



Volume 15 Issue 9
October 17, 2011

*"Semper Excelsius-
The Liberty Way"*

The Liberty Common School
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
A National Charter School of the Year, A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon
School, A Certified Core Knowledge Visitation Site School,
A John Irwin School of Excellence

What's Happening At LCS-K-6th

Oct. 18: Alcohol and Drug Education Night for 5th and 6th grade students and parents, 6:30 p.m. –Liberty Common Performance Hall

Oct. 21: No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences

Oct. 21: RSVP deadline for Grandparents Day.

Oct. 27: Liberty T-shirt Day

Oct. 28: No School-Teacher/Professional Development

Nov. 1: Public Information Night– 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 4: Hearing and Vision Screening

Liberty T-Shirt Day is Oct. 27th. Wear your Liberty T-shirt and show your Liberty pride.

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Crissy Kopren –226-1005
Amy Redstone-378-1170
Dan Provaznik– 223-0188
Mark Sutherland-225-0432
Cassy Turner– 691-3027
Jeff Webb-545-9636
Bill Werst– 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting:
Liberty Common School
October 20, 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

In light of the upcoming PSD Board of Education elections, this is a timely writing for everyone to consider. Liberty Common School and all other charter schools thrive because of the flexibility to govern according to what is best for each school. Please make sure you research the candidates running for the BOE and confirm that they support charter schools.

Charter Schools – A Vote for Local Control

Edwin J. Fuelner (President of the Heritage Foundation) and Doug Wilson (Chairman of Townhall.com) released a book entitled "Getting America Right – The True Conservative Values Our Nation Needs Today." In this book, the authors assert that all government action should have to answer to the following six questions:

1. Is it the government's business?
2. Does this measure promote self-reliance?
3. Is it responsible?
4. Does it make us more prosperous?
5. Does it make us safer?
6. Does it unify us?

In the chapter "Is It the Government's Business," the authors address the role they feel the federal government should, or should not for that matter, play in the decision making processes for schools. The authors state, "The Founding fathers correctly understood that educating our children was a job best left to local control. Indeed, we can be supremely confident that the Founders did not envision a federal role in education. The Northwest Ordinance, passed by the Congress during the summer of 1787, clearly stated that "religion, and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be encouraged." Yet the Founders later omitted education from Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, laying out the powers of the federal government. The omission was not an accident; the Founders understood the importance of making educational decisions on a local level. It is the right and responsibility of parents, after all, to see to it that their children are inculcated with the proper ethics and values, and given the necessary knowledge and skills to allow them to make their own way in the world. But by taking on an ever-larger role in education, the government has usurped parental rights and responsibilities."

Charter Schools, like Liberty Common School, understand this and are proud to say that while we still operate under the federal and state mandated laws, we have much greater freedom to make decisions that are relevant to our specific school for the betterment of our school.

A problem with the federal government involvement in education and the "big" school district systems is that often times people who are not connected with schools or are unaware of the needs of a specific school, are making decisions for that school. This just doesn't make sense or seem practical.

As with many large government programs, there seems to be a lack of accountability for spending and results. Therein lies the beauty of charter schools. Charter schools are held accountable more so than most public schools. If a charter school fails or does not meet its charter, it will be closed. If a charter school is not a good one, people will talk with their feet and not attend it anymore, and thus it will close. But, what happens to a mainstream public school that does not perform well? Often times they are given more money and excuses are offered as to why they could not demonstrate success.

(Continued on Page 4)

How to Reach Us

- Our office hours are **7:30-4:00 p.m.**
- Our telephone number is **(970) 482-9800**
- Our attendance line is **(970) 482-9800**, option 2, please call by 8:30 a.m.
- Please note that you may go to your student's classroom and wait for them to be dismissed only after 2:50 p.m.
- If you need to take your child to an appointment during school hours, please come to the Front Office, sign them out and we will call them out of class.
- All students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in at the Front Office. It is important that a reason be written as this determines if the tardy is excused or not.
- Our school closes at 4:00 p.m. All students need to have left the building by 4:00 p.m. or chaperoned by a parent or guardian.

Pumpkin Sale 100% of Proceeds go to Liberty

*Don't go buy pumpkins at the grocery store this year, instead enjoy the fall weather and take a trip out the pumpkin patch. Pick from hundreds of pumpkins. Enjoy the fall weather as you help raise money for Liberty Common School.
(100% of the proceeds go to Liberty)*

Open:

Saturdays: from 10 am to 5 pm.

Sundays: from 11 am to 4 pm.

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 8th - Sunday, Oct. 29th.

Directions: Take Timberline North to Mountain Vista Drive, Right on Mountain Vista, Take first left on Giddings, go ¼ to ½ mile. Look for signs on your right. Questions call – 218-2460.



Drug and Alcohol Education Night 5th and 6th Graders and Parents Oct. 18th, 6:30 p.m.

All 5th and 6th graders and parents are invited to attend Liberty's Annual Drug and Alcohol Education Night on October 18th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The evening will begin with speaker Jep Enck, a national speaker from Enck Resources, who will lead an interactive session focusing on qualities of friendship and will give students tools to create relationships that support their greater good.

During the second half of the evening we will show a film series-Natural High which displays how youth can live up to their highest potential-DRUG Free. Please mark your calendars to attend.

Math Counts Begins Nov. 1st 6th-8th Graders Invited

MathCounts is an exciting and competitive mathematics program that promotes achievement through a series of fun and engaging "bee" style contests. It is open to all 6th – 8th grade students, and will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4pm beginning on November 1st at the high school in Mr. Lovely's room (206C). The Northern Colorado competition is held in February every year, and alternates its venue between CSU and UNC. For more information, contact Mr. Lovely (tlovely@libertycommon.org).

MAA American Mathematics Competitions

The MAA holds AMC competitions each year for a wide variety of grade levels. This year Liberty will be hosting the AMC-8 on Tuesday, November 15th, from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the high school campus (2745 Minnesota Drive). The competition is open to anyone in the 8th grade or lower. Advanced math students in the elementary school are welcome to attend. If your student is interested in participating, contact Mr. Lovely (tlovely@libertycommon.org) to RSVP so enough exams can be ordered.

Hearing and Vision Testing– November 4th

Parents:

According to district guidelines, we will be screening grades K-3rd, and 5th for hearing and vision. If you have a child in grades 4th or 6th that you would like to be screened, please call us at x113. Please remind your children to wear their glasses or contacts on Friday, November 4.

Thank you,
Angie Selgren
Health Technician

Alpine Achievement Essay Contest

Alpine Achievement Systems is pleased to announce the Second Annual Essay Contest for students in our school. Students can win \$500 for themselves and \$500 for our school library.

The essay topic for 2011 is "Leaving Your Mark in the World" - the complete announcement and parent authorization form as well as the submission form are on pages 5-7. The submission deadline is Friday, November 18, 2011.

Please have your student submit their essay and all registration materials to their teacher for review. Only two essays per school may be submitted.

Grandparents Day Nov. 22, 2011 Save The Date !

This year's Liberty Grandparents Day is Tuesday, November 22nd. [CLICK HERE](#) for full information about Grandparents Day 2011 including RSVP instructions. Invitations were recently mailed out. If yours didn't show up, please know it's not intentional and your student's grandparents are still invited to participate. Please notify grandparents now so they'll have plenty of time to make travel arrangements. This is a very popular Liberty event. The RSVP date is **Friday, Oct. 21st**. This is very firm RSVP date. Due to limited seating, class scheduling with grandchildren and other special arrangements, no RSVPs will be accepted after Oct. 21st.

Honor Those Who Serve

Every November, for Veterans Day, we like to honor our men and women veterans and those that are currently serving our country with a display of thanks. To make our bulletin board a great presentation of respect and appreciation, we are needing pictures of our soldiers. Please bring in any photos of service men or women to the office. Include their name, where they served or are currently serving and their relation to our Liberty Common what Liberty Common student(s). **Photos will be accepted until November 4th** and will be returned. Photos can also be sent via email to jronen@libertycommon.org.

Robotics Competition Volunteers Needed

Liberty is hosting its second annual FLL Robotics Competition on November 5 at the elementary school. We need volunteers, especially judges and referees, to help at the tournament. The teams of elementary and middle school students are judged in three areas: the design and programming of their robot, their research project presentation, and teamwork. Adult judges, both technical and non-technical, are needed in those three areas. High school students with a technical background would be great referees for the robot matches. Junior high and high school students are also invited to volunteer in a variety of roles to help the tournament run smoothly. For more information, please contact Sondra Iverson at sondra@pleasingsoftware.com or visit <http://fll.coloradofirst.org/volunteer> to help support STEM in our community and get a free t-shirt!

Scrip Program News

Please remember to submit your scrip order by 8:00am Monday, Oct 24th. Cards ordered on this date will be available for pick up on Friday, Oct 28th by 4:00 p.m. If you are wanting to order King Soopers gift cards and they are not listed on your order form, please just fill in the quantity and type you want at the bottom of your form and include them in your total. King Soopers gift cards are available in \$25 and \$100 increments and are reloadable at the store. Please keep scrip cards in mind for the holidays, as they are quickly approaching. If you don't see a card for the merchant you want, please feel free to ask, it may be available but not listed on the current order form. If you have any questions, please see contact information below.

Anyone that is interested in helping with this program please contact Tracy Horst at dthorst@msn.com or (970) 223-7282. We need more volunteers to make this program successful and profitable for the school.

New Computer Kiosk for School Volunteers and Visitors

Liberty Common School is preparing for a new computer kiosk for volunteer sign in and sign out. This new system will allow for volunteers to sign in and out at a computer station. Each volunteer will have a pre-made name badge with a barcode. Upon arrival for a volunteer shift, volunteers will simply scan a badge on the way in and again on the way out. There will no longer be a handwritten sign in/sign out form.

This is a great time to make sure that you are registered as a volunteer and that your volunteer information is up-to-date. To do this, visit the website for PSD Partnerships and Volunteers at <http://www.psdschools.org/partnerships>.

At a later time there will also be a visitor function to this new system on which visitors will sign in on the computer, print a visitor badge, and log out.

Headmaster Writing (Continued from Page 1)

Thomas Sowell addresses this concept of local control in his book “Basic Economics.” In this book he is addressing centrally planned economics (federal or state level) as opposed to local price coordinated economies. He states, “A price coordinated economy may have no more total knowledge overall than a centrally-planned economy, but that knowledge is distributed very differently, as is the decision-making power. When the owner of a gas station located on a highway in a capitalist country sees that the highway is being torn up for repairs, he knows to order less gasoline than usual from his supplier, because there will not be nearly as much traffic going past his station as before, at least until the repairs are completed.

This local gas station owner does not need the permission of anybody to change how much gasoline he orders or what hours he will stay open. The knowledge and power are combined in that same person. Moreover, that person is operating under the incentives and constraints inherent in the prospect of profits and the threat of losses, rather than under orders from distant bureaucrats. Nor is this peculiar to gas stations. The same instant and local decision-making power by those with the facts before their eyes is common throughout a price-coordinated market economy. That is one of its advantages over a centrally planned economy and one of the factors behind the enormous differences in results between the two kinds of economies.”

Even though Sowell is writing in relation to economics, the same patterns can be seen in education. Charter schools in public education are what the local, price coordinated, gas station is in the aforementioned example. Charter schools are making decisions based on the facts that are right before their eyes. If something is wrong, it can be fixed swiftly and effectively. And what controls are in place to ensure things don’t go awry? Again, let’s take a look at the previous example. Charter schools are operating under the “constraints inherent in the prospect of profits and the threat of losses.” If a charter school is successful, it will produce solid academic results and will have parents and students clamoring to attend. If not, the charter school will ultimately fail and go away.

Liberty Common School experienced a situation where it was allowed to exercise local control a few years ago. The math program being used at that time was not meeting the needs of our students. We immediately began researching math programs and within a year decided on the Singapore Math program and made the change for our students. Getting a program changed on the district level sometimes can take as many as three to four years. How wonderful that we were able to act swiftly to our specific problem when the need came about. The facts were right before our eyes and we acted.

Government, centrally planned schools or charter, locally controlled schools.... hmmm, which one is better? We agree with our Founding Fathers; we vote for the charter, locally controlled schools.



Liberty Dress Code

Parents,

Please take a moment and look over the Liberty dress code in the parents/student handbook (page 45). We have had a number of students out of dress code. Your help in monitoring how students come dressed each day would be helpful. ([Click Here](#))

Keith (Casey) Churchill, Principal

Calling All Kindergarteners for 2012-2013

We have begun filling our Kindergarten sibling spots for next year. If your child is planning on attending Kindergarten at Liberty next year-2013-2014, please call the Front Office or stop by and speak with Bev Hanawalt. Don’t delay as spots are filling quickly.

Liberty Clothes Closet Available to All

Seasons are changing, kids have grown, and clothes no longer fit. Come in and visit the clothes closet and choose from the wide selection available.

The Liberty Common Clothes Closet is a closet of gently used code clothing that is available to all Liberty families. Parents may purchase items for \$1.00 per item or evenly exchange items for others. The closet is open from 7:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Paying for College

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

Every Liberty student who truly wants to go to college will be able to do it. The frightening question for many is how to pay for it.

Here's the answer: Every Liberty student who truly wants to go to college and who truly gets themselves ready for college will indeed be able to pay for it. I promise.

There. Now your student has no excuse.

How can I assert such a bold and unequivocal declaration? It's easy. I can do it because it's early, I know our students and I know our school.

Not a single Liberty student is so far behind the eight ball – neither academically nor financially – that they can't find their way to a useful college degree. This is absolutely true right now, because our closest kids to high-school graduation are just today only starting the second quarter of their junior year.

They all have time to make it. But, they'll have to make the effort and take it seriously.

The first rule of paying for college is to start planning early. It's a well-demonstrated axiom; the more difficult it is for you to afford college, the earlier you should start on identifying options.

In fact, Liberty students can literally start today. There is a big financial-aid meeting for all PSD students, including Liberty students, this evening at Fort Collins High School. It starts at 6:00 and ends at 8:30 p.m. Liberty's high-school students should go. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

There are [endless options for college](#), but many of them disappear the longer one waits. Some steps are automatic. For example, completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is something you'll have to do if you anticipate needing financial aid.

[Get the FAFSA form now](#). Even if you're a year or so away from submitting it, it's quite helpful in getting acquainted with the kind of information required for college financing and the vocabulary of student aid.

Use your Liberty-issued [Naviance](#) passcode and take some time to click around the website. Use the tools there that are at your disposal. Please don't wait to understand what an advantage this tool can be. If you need help, contact Liberty's college counselor Mr. Morrill at jmorrill@libertycommon.org.

[According to the College Board](#), only 43 percent of college-bound seniors nationally were ready for college last year. Liberty's numbers will come in much higher. Actually, some of Liberty's juniors are already considered college ready.

For the class of 2013, our academic goal is nothing less than 100 percent college readiness upon graduation. Figuring out how they'll all be able to pay for college requires all hands on deck – family initiative, student ingenuity and active Liberty support.

With all my heart, I am completely convinced every LCHS graduate will be ready. And I know each will find success in college. I really am convinced every Liberty graduate will be able to finance college.

However, I also know that for many it won't be easy. Attending tonight's financial-aid meeting is an important first step, especially for those who anticipate money being the biggest part of the challenge.

2nd Annual - Alpine Achievement Essay Contest

What is it? It is an essay contest open to students from any school that subscribes to services from Alpine Achievement Systems during the 2011-12 school year. Last year students from 52 schools in 3 states participated.

What is the essay topic for 2011?

How would you like to leave your mark in the world? In what ways are the things you are learning in school providing you with the inspiration, skills, and knowledge you need to help you succeed?

Formatting: The essay should be no longer than 2 typed pages with 12 point font (4 pages hand written). Elementary submissions may be hand written or typed. The essay itself should not contain the name of your school district, school, or the student's name if possible.

Prize: \$500 prize for the student and \$500 prize for the school at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. It is our hope that students will use the prize toward post-secondary college/career preparation and that the school will use their award to further inspire their students to reach their college and career goals. Winning essays along with the name and photo of the student will be posted on the Alpine Achievement Systems website. *All decisions are final. Submission materials will not be returned.*

When is it due? Essays may be submitted by an Alpine full permission user until 6:00 PM MST on Friday, November 18, 2011.

How many essays can be submitted? Up to 2 essays per school may be submitted. The essays will not be exported until after the deadline, so submissions may be modified until that time.

How are essays submitted: An online submission form is available to Alpine full permission users which contains spaces for identifying information about the student, school, and district. School personnel should review possible essays for submission ahead of time and select no more than 2 (this includes schools whose grades span more than one level). The submission will include the essay, teacher/counselor endorsement, parent/student release, and a photo of the student.

What are we looking for? Essays are first grouped in elementary, middle, and high categories and are scored blind. Each essay is reviewed with attention to the following general themes:

- 1) Addressing the topic and themes of the essay
- 2) Persuasiveness and connection among the essay's themes
- 3) Mastery and control of language in the service of #1 and #2 above (includes mechanics, presentation, and style).

2nd Annual - Alpine Achievement
Essay Contest

Parent Authorization and Release

I hereby authorize my child, (print name) _____, to participate in the Alpine Achievement Systems 2011 Essay Contest. I understand that a check in the student's name for \$500.00 will be awarded for up to one essay per level (elementary, middle, high). It is the intent of Alpine Achievement Systems that the award be used to further the student's college and career goals and aspirations. However, the award may be used at the parent/child's discretion. I understand that a 1099 tax form may be issued in the applicable tax year in the student's name. Also a donation of \$500.00 will be made to the school's library in the name of the winning student to further the school's ability to support students' college and career aspirations.

Winning essays will be posted on the Alpine website along with the student's name, grade level, and school. If your child should win the contest, this form serves as your authorization to post the essay, or a synopsis of the essay along with your child's name and photo on the Alpine Achievement Systems website as an illustration of exemplary achievement.

All materials submitted to Alpine for this contest will become the property of Alpine Achievement Systems and will not be returned. Children of employees of Alpine Achievement Systems and children of school/district staff are not eligible to apply. All decisions are final.

Thanks for participating in the 2011 essay contest!

Name of Parent/Guardian (print): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of School District: _____

Alpine Essay Contest
Screenshot of Submission Form

General Information	
Student First Name <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Student Last Name <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Grade <i>Required</i>	<input type="text" value="1"/>
School Name <i>Required</i>	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Name of Principal <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Email Address of Principal <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Phone (with extension) of Principal <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
The Essay and Parent Release	
Upload your scanned essay and parent release here	
Essay <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
Parent Release <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
Student Photo	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
Teacher/Counselor/Principal Endorsement	
In this section identify the teacher/counselor/principal who is endorsing this submission. Include the name and contact information for this person along with a statement of support regarding the student and his/her work.	
Name of Endorser <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Authenticity of Work: <i>Required</i> <i>As the endorser of this student, I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the content of this essay is solely the work of the student.</i>	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Email Address of Endorser <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Phone (with extension) of Endorser <i>Required</i>	<input type="text"/>
Complete the statement of support in the text box below.	
Why was this particular essay selected for submission? <i>Required</i> <small>Maximum size: 3000 Current size: 0</small>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<input type="button" value="Save"/> - or - <input type="button" value="Return Without Changes"/>	