

Summit Street School



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August 2011

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

Summit Street School Mission

At the beginning of each year, faculty and staff review our school mission statement. At Summit Street School 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

Professional development throughout this school year focuses on building a community of learners. Professional Coach Susan Titterton, formerly a trainer for Responsive Classroom, joins us on this professional journey.

Summit Street School Celebrates 60 Years of Educating Essex Junction's Children

We are very excited to announce this year marks the 60th year Summit Street School opens its doors to begin a new school year. Several special events throughout the year are planned to celebrate this historic milestone. To kick-off this year, we have planned a beginning of the year BBQ for parents, families and children on **Wednesday, September 7, 2011**. Plan to join us on the playground with chairs, blankets, etc. The BBQ is served during the children's lunch periods: Kindergarten classes eat at 11:05; First graders eat at 11:10, second graders eat at 11:45 and third graders eat at 11:50.

Educational Supplies

A sign of school opening is all the advertisements regarding purchasing school supplies. Your child's school supplies are provided. The only purchase you may want to make is a backpack and a lunch/snack bag, which the school does not supply. However, pencils, rulers, notebooks, crayons, markers, scissors, etc. are all provided.

New Student and Family Orientation

On Thursday, **August 25, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** an orientation in the school learning center is scheduled for parents and new children attending Summit Street School as first, second or third graders. Ms. Ashley Wageman our School Counselor meets with students for a fun activity and tour of the school, while parents join Principal Hughes before taking a tour. Come join us.

Kindergarten Ice Cream Social and Orientation

On **Thursday, August 25, 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 Hughes provide information about the first day(s) of school.

Open School Visitation

On **Tuesday, August 30, 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 30, from 1:00 to 3:00**. Summit 4-year olds enrolled in the program accompanied by parent(s) may stop by during this time to visit with classmates and meet the Early Childhood Education professionals. The first session for 4- year olds is Wednesday, August 31, 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, August 31**. 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

Mrs. Cindy Mongeon is the new LPN for both Summit and Hiawatha. She joins RN Kathleen Ready in the health office so that both schools have a nurse on duty throughout the day. Cindy's experience includes working 19 years at a pediatric office.

Kate Bair will be an intern in the art classroom working with art teacher Lisa Foley throughout the first half of the school year. Kate is an art student at the University of Vermont.

Jade Hazard is the new Title 1 Math Specialist for both Fleming and Summit Street School. Jade is a graduate of the University of Vermont where she focused on mathematics. Since 2008 Jade was the Math Specialist at the Westford School. We welcome Jade who will supervise a Title 1 Math Tutor at Summit, who is still to be hired.

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 27, 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 are 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 brings 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 2nd**. 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.

Standards-Based Education

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 indicate how well a child progresses toward the standard. The marks might show whether the student is secure, developing or beginning. Students are also marked on their work habits and citizenship. Throughout the school year, there will be many opportunities to learn more about Standards-Based Education.

Summit Street PTO

You are invited to participate in the Summit PTO. On the second **Tuesday** of most months beginning on **September 13, at 6:30 p.m.** parents, teachers and 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 several parents serving as officers such as Christy Fay, who will serve as Chair 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 second mobile 30 mini computer lab is available to students at Summit. These computers can be checked out for an entire class, or small group within the classrooms. Wireless access supports integrating technology within all the classroom. In addition, interactive white boards are utilized in all classrooms and most special areas throughout the school.

Picture Day

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 4**, when professional photographers will be at Summit Street School to take individual and class pictures. Picture Retake Day is **Tuesday, November 15**. More information about ordering pictures will be forthcoming.

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
- **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 **ssummit** 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 Jolynn Goff and Sathya Amouretti 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, please join us for the many events scheduled throughout the year so that you become involved in your community school. We will do our very best 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 year is challenging, rewarding and successful. There are many ways to be involved in your child's education such as 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