



Volume 15 Issue 11
November 1, 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

[Click Here](#) to View Liberty
Common High School
Newsletter

What's Happening At LCS-K-6th

Oct. 24-Nov. 4: Liberty
Common Canned Food Drive

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

Nov. 4: Hearing and Vision
Screening

Nov. 8: Colorado Eagles Visit
Liberty– 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Nov. 11: Picture Retake Day

Nov. 11: December lunch
calendars due

Nov. 18: Liberty T-shirt day

Nov. 22: Grandparents Day

Nov. 23-Nov. 25:
Thanksgiving Break

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Crissy Kopren –266-1005
Amy Redstone-378-1170
Dan Provaznik– 223-0188
Mark Sutherlin-225-0432
Cassy Turner– 691-3027
Jeff Webb-545-9636
Bill Werst– 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting:
Liberty Common School
November 17 , 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

Mind and Heart

Philosopher Hugo Grotius once said: “A man cannot govern a nation if he cannot govern a city; he cannot govern a city if he cannot govern a family; he cannot govern a family unless he can govern himself; and he cannot govern himself unless his passions are subject to reason.” John Adams wrote, “The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue.”

So, how do the words of these great men apply to us today? Liberty’s Charter includes a mission statement with seven principles. The fourth principle states, “To thrive in work, citizenship, and personal growth, children must be taught the values of a democratic society. These values include: Respect for others – their property and rights; Responsibility for actions, Honesty and Social Justice; Resourcefulness – being ready to learn, to serve and to share.” From this principle came Liberty’s foundation stones (*Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Self Control, Perseverance, Integrity, and Citizenship*) for the elementary and the capstones (*Justice, Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude, Gratitude and Patriotism*) for the high school. These foundation stones and capstones describe our school culture and are expected behavior for all of us: students, parents, faculty and staff alike.

As you know, Liberty’s educational philosophy is *agency education* - a journey that leads students to self-reliance. The journey applies not only to the development of knowledge and skills (the mind), but also to development character (the heart).

Our Charter explains the moral journey that we call Character Education. “At first the focus is obedience to parental authority. Later the child focuses on rules, or the required patterns of expectations. As in writing and thinking, it is only through the formation of good habits that the ability to act, and act wisely, becomes instinctive. As those habits become more and more internalized, the student journeys closer to self-reliance.”

At Liberty, we try to help students along this journey through a coherent program of expectations, modeling, and the study of historical and literary examples. John Adams, whom I quoted earlier, was a founder of our country, and we owe him a lot for the freedoms we enjoy today. But just as important, Adams was a great example of how to blend public duty with moral character. Adams argued against slavery because he believed it violated human dignity. Adams never allowed the demands of public life to overshadow the most important things in his life - his devotion and fidelity to his wife and children. St. Augustine once said, “To be faithful in little things is a big thing.” What a great lesson for our children!

Archbishop Charles Chaput noted, “It is easy to talk about fixing the problems of American society with big national programs and policies, because we can always blame somebody else when they don’t work. Personal change, personal moral integrity... that’s much harder because we are stuck with the clay of who we are, and there is no one to blame but ourselves when we fail. But in persisting in the little things, we accomplish a big thing. *We affect others.*” That is our goal, and our challenge, here at Liberty.

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.



Honor Those Who Serve Deadline Nov. 4th

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.

Calling All Kindergarteners for 2012-2013 School Year

We have begun filling our Kindergarten sibling spots for next year. If your child is planning on attending Kindergarten at Liberty next year, 2012-2013, please call the Front Office or stop by and speak with Bev Hanawalt. Don't delay as spots are filling quickly.

Can Can, Can You Bring A Can for the Liberty Common Canned Food Drive?

The Liberty Common Annual Canned Food Drive began with strong participation and more cans are needed to make this a successful giving project. **We currently have collected 368 cans.** Please bring in non-perishable items to be donated to the Larimer County Food Bank. Food will be collected and counted in the classrooms and then placed on the stage for all to see. If the students collect 2,011 cans, they will earn a free dress day. If the students collect 3,000 or more cans, faculty and staff will be doing "Minute to Win It- Teacher Edition" (schedule TBA). Don't miss out on this great opportunity to give to others.

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 482-9800 x113. Since 6th graders will be on a field trip Nov. 4th., we will screen these students at a later date. Please remind your children to wear their glasses or contacts on Friday, November 4.

Thank you,
Angie Selgren
Health Technician

Yummy Goodies Needed for Grandparents Day-November 22nd

The RSVP response for Grandparents Day was awesome. We appreciate all the RSVPs and are excited to provide a great Liberty experience for the grandparents who are able to attend. We need volunteers to help provide light breakfast foods such as muffins (only store bought) and fruit for the event. Please contact GPD committee at grandparentsday@libertycommon.org if you would like to provide a nice breakfast for the grandparents. Food donations would be dropped off on Monday, November 21st in the front office. Thank you in advance for your contributions to a great Liberty tradition!



Robotics Competition Nov. 5th at LCS

Liberty is hosting its second annual FLL Robotics Competition on November 5 at LCS. We still need a few more volunteers to help in non-technical areas at the tournament. Junior high or high school students, as well as adults, are welcome. For more information, please contact Sondra Iverson at sondra@pleasingsoftware.com.

Purchase Scrip Cards for Thanksgiving Dinner

Please remember to submit your scrip order by 8:00am **Monday, Nov. 7th**. Cards ordered on this date will be available for pick up on **Friday, Nov. 11th** 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.

MAA American Mathematics Competitions (AMC)

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 (tlvely@libertycommon.org) to RSVP so enough exams can be ordered.

Bus Drivers Needed

Liberty Common School is looking for certified school bus drivers or anyone who is willing to be trained to become a certified school bus driver. Our drivers will be driving a shuttle route between the elementary school and high school and driving to athletic events. If interested, please email Mr. Spicer at rspicer@libertycommon.org.

Picture Retakes-November 11th

School picture retakes and make-ups will be November 11, 2011 from 8:15-9:00 a.m. If your student was absent or is new to the school you may have his/her picture taken. If you had a picture taken but didn't purchase a package you may have a new picture taken and purchase a picture package. If you would like your student to have a retake you must return the original package in full with reason for the retake clearly stated on the package. If a student wears non-dress code for pictures they are required to change into dress code attire after pictures are taken.

Music Volunteers Needed

Ms. Palfreeman is looking for volunteers to help with:

*5th and 6th Grade Band

- Classroom set-up for band classes (about 7:30am before class)
- Classroom aides: 5th- Tu/Th 8:00-8:45am, 6th- M/F 8:00-8:45am
- Volunteers who play instruments (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion) who can work with individuals or sections who need extra help

*Classroom Aides: 1st/2nd Grade

*Bulletin Boards and Hanging Work

*Guitar Tuning (Weekly)

If interested, please contact Ms. Palfreeman at jpalfreeman@libertycommon.org

We're Off To See The Wizard 5th and 6th Grade Musical is on it's way!

Attention parents: students will be sent home with an letter containing important dates, audition information and volunteer opportunities. Keep an eye out for this letter and clear your calendar for the important dates if your student is planning on being involved!

Feel free to contact Erin Grandprey, egrandprey@libertycommon.org, or Jill Palfreeman, jpalfreeman@libertycommon.org for more information.



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.

6th-8th Grade Girls Soccer News

Who's ready for soccer? This spring will be the first time that Liberty will field a junior high girls' soccer team! My name is Chuck Hubbeling and I'm excited to be the coach of the Liberty Eagles this spring. I have been certified at the state level with an "E" license and coached girls soccer for eight years of which four are at the 6th to 8th grade level.

My philosophy is that Liberty soccer is an extension of the school. Consequently, we will work hard, play to the best of our ability and reflect a high standard of conduct. Additionally, we'll eat pizza, throw water balloons, watch movies, and generally have a great time.

Girls in grades 6-8 interested in spring junior high soccer are invited to hone their skills on Saturdays leading up to the season. The team will be meeting for soccer "kick-arounds" at the same time as the high school team. We'll meet at the Elementary School (1725 Sharp Point Drive) on the dates listed below. These kick-arounds are not mandatory, but are strongly recommended for tryouts. If you are unable to make some dates due to conflicts, please let me know. **If you are playing basketball, we ask that you not participate in the physical activity of the session, but you are welcome to come.**

Kick-around Dates – Schedule is subject to change

Saturday, October 29th, 11:30-1:30
 Saturday, November 5th, 11:30-1:30
 Saturday, November 19th, 2-4:00
 Saturday, December 3rd, 11:30-1:30
 Saturday, December 17th, 11:30-1:30
 Saturday, January 7th, 11:30-1:30
 Saturday, January 21st, 1-3:00
 Saturday, February 4th, 1-3:00



Calling Cecil B. DeMille!

Liberty needs a passable videographer volunteer to make a video documenting Liberty's founding origins. In preparation for [our annual spring gala](#) (April 2012), we need someone to make a video to underscore the event theme – the roots of Liberty. We want to interview founding parents and concisely tell the epic story of [creating Liberty Common School](#). We want to show the [video at the gala](#) and use it thereafter for subsequent school promotions. Here are the criteria: Compelling, timely, cogent, thorough, succinct, moving. Amateurs and experts alike are encouraged to apply. We could cover expenses of perhaps some minor production costs, but the work would be a labor of love. This could easily be a team effort, too. Please contact **Wendy Thomas** at prontobw@msn.com if you're ready to become Liberty's modern-day [Cecil B. DeMille](#).



Cowboy Ethics at LCCHS

By: Bob Schaffer, LCCHS Principal

Two weeks ago, I attended a leadership seminar in Denver along with both of our [School Captains Megan Davis and Gabrielle Bear](#). Aimed at developing youth leadership and skills, the event focused on cowboy ethics and the "Code of the West."

The day-long seminar was sponsored by the Denver-based [Daniels Fund](#) and the [Center for Cowboy Ethics and Leadership](#). Most of the attendees were heads of Colorado non-profit organizations and educational institutions.

Their age made Megan and Gabrielle stand out initially. Before the conference was over, however, they stood out as obvious leaders and because they're from Liberty Common High School.

Really, [CLICK HERE](#) and see for yourself.

In addition to persuading more in Colorado's philanthropic community to know about our young high school, we were introduced to leadership ideas associated with the Code of the West and [Ten Principles To Live By](#). We came home with books, handouts and ideas for discussing cowboy ethics at Liberty.

We were struck by the parallels between [Liberty's capstone virtues](#) and cowboy principles. Liberty's capstones come directly from the cardinal virtues of classical philosophy. The cowboy principles are distilled from rugged individualism and the saddle-borne wisdom of the American cowboy.

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Cowboy Ethics at LCHS

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal
(Continued from Page 4)

The similarity is a fascinating commentary on the timeless consistencies of human nature which turned out to be the subject of our lively conversation throughout the drive back to Fort Collins. In the coming months, Gabrielle and Megan intend to present the cowboy principles to their peers and to the LCHS faculty.

Their plans entail connecting these Western-American rustic principles to the classical Western virtues refined since Plato by St. Thomas Aquinas and other moral philosophers. It's a perfect discussion to have at a Colorado high school that accentuates and elevates a classical liberal-arts curriculum.

Gabrielle and Megan did an outstanding job representing Liberty at the conference and I'm mighty proud of them. I know they'll do an equally great job conveying and amplifying the lessons of the conference to everyone at Liberty.

Until then, here are the ten principles discussed at the cowboy ethics conference:

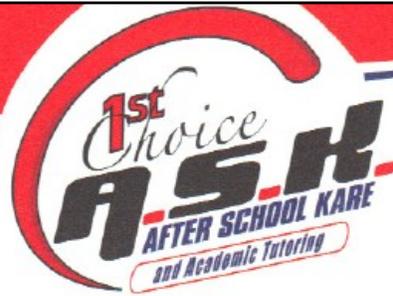
1. Live each day with courage.
 2. Take pride in your work.
 3. Always finish what you start.
 4. Do what has to be done.
 5. Be tough, but fair.
 6. When you make a promise, keep it.
 7. Ride for the brand.
 8. Talk less and say more.
 9. Remember that some things aren't for sale.
- Know where to draw the line.

Please watch our short video report on the conference – [CLICK HERE](#).

Kindergarteners Celebrate Columbus Day



**Don't Forget to bring in
non-perishable food
items thru-Nov. 4th.**



ATTENTION PARENTS

Colorado Eagles Hockey Players are coming! Liberty Common School

1st Choice After School Kare (A.S.K.), Liberty Common's after school care provider, has arranged for two Colorado Eagles Hockey players to visit Liberty Common School.

Who: Colorado Eagles Hockey Players

When: Tues. Nov. 8th, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm

Where: Liberty Common School Choir Room

Why: To sign autographs, take pictures and answer questions from the audience.

Who can attend: Everyone! You do not have to be a member of the A.S.K. Program. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and most of all...your camera.

Special thanks go to your Principal, Mr. Casey Churchill, for his foresight in allowing the 1st Choice After School Kare Program to provide their specialized brand of service on site at the Liberty Common School. Not only do they have many specialty fun activities for the children (i.e., Stranger Danger Bully Defense, Pets and Animals, Soccer classes and more), they also hire Liberty Common certified teachers to help with the children's homework. Most if not all homework is completed by the time you pick your child up from the A.S.K program. Hours are from 3pm-6pm.

"My two children have been with the A.S.K. program since 2008 and have loved it every year. I would highly recommend it to all."

Mrs. Julie Sather Browne, owner of Sather's Leading Jewelers, Ft. Collins.

Please call the owner Mr. Bill Black at **970-744-9284** for more information or visit **www.1stchoiceask.com**. They are currently accepting new students for the remainder of this school year and taking reservations for 2012-2013. Space is limited . . . call NOW!!!

