

# SLC NEWS

Volume 8

SLC is an innovative, public, tuition-free school for K-12 students

November 2015



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL . . .

Last month, **Summit Learning Charter** started working with Portland State University to complete a third party school evaluation based on our school performance data. We have always been extremely transparent about the data that we receive on the school report card, and it is our hope that this evaluation will support our claims; that the school is growing and students are learning. It is true, that our school struggles to have a spotless report card. We always have, and to a certain extent, that struggle will be there throughout our future. And while the explanation is simple - it is also very complex.

- **Summit Learning Charter** wants to support each child who comes to us, regardless of their previous education experience.
- We do not discriminate against any student when they apply.
- Some kids transfer in the middle of the school year.
- Some learners aren't successful, and when they leave - they drop out of education completely.

All of these scenarios impact our results. But, that does not mean that we are complacent about it; far from it! For the past three years, **Summit Learning Charter** has been working through a series of school improvement goals and many have already been accomplished:

1. Develop a Student Support Team
2. Hire a full time School Counselor
3. Synchronous classes developed by our teachers
4. Redesign our entire Elementary Program
5. Expand our school culture and learning opportunities
6. Start a Pregnant and Parenting team
7. Become a certified GED provider
8. Incorporate Early College opportunities for our high school students

There are more goals and more plans every year:

- MAPS assessments
- MAPS results and how to use them
- Research new curriculum
- Professional development
- Analyze the data
- Survey the students - Survey the parents

The tune of **Summit Learning Charter** has been positive and growing louder and LOUDER. The community has been very responsive. Due to the excellence of our students, your Learning Coach support, and our whole faculty...we have grown *so much!*

With this growth comes the duty of maintaining a safe and productive environment for all of the learners at **Summit** and this is a challenge that we are embracing. Schedules and staffing are being reshuffled, new duties are being assigned, and our level of vigilance has been definitely enhanced.

Happy Fall - time to enjoy the rain!

Sean Gallagher, Principal [sgallagher@summitlc.org](mailto:sgallagher@summitlc.org)



## NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

STUDENT:

**Bryan Pacheco**, Social Studies  
**Joe Washburn**, Elem. PE  
**Kenny Bradley**, Middle Sch. PE  
**Nicole Bennett**, Social Studies  
**Joanna Morales**, GED  
**Jose Chavez**, GED  
**Jacob Strahl**, Social Studies  
**Laura Beals**, Math  
**Asia Foster**, Science  
**Mason White**, Lego  
**Shina Myers**, Math  
**Jonathan (Jack) Twist**, EOP  
**Noah Jossi**, ELA  
**Aleksandr Ignashov**, Math  
**David Richards**, IV, TAT

NOMINATED BY:

Mr. Bernardini  
Mrs. Cairns  
Mrs. Cairns  
Mrs. Fullilove  
Mrs. Fullilove  
Mrs. Fullilove  
Mrs. Kavanaugh  
Mr. Klos  
Mr. Putnam  
Mr. Putnam  
Mr. Saffores  
Mr. Schellinkhout  
Mrs. Schulfer  
Mr. Sunseri  
Mrs. Butler



Mrs. Cairns (3rd from left) and our SLC Leadership Team learning some team building skills at Ballistic Box in Gresham. The Ballistic Box staff also came to our school PE assembly in September and got our student's heart rates up!

## SAVE THE DATE

- Nov 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- Nov 18 Mt Hood Lane Bowling
- Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Break - No School
- Dec 16 Family Game Day
- Dec 19 - Jan 3 Winter Break - No School
- Jan 18 MLK, Jr. Day - No School
- Jan 20 Movie Day
- Feb 15 Presidents' Day - No School
- Feb 17 Career Fair



The month of November has two Wednesdays with NO art classes. Nov. 11 is a holiday and Nov. 18 is the bowling field trip. We will offer an art class on Thursday, Nov. 12 for **6-12th grade students** from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Please let Mrs. Alderman know if you are planning to attend the art class that day.  
 jalderman@summitlc.org

There are many PE classes, study halls, enrichment opportunities (Music, Art, Lego Robotics Club) planned for our students.

Check our website calendar for more detailed information-it's updated daily!

Summit Learning Charter is hosting our first annual

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!

Collection dates will be Monday, November 2nd through Friday, November 20th.

A list of preferred items will be sent out soon!



**Summit Learning Charter** will be printing our first Yearbook that will be designed by our students!! (\$15 per yearbook).

If you're interested in supporting the project, please contact Jason Deardorff at [jdeardorff@summitlc.org](mailto:jdeardorff@summitlc.org).



The Parent Role in Online Education:

## The Importance and Necessity of the LEARNING COACH

*Supporting your child in school is an ongoing and ever-changing process. It varies greatly from year to year. What you do and your interaction with your child is very different in elementary, middle and high school.*

In an online program, the parent role as the LEARNING COACH is critical to your child's success. **In many cases, the time when the parent needs to be the most involved is probably the exact time that the child wants the parent to be less involved! In middle and high school.**



In a traditional educational setting, timelines and pacing for assignments are determined by the teacher. The teacher creates a calendar, monitors progress and implements consequences for being late. The parent is also involved, but the primary monitoring comes from the teacher.

**In an online or home-based educational setting, the primary responsibility for creating a schedule and setting the pace for completion falls on the parent.** As a school, we establish timelines in two ways. For middle school students, the year is divided into halves, called semesters. The high school schedule divides the year into thirds, called trimesters. Additionally, our online curriculum has built-in timelines. Every day, when a student logs into their class they can see how many lessons they need to complete to be on track for that day.

**Establish the practice of a daily or weekly check-in with your student at the beginning of their enrollment.** It is important for a parent to check progress; if not daily, then several times a week by either logging in with the student to their account or using the parent portal. This will keep you informed about your child's progress and alert you if your child appears to be struggling and needs additional assistance in a class. If it seems that your student is struggling, reach out to the specific teacher, your child's educational advisor or the counselor for assistance in problem solving.

**Does it matter if my student completes all of the classes on their schedule? YES!** It is important for middle school students to complete all of their classes as scheduled each semester. Not only does course completion in middle school prepare your child for high school classes, but it also creates a positive pattern of behavior that is necessary for success (and less stress!) in high school, where the demands are greater and the consequences for non-completion can be disastrous. In high school, not completing all of the classes scheduled in a trimester will cause the student to fall behind in earning the credits required to meet graduation requirements. Falling behind in earning credit can jeopardize graduating on time.

**As the learning coach of a high school student, it is CRITICAL you are tracking your students credit progress.** At the end of each trimester your child should have completed and earned **a minimum** of two credits (.5 credit in four classes). By earning two credits each trimester, the student will finish the year with six credits. Six credits a year are what a student needs to ensure on time graduation. At the end of the year, a transcript will be mailed to you. This is your record of the progress and credit earned for the year. Regular monitoring will help eliminate any surprises at the end of the year. If you have any questions about how to read the transcript, please call the Student Services Department and speak with the counselor or educational advisor.

Marybeth Conaway, M.Ed. - SLC School Counselor

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## The Importance of Being Grateful

### Gratitude:

*The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.*

Being grateful when things are going our way or we get something we want is easy. But what about being grateful when the going gets tough or we have to deal with a huge disappointment? Hmm, not so easy, is it? Sometimes it's necessary to make an effort or be intentional in our gratefulness. So, why is it important to show gratitude daily and in all situations? We would all agree hard work and dedication leads to successful outcomes. However, gratitude is actually an important and necessary component for success because being grateful is what opens doors to happiness, prosperity and good health.

It's pretty easy to get wrapped up in negative thinking or become overwhelmed when things that aren't going our way. Gratitude is behavior that has to be practiced; sometimes it's something that we need to force ourselves to do! Especially when times are tough. *But I can promise you that practicing thankfulness will change your life forever!*

**It doesn't matter if the glass is half empty or half full. Be grateful that you have a glass, and there is something in it.**

1) Gratitude comes from a heart of "thanksgiving". Thanksgiving is more than just a date on the calendar. Thanksgiving is a discipline that we need to develop every single day. There are days when we have to make an effort to find something to be grateful for. On the day that you are late for work, you might need to be grateful that you got there safely; when your puppy chews one of your shoes, you might need to be grateful that you have another pair to wear. Also, don't forget to find gratitude in the simple things – a good night's sleep, the smell of fresh cut grass, the purr of your kitty, moments of silence. *Every single day, there is something to be grateful for - in every situation there is something to be grateful for.*

**Gratitude is one of the most medicinal emotions we can feel. It elevates our moods and fills us with joy.**

2) Gratitude changes us for the better. Whether we realize it or not, as humans, we are in a constant state of growth and development. Typically, most of us desire to become a better version of ourselves. Developing an attitude of thankfulness is a requirement for this to happen. All of us, from time to time, find ourselves battling through toxic thoughts, negative words, unpleasant situations, and unhealthy belief systems; these things create negative cycles in our daily lives. Studies show when we make being grateful a daily practice that emotional and physical changes occur. People reported being more compassionate, more open minded, feeling more peaceful, being more giving, having increased self-confidence, and having a sense of calm when things don't go according to plan. A grateful attitude gives us a positive outlook, which in turn allows us to process experiences differently so that we are able to find something good in all circumstances. *It takes practice to be a thankful thinker, and it is worth the effort!*

**It's not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy.**

3) Gratitude produces a more meaningful life. When we are simply, expectantly grateful - for big, small and everyday things, we are able to live with greater purpose and passion. Gratefulness shifts the story and focus of our life. Every experience will be more full and meaningful and this means we will live and operate in a world that is greater than just ourselves – our needs, our happiness, our dreams, our disappointments, our victories... Being grateful opens up every moment, which allows us to capture the fullness and beauty that might otherwise be overlooked. This in turn, leads to contentment, even in bad times. Focusing on feelings of gratitude leads us to become aware of what we can give rather than what we can get and this leads to a deep sense of personal satisfaction and contentment.

**Gratitude should not be just a reaction to getting what you want, but an "all-the-time" gratitude, the kind where you notice the little things and where you constantly look for the good, even in unpleasant situations.**

**Start bringing gratitude to your experiences, instead of waiting for a positive experience in order to feel grateful.**

Marybeth Conaway, M.Ed.  
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Next Board Meeting . . .

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015  
5:30 pm  
SLC Board Room

SLC Principal

Sean Gallagher  
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