



**Volume 15 Issue 13
November 14, 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

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Common High School
Newsletter

What’s Happening At LCS-K-6th

Nov. 15: Odyssey of the Mind
Meeting. After School at 3:15
p.m.

Nov. 18: Liberty T-shirt day

Nov. 18. Deadline to purchase
yearbook at \$15

Nov. 22: Grandparents Day

Nov. 23-Nov. 25:
Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29: Kindergarten
Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS

Dec. 9th and 10th:
“You’re A Good Man
Charlie Brown” - 7:00 p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS-
Tickets: \$5/students, \$8
general admission. See
order form on page 5.

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Crissy Kopren –266-1005
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
November 17 , 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

The Secret Is In The Knowledge

E.D. Hirsh penned an article entitled “Not So Grand a Strategy.” In this article, Dr. Hirsh points out that our educational system has failed our society in its attempt to teach our children how to become critical thinkers and problem solvers without having a solid content basis. In doing so, many children were not taught valuable knowledge and facts in early years, but were encouraged to solve problems using higher order thinking skills. Dr. Hirsh points out that there is evidence supporting that a student’s reading level in the 1st grade often predicts his/her achievement in the 11th grade. Successful programs in education pay close attention to sequence and coherence of the child in the early grades.

To try to get our students to problem solve or think critically, our nations educators tried to do so without having a clear coherent plan. The skills were being taught through arbitrary content. Hirsh states, “To teach content is to teach higher-order skills; to teach higher skills explicitly is to pursue a phantom.” In the book “A Nation At Risk,” the authors made the assumption that gaining an academic skill can be independent of the content through which the skill is being taught. That is a huge flaw! Academic skill must be accompanied with solid content knowledge.

Dr. Hirsh then spoke of an experiment conducted by a Dutch psychologist named Adrian de Groot. The article states, “He noticed that chess grand masters have a remarkable skill that we amateurs cannot emulate. They can glance for five seconds at a complex mid-game chess position of 25 pieces, perform an intervening task of some sort, and then reconstruct the entire chess position on a blank chessboard without making any mistakes. Performance on this task correlates almost perfectly with one’s chess ranking. Grand Masters make no mistakes, masters a very few and amateurs can get just five or six pieces right. On a brilliant hunch, de Groot then performed the same experiment with 25 chess pieces in positions that, instead of being taken from an actual chess game, were just placed at random on the board. Under these new conditions, the performance of the three different groups- grand masters, masters, and novices – was exactly the same, each group remembering just five or six pieces correctly.”

What de Groot found was that the difference in how the memory worked was in the vast store of available, relevant, previously acquired knowledge. This is evidenced in an academic skill such as reading as well. The skill of reading and listening is greatly influenced by the previous knowledge of the words in the text and what they mean and refer to.

The idea that teaching students to think critically about any given subject will automatically transfer over to critical thinking in any other area is ludicrous. What often results is a belief in a curriculum that teaches higher order thinking but does not have a coherent knowledge based curriculum. Because of this, many schools do not have a coherent, sequenced curriculum for each grade level. These schools fail to understand that the higher skills are dependent upon a sound base of general knowledge.

Liberty Common School understands the importance of having a broad base of general knowledge. This understanding is applied when making decisions about everything we teach... from skills to academia. We understand that the secret is in the knowledge. A successful curriculum must contain content knowledge. We are seeing the benefits of this approach in our high school classes. Because our students have such a rich and deep content knowledge, they are able to attain higher levels of thinking and processing in most, if not all, of their classes. Yet another reason why I love Liberty Common School and I love Liberty Common High School!

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.

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.

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 6th-8th grade. It is not recommended for 5th grade or lower. If your student is interested in participating, please RSVP to Mr. Lovely at flvely@libertycommon.org so enough exams can be ordered. Thank you.

Grandparents Day Right Around the Corner

Grandparents Day is only 8 days away and we are so excited to provide a great Liberty experience for the grandparents who are able to attend. We could still use 3-4 people to help set up the gym at 6:30 p.m. on Monday Nov. 21st. If interested in helping out that evening, please email Amy Redstone at chookela@hotmail.com.

A big Liberty thank you for those who have already contacted the GPD committee and are willing to bring food or serve as a greeter. We think we'll have enough food donations and greeter volunteers at this point. Thanks for the awesome response! Remember that all food donations can be dropped off at the front desk on Nov. 21 (fruit will be refrigerated).

Odyssey of the Mind Kickoff Meeting– After School this Tuesday– November 15, 2011

Do you like to Solve Problems? Enjoy Performing? If so, check out ODYSSEY OF THE MIND.

Odyssey of the Mind teams apply their creativity to solve problems, then present solutions in a performance on competition day. Learn more about Odyssey of the Mind at an informational meeting...

The meeting will be held in Mrs. Grandprey's Art Room on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

At this meeting, 1) students will be registered, 2) teams will be formed, 3) parent coaches, judges and volunteers finalized, and 4) a practice schedule will be established.

If you are interested in joining an OM team this year, please come to this meeting with a parent or guardian.

If you may have an interest in coaching, please come to the Tuesday meeting, or contact Odyssey coordinator Henrique Barreto (970-227-9883 or Dr.Henrique.Barreto@GMail.Com).



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

Yearbooks Now On Sale

Yearbooks are now on sale for the 2011-2012 school year!!! Yearbook sales will run from November 7th- November 18th. This year our yearbooks will be in full color, paperback and are \$15.00

Order forms have been sent home with your student today and payment is due at the time you submit your form. Please make your check payable to LCS and attach it to the form.

Don't miss this opportunity to capture your student's memories. Deadline to purchase yearbooks at the \$15 rate

Seeking Clothes Closet Donations

We are seeking gently-used dress code clothing without stains or holes to replenish our clothes closet. We also need white socks. Please bring clothing in anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. And remember if you bring in items you can evenly exchange items for others.

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.

The Liberty girls had a great time on Saturday at the soccer kick-around.

We played outside and got a little muddy! After a couple of hours of hard play, the girls celebrated with pizza. All girls in grades 6-11 are invited to come join the fun.

Kick-around Dates - (Schedule is subject to change):

11/19: 2-4:00

12/3: 11:30-1:30

12/17: 11:30-1:30

1/7: 11:30-1:30

1/21: 1-3:00

2/4: 1-3:00

I look forward to seeing you there! Dr. Hubbeling

Purchase Scrip Cards for the Holidays

The holidays are fast approaching and now is the perfect time to purchase scrip cards. There are over 100 merchants that have scrip cards available and many donate more than 5% back to Liberty Common School. For the holidays some merchants are offering a bonus % back— Land's End & Bath & Body Works 18%, L.L. Bean 17%, Macy's 10%, Outback Steakhouse 10% to name a few. 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.

Please remember to submit your scrip order by 8:00am **Monday, Nov. 28th**. Cards ordered on this date will be available for pick up on **Friday, Dec. 2nd**, 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.

Anyone that is interested in helping with this program or has questions, 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.



**Remember to wear your Liberty
T-shirt on November 18, 2011.
Show your Liberty pride in style.**



We're First In Math – Q.E.D!

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS

For over a week now, **Mr. Torgun Lovely's** face has had an ear-to-ear smile across it. It's an audacious, exuberant kind of smile, and it won't go away.

Kids have even tried annoying him in his algebra class to see if they could make it stop. It didn't work. He just kept right on smiling – even as he gave those kids detentions.

And why shouldn't he keep smiling? Mr. Lovely's students won first prize in a big statewide math contest. They came home with grand stories and an impressive trophy.

The next day, Mr. Lovely held up the towering crystal trophy at a school assembly. The entire LCHS student body went wild. Inscribed on the heavy obelisk is "First Place - 2011 CSU Math Day."

Nothing, it seems, will wipe that bodacious smile off Mr. Lovely's face. It might be permanent now that ten days have passed.

A week ago Thursday, Liberty won the epic competition among high-school peer schools from throughout Colorado. And, get this: The winning mathletes from Liberty consisted of two freshmen, **Will Werst** and **Alex Iverson** and a 7th grader, **Matthew Iverson!**

They bested a statewide field of teams comprised chiefly of high-school seniors. A follow-up email from CSU's math department read, "The faculty, staff and grad students are still raving about your three young contestants. They were impressive, and a group to watch!!"

One of the questions easily fielded by the team involved "three letters at the end of a mathematical proof." The answer was Q.E.D.

The letters are traditionally placed at the end of math proofs and philosophical arguments. They stand for the Latin *quod erat demonstrandum* which means "what was to be demonstrated."

It's an elegant and sophisticated way of saying, "There you have it," or maybe, "Yeah! Nailed it!" Or maybe, "Game. Set. Match." Or perhaps, "The fat lady is singing."

In all, LCHS sent 18 scholars over to CSU for the competition and they all did an outstanding job. These other mathletes who helped put LCHS on the mathematical map are: **Alisha Eskew, Anna Garcia, Robert Jones, Alauna Sutton, Anna Gilbertson, Christiana Spicer, Cody Turner, Eryk DeMarco, Evan Rencher, Jonathan Hill, Josh Cochran, Kati Werst, Lucas Elder, Tim Scott** and **Wade Provaznik**.

The students performed like true champions and surely deserve the credit. But their teachers and parents rightfully share in the glory.

Mrs. Kay Lannen, Liberty's erudite geometry and engineering instructor, joined Mr. Lovely in coaching and accompanying the team at the CSU contest. **Mr. Vetter, Mrs. McGowen** along with all the Liberty elementary teachers who prepared these impressive students deserve endless HUZAHs, too.

Add them all up and one thing becomes clear as a big crystal first-place trophy: Liberty Common High School is number one at math – Q.E.D!

Liberty's New Volunteer Computer Kiosk Up and Running

Our new volunteer computer kiosk is up and running. There are still some kinks in the system but our great volunteers have been very patient. Thank you. Please remember to arrive a few minutes early prior to your volunteer time to locate your name badge and sign in. If you have any questions about the new system, please contact the ladies in the front office.

Liberty Common's Can Food Drive Was A Success

The Liberty Common Annual Canned Food drive was a huge success. We collected 3,308 non-perishable food items for the Larimer County Food Bank. (See photo below). For all their generosity students will receive a free dress day, and an assembly where teachers and staff will be participating in "Minute to Win It-Teacher Edition." Thank you to everyone who gave.



Plan Ahead for Holiday Buying

Plan ahead - order your Liberty logo wear now. Hooded and crewneck sweatshirts, long-sleeve and short-sleeve t-shirts, stadium chairs and blankets, they all make *great holiday gifts*. Place your order by Friday, December 2nd and it will be delivered to LCS by Friday, December 16th. Order forms are available in the Front Office.

Liberty Common High School Presents

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

December 9th & 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Pre--purchase your tickets at a discounted price for You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and pick them up at will-call the night of the play. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

All tickets will be reserved seating, so reserve yours today!

Visit www.libertycommonmusic.com for more information.

Tickets: \$8/adult
\$5/student

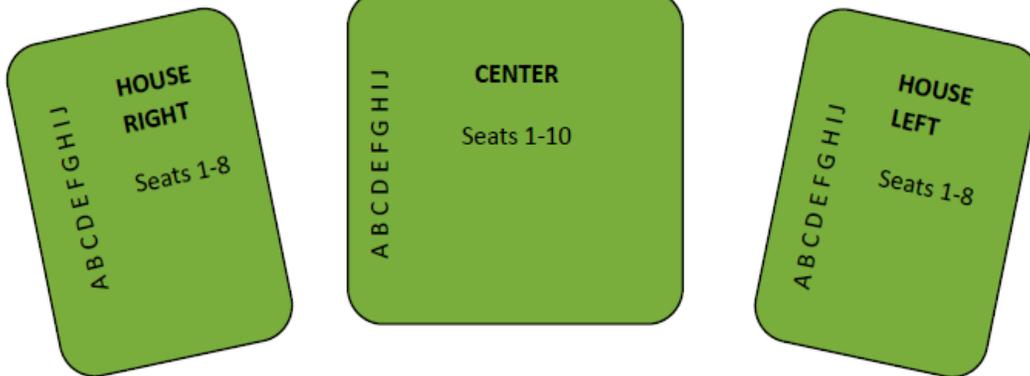
Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
of tickets for Friday _____ or # of tickets for Saturday _____

Seating preference: (1-3 with 1 being your first choice)

Seats are assigned in the same order that the form is received.

House Right _____ Center _____ House Left _____
OR Best Available _____

House Diagram (for reference)



\$ included for tickets:
Check #

Please attach your check to this flyer and return to the LCHS Front Office
no later than December 6, 2011 .

Checks are appreciated, made out to Liberty Common School.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door both nights.
(\$10/adult, \$7/student)