



Summit News

August 31, 2007 Boulder Valley's First Charter School Volume 24, Number 1

The School Calendar

September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 3rd, Labor Day – no school • Thursday, 6th, Back to School night – 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, 12th - Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit library • Tuesday, 18th, Parent-Teacher conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. (A-K)* • Wednesday, 19th, Parent-Teacher conferences, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. (L-Z)* • Friday, 21st - School Development Day, ½ day* • Wednesday, 26th, Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 1st, State Pupil Count Day • Thursday, 4th, Helping Your Child Succeed at Summit, 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, 10th - Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit library • Thursday, 11th- Picture Retakes – morning. • Friday, 12th - End of 1st Quarter, Summit Charter Day, NO SCHOOL • Tuesday, 23rd, Vision and Hearing Screening, 8:15 a.m. • Wednesday, 24th – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit Library
November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 7th – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit library • Monday, 12th, Veteran's Day – NO SCHOOL • Monday, 19th – Friday, 23rd – NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Holiday • Wednesday, 28th – Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Summit library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 7th, –1/2 day School Development Day* • Wednesday, 12th – Board Meeting at 6:60 p.m. • Friday, 21st – First Semester ends. • Monday, 24th – Winter Break begins.
<p>* Conference Days and ½ Day Development Meetings Note: Summit students will be in class 8:00 – 12:20 p.m.</p>	

From the Principal's Office

--David Finell

"Dear Families: The year is off to a great start and it is wonderful to see all of the great learning and smiling faces filling the school. Last year I received an e-mail from a Summit graduate from the class of 2000. I have previously shared this letter with Summit parents but I feel it is worth repeating. This young lady began at Summit in the school's second year and was kind enough to write and let me know how much the education she received at Summit meant to her. I would like to quote part of her letter:

"I just wanted to say how thankful I am for my experiences at Summit. Now that I'm starting my third year at Boston University, middle school seems like a really long time ago, but I've never forgotten the work ethic, high standards, amazing teachers and friendships that I found at Summit. I have been doing well since Summit – I was fourth in my high school class in Florida, graduated with an IB diploma, and am on half-tuition scholarship at BU, in my college's honor program. As crazy as it might sound, I really attribute a lot of my success to the standards that Summit gave me."

It is always most affirming to hear from our alumni what a difference Summit made in their lives. It is this hope that I have for all of our students as this new school year gets underway: that the time your children spend at Summit will be a challenging, fun and rewarding time, and will make a positive difference in their lives as well.

I look forward to seeing all Summit families at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 6. We will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. I encourage everyone to arrive early, and be aware that parking will be very tight.

Mr. David Finell
Principal

More News from the Principal:

In an effort to continually improve our emergency procedures at Summit I wanted to make you aware of two things.

First, state law requires that a fire drill, tornado drill or lock down drill be conducted once per month while school is in session. Summit has therefore always conducted one scheduled emergency drill (fire or tornado) each month. This year we will also be practicing lock down drills during two of these regularly scheduled times. This will mean that during the course of the school year we will practice six fire drills, two lock-down drills and one tornado drill. Students and teachers are told in advance when the first two drills will take place in order to reduce anxiety or concern on the part of any student.

Second, I have arranged for the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints to serve as an emergency evacuation and pick-up point for the school in the event that we would ever need to remove all of our students to a nearby location. The church is located at 4655 Table Mesa Drive. Should we ever need to relocate our entire school this will be the pick-up point for all Summit students. One gets there from Summit by walking north on Tantra to Table Mesa, crossing Table Mesa, turning left, and proceeding about 100 yards west on Table Mesa to the church. While it is unlikely that such a need would ever arise, it is wise to be prepared.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the school at (303) 499-9511.

Welcome New Teachers

Tanya de Nobrega (Algebra A, B, Geometry)

B S Majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science

Mrs. de Nobrega was born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa. In middle and high school she always worked hard and was at the top of her Math class. After graduating from university she worked in Information Technology for a major petrochemical corporation until her son, Gareth, was born. In 1998 Mrs. de Nobrega immigrated to the USA with her husband and son. While helping in her son's second grade class with Math groups, she was reminded of her love for Math and her desire to share her knowledge with students. She completed the alternative licensing program through the St. Vrain Valley School District in 2004. While completing the requirements for her teaching license Mrs. de Nobrega taught 6th grade Math and 7th grade Math at Westview Middle School in Longmont. In 2006 she transferred to Coal Ridge Middle school in Frederick where she taught 8th grade Math. She is very excited to have the opportunity to teach a more traditional Algebra curriculum at Summit Middle School. She is looking forward to lots of great learning and getting to know all students and families this year.

Emily Cosmos (English)

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in the midst of the city, I had the advantage not only of wonderful cultural institutions, but of the rich experiences of diverse urban life. I went to Catholic schools, including an all-girls high school with an attached convent and a highly academic curriculum that prepared me, sometimes rather painfully, for college and beyond. I studied English at The Catholic University of America, also in Washington. After college, I wanted to live somewhere completely different, and so ended up in Boulder for what I thought would be a short stay of a year or two. It has now been nine years. I was taken in by the easy way of life here, and by the mountains. Living here, I've learned to ski, traveled around the state a bit, met my husband, worked at

Boulder Bookstore, worked some horribly boring jobs, and discovered my current path as a teacher. After getting my MA in Education at the University of Colorado, I taught for four years at Hodgkins Middle School in Westminster. I am pleased that my fifth year of teaching will be at Summit, with such dedicated students, teachers, and parents. I look forward to being a part of this community.

Trevor Harris **(Physical Education and Health)**

Hi. My name is Trevor Harris and I am known as "Coach" throughout the district. I have been a teacher for five years at both Peak to Peak Charter School and Manhattan Middle School and I look forward to joining the awesome Summit community. This year I will be teaching physical education and health. I have roots on both the east coast and west coast and I love to travel. My favorite activities are riding my mountain bike and road bike, yoga, and strength training. My interests in fitness truly began when I was 13 years old in the spring of seventh grade. I was playing in a lacrosse game and I tore my anterior cruciate ligament in my right knee. The doctors could not believe the severity of this injury at such a young age and at first they believed I would never be able to play again. To this day it still brings a tear to my eye when I reflect back. Fortunately, through hard work and dedication, I was able to retake the field and not only play lacrosse; I also was a quarterback on my high school football team and a guard on the basketball team. Throughout my college career I was able to play football and lacrosse and I cherished every moment of it. Now I commit that energy to coaching our student athletes and being a Personal Trainer to several clients and athletic teams during the summer. I look forward to sharing a fantastic journey with you! My motto is, "Impossible is Nothing."

FYI

Summit MATHCOUNTS Club

The Summit MATHCOUNTS Club will meet every Monday, 3:10-4:30 pm, in Room 9. Come join us as we tackle a variety of fun and challenging math problems. For information, please contact Mr. Seibel at school or Ms. Chang at summit@coloradomath.org or (303) 494-1097.

Help Wanted

Handy man or woman needed to do a couple of projects at Summit. Please contact Mr. Finell at 303-499-9511.

Fairview Boys and Girls Gold Crown Basketball Tryouts

Gold Crown provides boys and girls in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade higher competition level games to promote their growth and development as basketball players.

TRYOUT LOCATION, DATES, and TIMES

6th Grade

Fairview HS Saturday Sept. 8, 2007 4:45-6:30 pm
Fairview HS Sunday Sept. 9, 2007 noon-2:00 pm

7th Grade

Fairview HS Saturday Sept. 8, 2007 2:45-4:30 pm
Fairview HS Sunday Sept. 9, 2007 2:30-4:30 pm

8th Grade

Fairview HS Saturday Sept. 8, 2007 12:45-2:30 pm
Fairview HS Sunday Sept. 8, 2007 5:00-7:00 pm

Boys and girls will try-out at the same time in separate gyms. A mandatory parent meeting is held the last 30 minutes of each grades' tryout on Sunday. Please contact Jim Gallup @ 303.786.8868 or sales@fourironapparel.com to pre-register your child and with all questions. Visit www.goldcrownfoundation.com for basic league information, and www.bvsvd.org for the Fairview boys and girls basketball links.

A Great BIG Thank you!

The office would like to thank a number of parents (and some students) who helped us get ready for the beginning of school and with our registration day: Carol Brand, Lyne Cahn, Ani and Aline Christianian, Scott Davids, Kerry Glynn, Lauren Hager, Amy Hauptman, Doris Hung, Matt Larghi, Tyler Morley, Belinda Pak, Lea Peshock, Anna Schimel, Emily and Catherine Scott. We apologize if we left anyone out. We couldn't do it without you!!

TASTE OF THE SEASON A HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to all of you who came out 2 weeks ago to make Summit's first Taste of the Season with Whole Foods such a success. This was our first year and we had one of the largest groups of the summer for the store and raised over \$700. We're grateful to Whole

Foods for including us this summer and to their great staff who made this event an easy way to support the school.

News from the Summit Board:

BYLAWS PROPOSAL TO INCREASE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE SUMMIT BOARD

Some of you who are new to Summit and possibly new to charter schools may not know that Summit, like other charter schools in Colorado, is governed by a Board of Directors responsible for the operation of the school according to the contract with the Boulder Valley School District. Our board currently consists of 7 members, elected by the parents and faculty of the school in the spring. We invite you to attend any meetings; our schedule for the year is posted on the Summit website.

As you learned in an earlier email, the Board is recommending an increase to its size from the current seven voting members to nine voting members. If this proposed change passes, the additional members would be elected in the spring of 2008. We will vote on this proposed change to our bylaws at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 6 in the opening meeting at 6:30. We hope that you'll be able to attend this important time to both meet your child's teachers and to participate in the governance of the school.

This change is proposed due to the increased responsibility that the directors have taken on in a number of key areas. In addition to ongoing work with school hiring, district accountability, school policies and standards, and financial oversight, the Board of Directors has recently spent more time in the area of facilities, fundraising and fostering a close school community. An increase to the size of the Board would help ensure that we have enough people for all of the important initiatives at our school and will also offer the opportunity for more parent involvement at this level. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Beringer (Amy.Beringer@summitmiddleschool.org), Becky Morley (Becky.Morley@summitmiddleschool.org) or any other Summit Board member.

Thank you for your consideration of this important change to our bylaws.

Sincerely,

The Summit Board of Directors

**:Reminder:
Back to School Night
September 6th
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

SchoolNotes.com:

The useful and convenient website schoolnotes.com is a great source to check for class assignments. Remember the Summit zipcode is 80305.

Summit RTD Bus Riders:

Volunteers at Summit will sell the September TeenPass after school on Aug 31, Sept 4 and 5th. The price of a monthly TeenPass is \$25.00. It allows for unlimited rides on all local bus routes. Cash is accepted as payment or checks made to "BVSD" - no coins, please. **FYI:** Once perforation is broken, RTD considers the pass "sold" and it may not be returned as "unused." Information about passes may be found at the BVSD website:
<http://www.bvsd.org/C19/Teen%20and%20Neighborhood%20Bus%20Pass/default.aspx>

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!!

National History Day News:
 Congratulations to Kelsey Piper! Kelsey's 1st place awards at the Regional and State level allowed her to compete in Washington D.C. this summer for National History Day. Kelsey's Historical Paper was titled, "The

Welfare System during the Great Depression: A Tragic Situation and a Triumphant Solution," and was well-received at Nationals. Kelsey was awarded the Most Outstanding Project in the State of Colorado for the junior division and she placed 8th in the nation in the Historical Paper category. Go Kelsey! If you would like to read Kelsey's paper, Summit has it cataloged in our library.

An INVITATION to Parents:

Please join Summit Community Connections for an informational meeting on Friday, September 14, 2007, at 8:30 am in the teachers' lunchroom. If you have any questions, please e-mail Amy Beringer at amyberinger@qwest.net or Aline Christianian at alineco@aol.com.

The objective of Summit Community Connections is to foster communication and partnerships between students, parents, faculty, Administration and the Board of Directors; encourage the spirit of volunteerism within the parent community; and support the charter of Summit to continue its mission for excellence.

Teacher Office Hours 2007-2008: *Note: Teachers may be available at other times by appointment*

Art:	Baruch	Tuesday lunch	Rm. 8
English:	Avallone	Wednesday after school	Rm. 3
	Kolanowski	Mon. & Tues. lunch	Rm. 3
	Frykholm	Mon.-Thurs. lunch	Rm. 5
	Cosmos	Thursday after school	Rm. 3
French:	Perrine	Monday after school (Tues. & Thurs. lunch if coaching)	Rm. C
German:	Barton	Wednesday after school	Rm. B
Spanish:	Blakemore	Wed. lunch, Thurs. before school	Rm. 6
	Goettsche	Wed. lunch	Rm. 7
Math:	Davids	Tuesday lunch	Rm. 9
	Fotino	Tuesday lunch	Teacher workroom
	de Nobrega	Wed. & Thurs. lunch	Rm. A
	Seibel	Wed. & Thurs. after school	Rm. 9
Music:	Coleman	Tuesday/Wednesday after school	Rm. E
	McGarvey	Wednesday lunch	Rm. E
Science:	Phelps	Wed. lunch & after school	Rm. 11
	Teasdale	Monday after school	Rm. 15
	Saalwachter	Wednesday after school	Rm. 14
Social Studies:	Kapsak	Monday after school	Rm. 2
	Garcia	Monday after school	Rm. B
	Wood	Monday after school	Rm. D

International Club

Wendy Blakemore, Sponsor

Meeting time: Tuesdays, 11:55 – 12:20

We would like to welcome all students to a new club at Summit. The International Club is a club originally founded 8 years ago as Spanish Club. We have accomplished many remarkable goals over the years that have benefited our community culturally as well as financially. We have also become increasingly aware of the amazing and fascinating cultural similarities and differences worldwide and right here at Summit. Because of this, we have decided to evolve into a more international organization, with the mission of continuously increasing our awareness of the huge variety of culture available to us as well as working to assist others in our local community, statewide, nationally and internationally.

We invite all students to come to a meeting to see if this is a club that would interest you! You are welcome to join throughout September. Once a member, you will be expected to be a vigorous contributor in designing, as well as participating in, our many enriching activities. We hope to see you here!

For a list of some of the activities accomplished last year, read the archive of the Summit News for June 1, 2007. Questions: Contact Mrs. Blakemore.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2007-2008 International Club!

President - Kelsey Piper

Secretary - Emily Scott

Activities Director - Sarah Reed

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 School.

Telephone: 303-499-9511. Attendance: 303-447-5529. Fax: 303-499-0215.

Summit News is mailed to the parents of enrolled students. Others are added to the mailing list upon request.

Summit News is available on Summit's World Wide Web pages at <http://summitmiddleschool.org>.

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 may choose to fill openings from its waiting list throughout the fall semester.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2007-2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

Becky Morley, Chairman, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

David Kopel, Vice Chair, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

Aline Christianian, Secretary, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

Amy Beringer, Treasurer, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

Martin Black, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

Paul King, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

Sara Steen, boardmembers@summitmiddleschool.org

David Finell, Principal, 303-499-9511, summitprincipal@summitmiddleschool.org (ex officio)