



# NEW SUMMIT NEWS

"Life is About New Summits"

## UPDATES FROM ADMIN: MRS. MCCLELLAND & MRS. REISSIG



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Our school community has recently been informed that, due to circumstances beyond our control, New Summit has had to make budget cuts resulting in teacher layoffs. This was not something that we had anticipated.

Many parents have written to our administration with concerns and questions about these recent budget cuts. Let me assure you that our board, our attorney, and our school administration pursued every avenue to keep our amazing teachers. Despite our efforts, we had to make a tough decision.

I know some parents have expressed frustration with the suddenness of this announcement. I can appreciate how it came across, but we as a board did not want to alarm anyone without cause. As I mentioned previously, we exhausted all opportunities to prevent this from happening, right up until our board's special meeting on 11/28. Once the decision was made, teachers were notified on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, allowing our school to be notified on Friday afternoon.

Despite needing to make budget cuts, our current financial outlook is positive. There has been no mismanagement of funds. It is purely due to a decline in enrollment, but we have worked towards, and achieved, a solvent budget. School funding flows on a per-student basis. New Summit had to provide a funding budget to the district in April. Unfortunately, we lost more students than anticipated between our projections and the October count. Every school has to make these course corrections for funding after the October count.

We have heard parents make suggestions regarding the library, playground, and other potential sources for financial savings. Many of these items are grant funded, so we must use the funding in a specific way. Grants do not allow us to use the money for teacher salaries. Our school finance team, in conjunction with our administrators, made many operational cuts to ensure solid footing, both this year and in the years to come.

The decision to eliminate the teaching positions was extremely difficult. The determination on which teachers were going to be laid off was made by class sizes per grade. We consolidated the classes to keep our student to teacher ratio at the level we have communicated to parents all along. Of those grade levels, we used chose the specific teachers based on hire date, choosing the last hired.

New Summit understands the gravity of the situation, and our

principal, Mrs. McClelland and her team are dedicated to making this as soft a landing as possible, in finding new positions, interviewing, and recommendations. These teachers are still part of our New Summit family, and we want nothing but the best for them.

All of our teachers are doing amazing things with our students, and it is with a heavy heart that we have had to make these changes, but we are still going to continue to move forward and reach New Summits, this year and in the years to come.

We appreciate all of our parents who have written their support for our school. We ask for continued support and advocacy for our school. Let's continue to bring new families into our community.

Thank you.



### HELLO NEW SUMMIT FAMILIES!

What a busy season it has been for our school! Between our Scholastic Book Fair, Grandparents Day, and Curriculum Days, our students and staff have been busy and hard at work! Since this is our last week before Christmas break, we have a lot of reminders and updates to tell you about before you all leave for your Christmas vacations.

This is just a reminder that the expectation for parent volunteer hours has been cut from 50 hours per year to 30 hours. This means you only need to complete 15 volunteer hours per semester. We hope this makes it easier for you to complete your volunteer hours on a busy schedule! If you haven't completed your first semester hours please don't worry there are plenty of opportunities for you to complete them next year. Don't forget to log your hours with Mrs. Reichert at the front desk.

In January, we will start giving out warnings for uniform violations. We are seeing a lot of uniform violations including shirt colors that are purple, green, and maroon. These colors are not a part of our school uniform code. If you need a refresher on what colors are allowed, please visit our website to see our uniform policy.

It was communicated at all of our information sessions, open houses and on our website that we do not offer a lunch program. We have been working towards an option, have plans and permits pulled including communication with the health department to work out details. This is a long process and is not finalized. Some

## UPDATES FROM ADMIN CONTINUED...

students have been coming with no lunches or are eating all their lunches at snack time, and come hungry at lunch. If your student does not bring their lunch with them, they will be asked to call you to bring their lunch to the school. We have let the teachers know to remind the students to not eat all their lunches at snack time.

It has come to our attention that students have been using their phones during recess, lunch, and class time. Phones are to stay in backpacks during the hours of 8 am - 3 pm and students should not be using them during this time. Please remind your students of this rule, any phones that are found will be taken away and the parent will need to come personally and pick them up.

Once again, our lost and found is FULL. We need those items picked up before Christmas break, otherwise, the items will be donated at the end of next week.

With the weather getting cold and snowy, we know that delays and tardies are possible. However, we have been seeing some students coming in after 8:05 and not being signed in by parents. School begins at 8:00 am. We have extended grace to 8:05 as sometimes drop off and traffic make it that students aren't able to get in by 8:00. Please prepare to arrive a few minutes earlier to get your student/s to school as close to 8:00 as possible. Doors will be shut promptly at 8:05 at the top and bottom drop off location and students will need to be walked to the front door to check in with the parent. We will announce on snowy bad weather days if tardies are excused. Please check social media or our website for any updates for weather-related communication. As a reminder, we follow Academy School District 20's weather delays and closures.

It's been a challenging month, but as New Summit always does, we have shown perseverance and looking forward to the New Year and all the exciting opportunities that will be presented. We wish all our families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### A MESSAGE ABOUT OUR PTO:

First, we want to say thank you to all our PTO members and volunteers for everything they did for our school this first semester. We appreciate all the time and effort that was put in to help our school and to make our school better.

During this time, leadership realized that our PTO did not have the opportunity to build a community within our school because of how fast it started. We want our school to be built on relationships and for families to get to know each other in a relational capacity before volunteering together. Because of this, we are transitioning from a PTO to more of a Parent/Volunteer Community led by our Vice Principal, Jenn Reissig. Mrs. Reissig is excited to take this over and will be having the first meeting on January 17, 2019, from 6-7 pm. During this time, she will get to know those who wish to be a part of this new community and will make sure to put each person's talents to good use in helping our school be the best it

can be. Leadership has also decided to get rid of the Facebook Families Group and instead we will be looking for another way to communicate with our families besides social media. We will have this new communication medium set up and ready to go before the new January semester starts. We hope that between this and email, we can close the communication gap and reach all our families with school information and events.

Thank you all for being patient with us during this time. We look forward to bigger and better things in the New Year!

## GRADE LEVEL HAPPENINGS

### KINDERGARTEN

Happy Holidays from Around the World. We have been learning about holiday celebrations in different countries and celebrating by making ginger bread houses. This Thursday, December 20th we will be rotating through each Kindergarten classroom to discover how other countries celebrate Christmas. Such a wonderful time of year to discuss giving to others and being thankful for all we have! In Science we are learning about our bodies and what we need to do to take care of them, such as eating healthy and exercising. In Math we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and will move forward with measurement in the new year. Starting in January we will be talking about Kings and Queens and learning about seasons and weather.. We look forward to bigger and better things in the New Year!

### FIRST GRADE

In first grade we have finished up a unit on ancient early civilizations comparing the Maya, Aztec and Inca people. We enjoyed a unit of measurement and shapes in Math and will celebrate a Gingerbread Literacy Day this Friday. January will bring an introduction to Astronomy and many other fun topics to learn about!

### SECOND GRADE

Second graders had a great time on Greek Day last Friday! They are excited to start their new unit about the War of 1812. In addition, second graders are excited to be learning multiplication in math! This week we have Kinetic Engineers coming from the Denver Children's Museum to teach the students about simple machines.



# GRADE LEVEL HAPPENINGS CONTINUED...

## THIRD GRADE

Third grade had an incredible time on Friday, November 30th celebrating all things Ancient Rome. We want to thank all the parent volunteers who donated time and supplies to help make the day a success. Up next for us is studying the Vikings. We will begin learning about light and optics in science. In Literacy, we are continuing to focus on finding main ideas and supporting details as well as using irregular verbs and forms of the verb to be. In math, we are continuing to work on mastering our multiplication facts.

## FOURTH GRADE

Fourth grade is cruising right along in our Medieval Unit. We will be wrapping that up with Medieval Day on December 20th. We will have several activities planned that the students will rotate through including making shields, visiting a monastery, and possibly doing some medieval dancing. We will learn the proper etiquette along with our activities. In Math, we are continuing our work with fractions and multiplication facts. We have been competing in our classrooms to find a top student in geography knowledge so that they can participate in the Geography Bee in January. Stay tuned to hear who our winners are. Fourth graders are looking forward to Christmas Break and the time we will get to spend with our families drinking hot chocolate and playing board games and watching fun movies! And best of all READING books!!

## FIFTH GRADE

It is hard to believe we are in the final weeks of first semester. Thank you for all of your help and support throughout these beginning months. It is niThe fifth graders have grown so much already; we can't wait to see where we are by the end of the year! Throughout the month of December we will be bringing closure to various units including the unit on plants for science. Our culminating activity for social studies will include first person explorer speeches and a scavenger hunt. In language arts, a variety of writing, reading, and grammar activities will help reinforce skills learned and assist in planning instruction for second semester. In math, fractions are our focus and by Winter Break students should be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers. For many students, a significant amount of learning can be lost during longer breaks. Use activities you are already planning to help your child maintain what has been learned. They can read and follow recipes, make shopping lists as you tell them what to write, write some family traditions and paragraph about how or why the tradition was started, play games like Yahtzee, Qwirkle, dominoes, etc. Even if they are the youngest, let your fifth grader be the banker for Monopoly.

MadLibs are always worth a good laugh while working on grammar skills. Each class will have a holiday celebration on December 21; watch weekly communication for details.

## SIXTH GRADE

In math we are making our way through the large unit on ratios. Kids are exploring part to part, whole to part, and part to whole ratios. We've also worked on two and three part ratios, those with money and those without, and ratios involving time and distance.

This week in Social Studies we finished up our studies of Ancient Greece by learning about famous Greek Philosophers (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) and Alexander the Great. Next week we'll start looking at Ancient Rome.

Sixth grade scientists are examining mechanical energy found in rollercoasters including potential conversion to kinetic energy. We learned a mnemonic device to help recall different types of energy (Mrs. Chen). We will address energy conversions in everyday life next, followed by energy sources.

In writing we are reviewing proper paragraph structure by analyzing the parts of a paragraph and color-coding paragraphs that are already written. We'll work on transitions, revising, and editing, over the next couple weeks.

In reading this week, we've begun our look at "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". Students are familiarizing themselves with the folksy colloquialism of Mark Twain as they get to know Tom and his Aunt Polly.

### *Good Things*

New Summit received a \$75,000 grant from the Daniels Fund, a foundation dedicated to honoring Bill Daniels' direction to make life better for the people and communities of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The foundation looks to award grants to communities that reflect Bill's ethics and values – compassion for others, entrepreneurial spirit, and commitment to excellence. We are so thankful and excited for this great honor!



# ART CLASS



What an exciting time of the year! There is just so much going on! We have been starting some new projects in art. In 6th grade, we are going to be making Roman mosaics and learning about their significance. In 5th grade, we are studying the Mayan civilization. We will be making Mayan masks using a variety of mediums. In 4th grade, we are studying Illuminated manuscripts from the Medieval time period. We will be creating our own decorated letter. In second grade we are studying the very fun and creative Matisse. We are working on some fun colorful collages and finally, in Kindergarten we are learning about color blending by studying the Abstract Expressionist Helen Frankenthaler.

I also wanted to take the time to thank two very special parents who were guest speakers in my class. First, I would like to mention and thank Irena Lazarova who shared about her beautiful country, Bulgaria. She took us on a beautiful tour of this art rich culture. We also had the privilege of tasting their amazing food she prepared. The sixth graders and one 5th grade were able to have this wonderful experience! Thank you so much, Irena, for the wonderful experience. The next parent I would like to thank and mention is Mike Heath. Mike is such a talented artist and he was able to share his talent with the 4th-grade students. Mike has created over 400 book covers and is an amazing illustrator. You have probably enjoyed seeing his work but never knew it was him. The students were amazed at his talent but also at his ability to relate to them and challenge them to become better artists or pursue things they are passionate about! Thanks, Mike it was a treat to learn from you!

I also want to mention how much fun I had doing the Escape Room with the 5th grade. It was so fun to see them use cooperation and their creativity and brains to solve some tough puzzles! If your son or daughter did not get in this time I will try to offer more at a later date so they can participate.



## Nurse's Notes

We had our school-wide vision and hearing test on November 28th and it went really well. I am in the process of screening all the

students that were absent and re-screening all the students that did not pass either their vision test or hearing test. You will be notified in the coming weeks if your child did not pass one or both of these screening exams.

Many parents have asked about the use of hand lotion and lip balm. These items ARE allowed in school if they are not medicated products and your child may carry them in their backpack or keep them in their desk. The use of these items is at their individual teacher's discretion. If they are being used excessively to the point where it is distracting to the class then they will be asked to keep them in their backpack for use during recess or lunch only. Please label any lotion or lip balm your child brings to school. If it is found on the ground and not labeled with a name it will be thrown away to prevent other children from picking it up and using it. Please also avoid sending your child to school with any products that have heavy scents to them as this will bother those in the classroom that are sensitive to these things.

If your student has borrowed uniform clothes from the health room at some point in the last few months please wash these items and have your student return them to the health room. We are also in need of new underwear for smaller children (boys and girls sizes 4-8) to have available in the health room if anyone is interested in donating these items for use. We also always have a need for antibacterial wipes, non-latex gloves, Band-aids and disposable bottles of water if anyone is interested in donating items for use.

# SAFETY & SECURITY



From the Safety/Security desk – Since the beginning of this school year we have been conducting monthly fire evacuation drills. These drills entail evacuating all of the nearly 500+ students, faculty and visitors inside the school to 4 designated “safe zones” located away from the immediate area. On average, we are evacuating everyone, from the school, in under 5 minutes.

This week we conducted a “shelter in place drill”, which requires everyone to evacuate to 2 designated safe areas, within the school, in the event of a weather related, hazmat-related, chemical-related or other exterior-related hazardous situation. This process took under 4 minutes to get everyone quietly and safely in to those designated areas.

Prior to the Christmas break, we will be conducting a “lock-down” drill, which will require all within the school to immediately seek safety behind locked doors. This drill simulates the presence of an interior direct threat within the school itself. This is our only drill, which will involve the presence of a District 20 security team.

These drills will continue to be conducted, at random times throughout the remaining school year, and are necessary to ensure the safety and security of everyone on our school's property.

Make your gift-giving count! A portion of your purchase can go to New Summit if you use [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose us as the organization you want to donate to.



# Counselor's Corner

The holiday season is here and this time of year brings a variety of feelings for everyone, even children. While there is so much going on to be joyous about and thankful for, we need to remember that not everyone has positive feelings related to the holiday season. Adults and children may even be confused by the joy around them and yet the feelings of heartache, grief, loneliness, longing, or loss that they feel on the inside. While we cannot protect kids from the pain associated with loss, we can help them process by teaching them to build appropriate coping skills. As we walk through this season, I would encourage you to remember:

- Every child, and adult, processes through grief differently. If you are seeing a new behavior, stop and ask yourself what the need behind the behavior might be. It is very common for children to express grief through disobedience, unwillingness, physical symptoms that are not explained by a physical diagnosis, etc.
- Encourage children to express their feelings even when it makes you uncomfortable. There are many great children's books about grief. Reading these books together can be a fantastic way to get healthy conversation going with your child regarding loss.
- Be developmentally appropriate. It can be hard to predict how each individual child will respond to loss. Don't volunteer too much information but rather be a safe place for children to ask questions they do have. Be honest when the questions are asked. It's okay if you can't answer everything, being available for your children is what matters.
- Don't ignore your own grief. Children will often imitate the grieving behaviors of their parents. If you need space, take it. If you need time for self-care, make sure it is a priority. Let your children know through your behaviors that it is okay to grieve and take care of themselves in the process.
- Some excellent coping skills that you can do and do with your children include: Drawing or coloring (even drawing pictures about what is causing the feelings of grief and loss), going on a walk together, doing something fun together, cuddle time, taking deep breaths, positive affirmations and focus on positive memories, physical activities, cooking or baking together, etc.



This is a great book on the topic of grief and loss that is wonderful to share with kids.

## STAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following STAR students who were recognized by their teachers for their display of Identity! These students have a strong grasp in who they are, what they stand for, and what they believe in! They are willing to stand out, stand up, be unique, and display the wonders of who they are on a daily basis!

- Jase Shardt
- Eve Hollen
- Emma Moreland
- Breck Beland
- Adalynn Brown
- Edan Banovich
- Amari Burdick
- Reagan Gasmire
- Owen Ransick
- Alenda Engelhard
- Ifeoluwa Adelaja
- Sam David
- Nick Thompson
- Vincent Lebold
- Napuanani Han
- Riley Elliott
- Caleb Ladegard
- Liam Shea
- Aaron Hamlin
- Grady Weeks
- Madison Gooch
- Alexis Strombaugh
- Sydney Akridge
- Sophie Luke
- Adeline Forand
- Matthew Start
- Horya Ahmadi
- Cameron Chappel
- Rachael Marsh
- Ryker Owens
- Noah Romero

The next STAR student awards will go to those students who are exemplary in the area of Purpose! All of the STAR Student attributes come directly from our Character Education Curriculum that is woven throughout a variety of classes and activities that our students participate in!

## Did You Know...

We had 35 teachers and staff stay after school last week for an extra three hours to be trained in CPR. They also learned what to do if a child or adult is choking. This is vital training for keeping our students safe and I'm super happy we had so many staff committed to taking this voluntary training. We now have most of our teachers, TAs and administrators CPR certified. A thank you to some of the 1st grade parents for donating some snacks to help keep our team going that night!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Student Accountability Committee

If you're interested in serving on our School Accountability Committee (SAC) fill out the following application: <https://goo.gl/forms/6YbGZixTfEITgqv1>. SAC meeting dates are scheduled for 1/14, 2/11, 4/8 all at 4 pm.

### Next School Board Meeting:

Our next board meeting will be Wed, 1/9 at 4 pm.

### NEW: Parent/Volunteer Committee Meeting

During this time, Mrs. Reissig will get to know those who wish to be a part of this new community and will make sure to put each person's talents to good use in helping our school be the best it can be. Come on out on January 17, 6-7 pm.



We are now on Twitter at @NewSummitCS.

Join us now!  #NewSummit