

Summit Street School



17 Summit Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452
802.878.1377 phone, 802-878-1390 fax
Web Page: ccsuvt.org/summit

Dear Summit Street School Parents/Guardians,

Summer greetings and welcome to a new school year. I hope you are enjoying these wonderful summer days. We are busily preparing for your child to join us at Summit Street School. This letter outlines dates and events for the upcoming school year. Please call the main office at 878-1377 with any questions.

Educational Supplies

A sign of school opening is all the advertisements about school supplies. We provide the majority of school supplies needed for your child. An exception is that most children bring a backpack and a lunch/snack bag, which the school does not supply. However, pencils, rulers, notebooks, crayons, markers, scissors, etc. are provided.

New Student and Family Orientation

On **Monday, August 23, 2010 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** there will be an orientation in the school learning center for parents and new children attending Summit Street School as first, second or third graders. Ms. Ashley Wageman our School Counselor will meet with students for a fun activity and tour of the school, while parents meet with Mrs. Hughes before taking a tour. Come join us.

Kindergarten Ice Cream Social and Orientation

On **Monday, August 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** representatives from Summit's PTO and Building Bright Futures will serve ice cream on the playground to incoming kindergarten children and their parents. This is intended to provide a special welcome to our newest children and their parents. At 7:00 -7:30 p.m. children and parents are invited to the gym where kindergarten teachers and principal provide information about the first day(s) of school.

Open School Visitation

On **Tuesday, August 31, 2010 from 1:00 to 3:00**, all Summit students and their parents are invited to Summit Street School for an informal visit to meet their new classroom teacher and check out their classroom. This is intended to reduce worries the night before school begins about where to go, where to hang up my backpack, etc. No appointment is required.

Essex Junction's Early Education Program provides center-based services at both Summit Street and Hiawatha Elementary Schools. The **Early Childhood Education Program's Open House** at **Summit Street School** is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 31, 2010 from noon to 3:00**. Summit 4-year olds enrolled in the program along with their families are invited to stop by anytime from noon to 3:00 p.m. to visit with classmates and meet the Early Childhood Education team. The first session for 4- year olds is Wednesday, September 1st from noon to 3:00 p.m.

First Day of School - "Camera Day"

The first day of school for all students at Summit Street School is **Wednesday, September 1, 2010**. This is a full day of school for kindergarten through third grade beginning at 8:00 a.m. with dismissal at 3:00 p.m. at the back of the school on the playground. You are invited to accompany your children to school and walk with them into their classroom for a few minutes to take a photo before leaving your child for the beginning of the school day. This will be a great opportunity for you and your children to greet other classmates and parents as everyone gathers on the playground behind the school to line up after the bell rings and proceed into the school at 8:00 a.m.

Welcome New Summit Staff

Ms. Beth Dall is our new multi-age kindergarten/first grade teacher. Mrs. Dall, a certified and highly qualified (HQT) teacher, earned a Master's degree from the University of Vermont with a degree in Early Childhood Special Education as well as a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Vermont in Early Childhood Education and Development. Additional graduate course work at Lesley College and St. Michael's College focused on literacy, language, reading and writing. For the past several years, Beth taught kindergarten at Cambridge Elementary School where she designed a year-long Readers' and Writer's workshop. Incorporating current teaching methods, Ms. Dall identifies individual children's needs and tailors an instructional program that reaches a full range of abilities within the classroom. We welcome, Mrs. Dall.

Open House/Curriculum Night

Please mark your calendars for our annual **Summit Street Open House/Curriculum Night**. Parents and children are invited to attend this popular event scheduled for **Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Students and parents visit classrooms, special area locations including art, music, learning center and the gym during the first half-hour. Students will then be directed to the gym where a special event is scheduled to entertain the children while parents meet with teachers in their child's assigned classroom to learn about the curriculum overview and other exciting plans for the upcoming school year.

Friday Folders

Each Friday your child will bring home a Summit folder with special school notices, completed school assignments, etc. The first day of school, this folder is sent home with many forms for parents to complete by **Friday, September 3rd**. Classroom and school newsletters are published and posted on-line where we encourage parents to view these via our school web page: www.ccsuvt.org/summit. If you would rather receive a paper copy of newsletters, please complete the form sent home the first day indicating this preference. Note, if you do not fill this form out, you will not receive paper copies of class or school newsletters. Please send this form and all others back to school in the Friday folder. You will find additional important paperwork that needs your attention including: Bio sheet, information about the Student Handbook, special notices, etc. Please get into the routine of sending this Friday folder back with your child on the next school day.

Summit Street School Mission

At the beginning of each year, faculty reviews our mission. Our current version reads:

Each child learns

- within a safe and engaging environment
- to achieve social and academic success

- through established attainable goals
- by self-empowerment and self-directed investigations
- so that it is natural to take risks

Standards-Based Education

Summit professional development and parent information sessions continue to focus on Standards-Based Education. Standards define the ultimate learning goals we have for each child. *Power Standards* outline the content, concepts and skills that are essential at each grade level for each academic discipline. Educators design instruction according to the essential skills and knowledge students should know. On-going assessments inform educators about the needs of each child so that instruction can be modified accordingly. Standards form the basis for instruction and assessment.

Once each trimester, parents receive a standards-based report card listing the standards. Teachers and students monitor progress toward the standards utilizing grade-level indicators. For example, in writing, a second-grade teacher monitors progress based on these skills:

- Writes in complete sentences
- Uses capital letters, periods, question marks and quotation marks correctly
- Uses the writing process (prewriting, first draft, revision, and final draft)
- Writes a friendly letter with a greeting, body and conclusion
- Knows the purpose and use of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas

Report cards indicated how well a child progresses toward the standard. The marks might show whether the student is secure, developing or beginning. Students usually get separate marks for effort and work habits. Throughout the school year, there will be many opportunities to learn more about Standards-Based Education.

Parent Information Nights

Looking ahead to special evenings that are planned to provide parents from the PreK-5 Essex Junction schools with information about our school's educational programming, you are invited and encouraged to attend the following shared meetings sponsored by the school principals across the K-5 district.

- **Wednesday, October 27** at Summit Street School from 6:30 to 7:30 (childcare provided) Topic: Standards-Based Teaching and Learning
- **Wednesday, March 23** at Hiawatha School from 6:30 to 7:30 (childcare provided) Topic: Supporting Student Learning
- **Wednesday, May 25th** at Fleming from 6:30 to 7:30 (childcare provided) Topic: All Schools Report Night

Summit Street PTO

You are invited to participate in the Summit PTO. On the second **Tuesday** of the month beginning on **September 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** parents, teachers and the principal join together to plan and discuss various ways to enhance our school. Each month the agenda varies but typically features highlights from the principal on current school initiatives, updates from various committees on special upcoming events, planning for future events, etc. Childcare is provided. This organization, which strengthens student learning, fosters a supportive relationship between parents and school. We are fortunate to have parents

Mindy Deibler and Cathi Farrington co-chairing the PTO for the upcoming school year. A major PTO initiative that is underway is the Summit Natural Playground Project. Please, come to learn more about this initiative and many other ways to become involved while meeting the wonderful parents and staff of Summit Street School.

Technology Enhancements at Summit Street School

A mobile computer lab is a new feature at Summit. The computers from the former computer lab were spread across the school with many relocating to the learning center. Over the summer, a cart with 30 computers was installed in the learning center. These computers can be checked out for an entire class, or small group within the classrooms. This wireless change supports integrating technology within the classroom. In addition, four new SMART boards were installed so that all classrooms have one for educators to utilize.

Picture Day

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 5, 2010** when professional photographers will be at Summit Street School to take individual and class pictures. Picture Retake Day is **Tuesday, November 16, 2010**. More information about ordering pictures will be forthcoming.

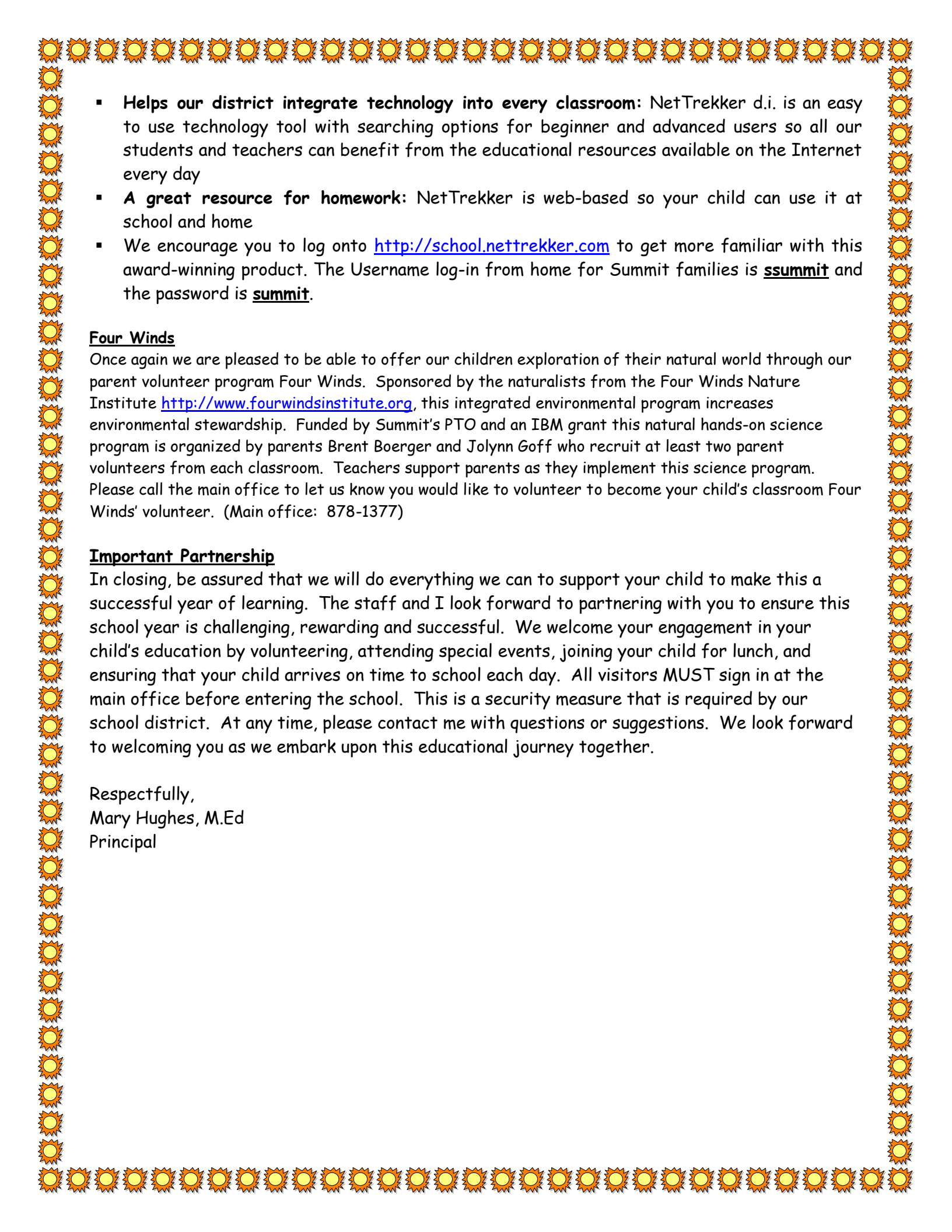
Summit Health Office

RN Kathleen Ready will be on leave until Monday, September 13, 2010. Reyna Maher, a certified RN, is stepping in to serve as Summit and Fleming's nurse during Mrs. Ready's absence. Ms. Maher is familiar with our school as she has substituted throughout our district. Mrs. Corinne Ferreira will continue to rotate between Summit and Fleming in the upcoming school year. We appreciate the professional service delivered from our health office.

NetTrekker d.i. an Available Educational Technology Tool

Parents and staff can access a program that is intended to keep our students safe when they're using the Internet and also assists our teachers to find resources that match each of our students' learning needs. This technology tool is an award-winning search engine created just for students, teachers, and parents and delivers only safe, educator-selected websites every time we use the Internet. Here are just a few reasons why we've chosen NetTrekker d.i. for our school community:

- **Searching is fast and easy:** NetTrekker d.i. contains over 180,000 educator-selected online resources that are organized around the K-12 curricula and by grade level so searching is logical and easy
- **Makes searching the Internet safe for students:** All NetTrekker d.i. websites and images have been selected and evaluated by educators so students receive *ONLY* safe, relevant results and school-friendly images every time they use the Internet
- **Designed for different learning styles:** NetTrekker d.i. provides resources that work for all members of our school community including general-education, ESL/ELL, and gifted students, students working below or above grade level, having reading challenges, special needs, and more
- **Customized resources for English Language Learners:** NetTrekker d.i. also includes an entire section devoted to ELL students and to teaching ESL

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- **Helps our district integrate technology into every classroom:** NetTrekker d.i. is an easy to use technology tool with searching options for beginner and advanced users so all our students and teachers can benefit from the educational resources available on the Internet every day
 - **A great resource for homework:** NetTrekker is web-based so your child can use it at school and home
 - We encourage you to log onto <http://school.nettrekker.com> to get more familiar with this award-winning product. The Username log-in from home for Summit families is **summit** and the password is **summit**.

Four Winds

Once again we are pleased to be able to offer our children exploration of their natural world through our parent volunteer program Four Winds. Sponsored by the naturalists from the Four Winds Nature Institute <http://www.fourwindsinstitute.org>, this integrated environmental program increases environmental stewardship. Funded by Summit's PTO and an IBM grant this natural hands-on science program is organized by parents Brent Boerger and Jolynn Goff who recruit at least two parent volunteers from each classroom. Teachers support parents as they implement this science program. Please call the main office to let us know you would like to volunteer to become your child's classroom Four Winds' volunteer. (Main office: 878-1377)

Important Partnership

In closing, be assured that we will do everything we can to support your child to make this a successful year of learning. The staff and I look forward to partnering with you to ensure this school year is challenging, rewarding and successful. We welcome your engagement in your child's education by volunteering, attending special events, joining your child for lunch, and ensuring that your child arrives on time to school each day. All visitors **MUST** sign in at the main office before entering the school. This is a security measure that is required by our school district. At any time, please contact me with questions or suggestions. We look forward to welcoming you as we embark upon this educational journey together.

Respectfully,
Mary Hughes, M.Ed
Principal