10 and 1:30. If you need to schedule an appointment for one of these days, an afternoon would be preferable to decrease the likelihood of your child's missing classes on another day to participate in make-up sessions.

Parent Engagement Network

The next Parent Engagement Network meeting is January 18, 2007, 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the BVSD Ed Center. The topic is "Boys and Girls Learn Differently - Parent to Different Learning Styles and Promote Youth Success." The speaker is Kelley King, principal at Douglass Elementary. Kelley is also a trainer with the Gurian Institute Training Division. Kelley's presentation will start at 9:30 am, prior to that will be PEN updates, networking, and other business. This presentation will be repeated from 7 - 9 pm at Monarch High School, 329 Campus Drive, Louisville.

Spanish Club News

Wendy Blakemore

Many thanks to the students who supported Heifer International by participating in the Snowman Building Contest. From the proceeds, we have donated a pig to help a family have a sustainable source of food. The Snowmen were absolutely delightful and creative and the judges had a hard time deciding the winner. Congratulations to the winning team of Katia Nikitina, Amber Richey, and Jae Young Yang. Enjoy your gift certificate to Flatiron crossing.

We thank all of you who brought in toys for the Baskets or the Needy drive through the Volunteer Connection in Longmont. Spanish Club added their handmade Spanish language cards and the donations will be greatly appreciated by those who may not be as fortunate as we are!

Our last meeting before break was celebrated with a fiesta during our club meeting. Many are participating in a Secret Santa exchange, which is always fun and mysterious. We savored chocolate caliente (hot chocolate) and small snacks as well.

Our club values the friendships we have made and I value the hard work and creative ideas shared by all! Happy Holidays. Enjoy your break!

Spanish Class News

Wendy Blakemore

We have had many cultural projects recently!

Beginning Spanish classes created tissue poinsettias, a traditional flower native to Mexico. They looked magnificent adorning the classroom until going 'home for the holidays.' We also enjoyed chocolate caliente (made with Mexican chocolate that has cinnamon in it) and churros, a delicious Mexican donut. "Many thanks to MJ O'Hair, Jennifer Piper, Lori Jones, and Sue Larghi for all of their help folding and cutting for the poinsettia project!!"

Students in Level 1 classes designed and made unique tin ornaments. They are a popular indigenous item for home decor and for sale in many Spanish-speaking countries. We also celebrated Spain by sharing tapas, small portions of food common throughout Spain. Students brought in a wonderful variety and as a class we cooked a "tortilla española", a kind of Spanish omelet made with eggs, potatoes and onion. ¡Que sabrosa!

SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL SPRING 2005

6TH GRADE

Jennifer	Anderson	Ada	Kakatsakis
Joel	Anton	Hannah	Karpel
Jelena	Basta	Amy	Lu
Iris	Belensky	Nikola	Maksimovic
Katherine	Bennett	Kathryn	McClain
Erin	Biringen	Ivy	McDermott
Alexander	Black	Amy	Morgan
Shannon	Burke	Natalie	Mujica-Schwahn
Alyssa	Carson	Nicholas	Nasky
William	Conway	Lara	Norgaard
Sarah	Cutting	Ramya	Palaniappan
Makenna	Drake	Beomsoo	Park
Paul	Dreher	Kelsey	Piper
Arielle	Eckstein	Caleb	Pykkonen
William	Edman	Raj	Ramamurthy
Brian C	Engelhardt	Ran	Reiff
Wilson	Fanestil	Karen	Richardson
Gibson	Farone-Collins	Nicholas	Schardt
Sophia	Gibert	Katharine	Steen
Peter	Gips	Zachary	Tanner
Rachel	Grossman	Julia	Ting
William	Grubb	Katherine	Uhlir
Madison	Harman	Kristen	Witt
Heather	Hilson	Changyu	Xu
Luisa	Jaeger	Betty	Yi
Matthew	Johnson		

7TH GRADE

Samuel	Berens	Christopher	Parlier
Kerry	Betz	Annika	Peterson
Cole	Bradley	Parker	Raup
Colleen	Brents	Peter	Repucci
Viktor	Brown	Talia	Scott
Victor	Chen	Linx	Selby
Gretchen	Christoph	Jesse	Shapiro
Allison	Davis	Hannah	Tuttle
Julia	Donahue	Peter	Van Dusen
Devin	Doyle	Michael	Vigers
Mary	Edman	Nicolas	Vincent
Heather	Fielding	Charles	Xu
Christopher	Guthrie	Marina	Yamasaki
Jill	Hamilton	Caterina	Zischke-Rincon
Tore	Hanssen	John	Hickman
Nina	Harstad	Jirka	Hladis
James	Hastie	Alexia	Ingerson
Erin	Jones	Erin	Kirton
Willis	Kuelthau	Larissa	Kunz
Emma	Lattes	Peter	Mathys
Genevieve	Mesch	Michaela	Metzler
Elisabeth	Meyer	Thomas	Morley
Stefan	Norgaard	Nicole	O'Hearne
Tyler	Ollanik	Rebecca	Pak

8TH GRADE

Melanie	Adams	Thomas	Harrington
Christian	Allen	Kelly	Hartzell
Paul	Benz	William	Hauptman
Robin	Betz	Taylor	Kitayama
Caleb	Bowman	Caroline	Klatman
Jordan	Cahn	Katherine	MacDonnell
Catherine	Chen	Graham	Morgan
Caila	Criss	William	Oldham
Grace	Davis	Amelia	Parlier
Elena	Desseva	Radhika	Rawat
Nathan	Forman	Martin	Sotola
Isabel	Galler	Rebecca	Vickers
Constance	Ge	Jane	Xie
Daniel	Haarburger		

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 – 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR

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