**Mission:** The Summit School educates children with unique learning styles to their full potential.

**Build a dream. Build a foundation. Build a reality** where children become invested, successful learners, who welcome each new day, each new challenge, and every new learning experience.

This year has been quite an eventful year for The Summit School. We were selected by WMAR TV, a Baltimore ABC affiliate, to be the recipient of their charitable endeavor, *Built Upon A Dream*, a project-based initiative for which Summit constructed a “wish list” of facilities and program needs. The list included projects that would be difficult to fund without additional fundraising support. We are so grateful to all the sponsors, volunteers, and contractors that made this project possible, including Chaney Enterprises, Fence & Deck Connection, Homestead Gardens, K. Hovnanian Homes, M&T Bank, MacKenzie Contracting Company, LLC, Reliable Contracting Co. Inc., Roland Slate Service Co., and WMAR TV - ABC 2.

The Summit School campus now has new landscaping and hardscaping, roofing, stairs, and fencing. New projects have also been initiated that will add to the transformation of our campus. Plans are underway for a regulation soccer field, tennis court and a new STEM lab/Maker Space, all initiated as a result of this generous opportunity from WMAR TV. Thanks to Ben Dyer Associates, Inc., Hustead Landscape Architecture, LLC, Linowes and Blocher LLP, McCarthy & Associates, Inc., Ronald W. Johnson Associates, Inc. and The Verve Partnership for working on this next stage of our transformation. Stay tuned – we are on a roll!

**Build a dream, build a foundation, build a reality** – that’s what *Built Upon A Dream* did for our campus, but these three “builds” are very familiar to Summit.

The Summit School was the dream of Dr. Jane R. Snider, Founder, as a result of her work with evaluating and tutoring children in the greater Annapolis area. She and her team built the foundation of our school, first at a temporary location in Upper Marlboro, MD, and then at our current location in Edgewater, MD. And the school has been a reality since 1989 for hundreds of students.

**Build a Dream**

Every day, parents who don’t even know about The Summit School have a dream – a dream in which their children learn to read, write, do math, and in general, “do school.” They dream about a future in which their child is happy, fulfilled, and content with their choices in life. Children have a dream, too. Children dream about giving the right answers in class, about being able to read without a struggle, about memorizing math facts, and about being confident and competent as a learner.

**Build a Foundation**

Every day, Summit teachers build a strong foundation for learning for our students. This foundation begins with trust and relationships. Our students soon realize that their teachers are invested in their enjoyment of learning and their successes, and that builds a bond that enables children to become open to the possibilities of learning. Our students learn to “Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy.” (Miss Frizzle, Magic School Bus). Being open to taking risks and making mistakes requires confidence and confidence is necessary groundwork for the learning foundation. Research-based instruction and strategies implemented by our teachers, across the curriculum, are key to skill and knowledge building. A STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) infused curriculum facilitates curiosity, problem solving, and teamwork. It is the use of these instructional frameworks that build that academic foundation upon which skill, knowledge, confidence, motivation, and love of learning thrive.

**Build a Reality**

Ultimately, it is this thoughtful and purposeful foundation upon which the realities of success are built. The vast majority of Summit students (98%) graduate from high school with a regular diploma. Our students follow their dreams. Those dreams may include college (more than 85% of our students pursue higher education), the Arts, trades, sales, entrepreneurship, or the military. The reality is that Summit alumni tell us that The Summit School formed the foundation for their successes. One alumnus told us, “I feel I owe my success not to my high school, or even my college, but dating back to my eight years of education at The Summit School.” You can’t get more real than that!

Here’s to another exciting, learning-filled year of building dreams, foundations, and realities. Thank you WMAR TV - ABC 2 for transforming our campus so that we can concentrate on transforming the lives of our students at The Summit School.

Best regards,

DeAnn A. Mele-McCarthy, CCC-SLP Executive Director

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**Built Upon A Dream**

We are so thankful to WMAR TV - ABC 2 for selecting The Summit School to be the beneficiary of this year’s *Built Upon A Dream* program, which followed a team of sponsors, contractors, and volunteers as they worked together to renovate and refresh our campus. Modeled in the spirit of the ABC Network’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” program, work was completed on the Summit campus during August and September 2015. The half-hour TV special aired on Thursday, September 17 and was viewed by more than 11,000 people in the Baltimore metro area.

Summit now has new landscaping and hardscaping, roofing, stairs, and fencing. Plus, new projects have been initiated - a regulation soccer field, a tennis court, and a STEM lab/Maker Space – all as a result of *Built Upon A Dream*. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the sponsors, contractors, and volunteers who transformed our campus and to those who continue to work on our new projects:

- Ben Dyer Associates, Inc.
- Chaney Enterprises
- Fence & Deck Connection
- Homestead Gardens
- Hustead Landscape Architecture, LLC
- MacKenzie Contracting Company, LLC
- Lincoln & Blocher, LLP
- McCarthy & Associates, Inc.
- K. Hovnanian Homes
- M&T Bank
- WMAR TV - ABC 2
- Ronald W. Johnson Associates, Inc.

**Welcome New Faculty & Staff**

- Ryan Ferguson, Performing Arts Instructor
- Clinton Kittrell, Instructor
- Siobhan Lydon, Instructor
- Kirstin Menzie, Instructor
- Andrea Rye, Instructor
- Darla Winstead, Instructor

- Not pictured: Amy Haines, RN, School Nurse

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  - M&T Bank
  - WMAR TV - ABC 2
  - Ronald W. Johnson Associates, Inc.

DeAnn Baker concluded her term on the Board of Directors. DeAnn had been a member of the Board since 2013 and has been a tremendous contributor to the Board of Directors. Thank you to DeAnn for her service and commitment to The Summit School.

We are excited to welcome new board member, Stacy Labbe. Stacy is an alumni parent whose son, Jared, graduated June 2015.
News from Dr. McCarthy

Dr. McCarthy authored a chapter in the recently released book from The Dyslexia Foundation Extraordinary Brain series, “Advances in Reading Intervention: Research to Practice to Research”, Connor and McCardle, Brookes Publishing (2015). Dr. McCarthy’s contribution is Chapter 10 of the book “What Practioners Think and Want to Know.”

In March 2015, Dr. McCarthy testified in person and provided written testimony at the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis in support of House Bill 278 which would establish a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program. In May the Bill was approved and in August, Governor Larry Hogan designated Dr. McCarthy to Chair the Task Force. Dr. McCarthy will lead a team of professionals representing various educational constituents to complete a report of findings and recommendations by the end of December for the new legislative session in January 2016.
The Summit School’s 25th commencement ceremony took place on Friday, June 5th. The class of 2015 included 22 eighth grade students. Faculty members gave individual speeches about each graduate and their journey at Summit.

The following awards were presented to graduates:

- **Nicholas Vance** - The Donnor Award, for enthusiasm, integrity, and responsibility
- **Jared Labbe** - The Duff Award, for highest GPA
- **Zoe Forrest** - Fine Arts Award, for demonstrating excellence in the arts
- **Mary Kate House and Nicholas Vance** - The Scholar-Athlete Award, for diligence in academics and sports
- **Sam Anderson, Ronan Fanning, Ryan Jakoby, Jared Labbe, Isabella Smith, and Ethan Wheeler** - The Sojourner Award, for attending Summit since their primary years

The graduating students are now attending the following high schools: Archbishop Spalding High School, Gunston School, Indian Creek Upper School, Jemicy School, and Mount Saint Joseph High School.

Thank you to our Athletic Sponsors:
On Friday, April 24th, the Summit community gathered for a Totally 80's celebration at Greenway Bowl in Odenton. The Totally 80's Gutter Ball Gala drew more than 200 attendees out in support of the school for bright students with dyslexia and other learning differences.

Attendees were transported back to the 80's with festive decor, music, and attire, while enjoying delicious food and refreshments donated by 23 area restaurants and caterers. They were invited to go ‘back to the future’ and visit a Summit classroom to see and learn about the numerous technology items that contribute to the school’s unique program.

The event was supported by several generous sponsors. The Presenting Sponsor was an anonymous friend of Summit. In addition, both the Halle Family and the T2 Class (8th grade class) contributed as KingPin Sponsors.

The Totally 80's Gutter Ball Gala raised a net profit of $110,000 for The Summit School, plus an additional $18,000 for the school's technology fund. Cutting-edge technology is a priority for the school's program. Summit teachers incorporate technology in their instruction to increase student engagement and to add innovation to their multi-sensory lesson plans.

Thank you to the following restaurants and caterers who provided the evening’s menu:

- Adam's Grille & Taphouse
- Bakery Express/Ms. Desserts
- Bella Sera
- Boatyard Bar & Grill
- Brio Tuscan Grille
- Buddy’s Crabs and Ribs
- Chevy’s Fresh Mex
- Chick-fil-A, Edgewater
- Dream Weaver Café and Catering
- Julie St. Marie Catering & Event Coordination
- Killarney House
- Luna Blu
- Nando’s Peri Peri
- Old Stein Inn
- Osteria 177
- P.F. Chang’s China Bistro
- Paladar Latin Kitchen and Rum Bar
- Palate Pleasers
- Starbucks Coffee, Edgewater
- The All American Steakhouse & Sports Theater
- The Green Turtle, Edgewater
- Whole Foods Market, Annapolis

The Zelma Wynn Symposium
Mindfulness and the Emotional Art of Teaching: Revitalizing Teaching and Learning
Saturday, October 17, 2015
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
The Summit School

Save the Date
Annual Gala
Dancing for the Stars
April 1, 2016
Dancing shoes not required!

Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, October 22, 2015
The Golf Club at South River
3451 Solomons Island Road
Edgewater, MD 21037
Alumni News

Sophie Barrett ’11 (pictured right) graduated from Indian Creek Upper School in 2015. She was accepted to Curry College in Massachusetts for this fall but decided to take a gap year through Youth International. Sophie will go to Nepal, India, and Thailand and spend time exploring, staying with local families, and participating in community service activities. Curry College is a possibility for Fall 2016.

Casey Reynolds, who left Summit in 2012, graduated from Haven Middle School in Chicago. In 2015, she moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon where she attends Lake Oswego Senior High School. She is a cheerleader and a gymnast.

Carter Lentz ’11 graduated from St. Michael’s High School and is attending Virginia Military Institute (VMI) this fall.

Courtland Merkel ’05 graduated from Bowie State University with the highest honors, summa cum laude. He currently has an internship at Bowie State University and is considering going back for his Master’s in Law.

Nicole Stark ’10 graduated from Indian Creek Upper School in 2014. She now attends Widener University with a dual major in Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. Her minor is in Math.

Bennett Pierce, Summit Class of 2000

Kenneth was the recipient of the E. Allen Robinson “Most Likely to Succeed” Award at Summit’s June 2015 graduation ceremony. For several years, Kenny worked in the television and movie production industry. He now owns a photography business in New York City.

Eric Budge, Summit Class of 2006

High School: The Darrow School, New Lebanon NY; Class of 2010
College: St. Lawrence University, Canton NY; Class of 2014
Major: Mathematics and minor in Physics and Education
Advanced Schooling: This fall, Eric is starting as a Master’s candidate at Georgetown University and will be taking applied mathematics and statistics courses for the next two years.

Current and past jobs: Over the last year, Eric has been teaching at an after school program in Washington, D.C., while working as a substitute teacher. He has also been tutoring calculus and other mathematics. In college, he also worked as an educator as well as an assistant in the University Library.

Professional/Career Goals: With his master’s degree, Eric hopes to work as a data analyst for either a large company or the government. This would mean looking at large sets of data and interpreting them and finding ways to utilize the meaningful information.

Favorite Memory of Summit: “During my T2 algebra class our teacher always had us start with a warm up called a ‘Mind Trap’: these problems would range from codes and puzzles to solving riddles and mysteries. Some of these would be simple and we could solve in seconds while others could take the class 20 minutes to solve. These were always the highlight of the class, but the reason they stand out is because when I graduated that spring my teacher gave the unsolved problems to me so I could continue challenging myself. I still keep the cards in my desk to remind myself that no matter how hard a problem might be I can always find an answer by thinking outside the box and asking for help.”

Message to Summit Students: “If I could tell the students at Summit one thing it would be to always believe in yourself. No matter what you do with your life and what path you take, know that you can achieve your goals when you work hard and stay true to yourself. It may not be profound or original but being able to believe in myself has been the most valuable tool that Summit gave me, and every student should know how rare and special that is.”

Favorite Book: The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy