



Volume 15 Issue 14
November 21, 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. 22: Grandparents Day–
8:30 –10:45 a.m. at LCS
12:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m. at LCHS

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.

Dec. 12 - 6th Grade Band/5th
and 6th Choir Concert,6:30p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS

Dec. 16– Liberty T-shirt Day

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
December 15 , 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

Thankful!

I love this time of year because it provides an opportunity to slow down and reflect upon the things for which we are thankful. In the business of everyday life, taking the time to "stop and smell the roses" often does not take place. During this season of Thanksgiving, it seems more than appropriate to list some things about Liberty Common School for which to be thankful. Inevitably there will be items that were inadvertently left off, but I hope this list captures many of the great things happening at our wonderful school (K-11).

We are thankful to The Liberty Common School for:

- Our founding parents, who worked so diligently to create this awesome school.
- Our Board of Directors (Crissy Kopren, Dan Provaznik, Amy Redstone, Mark Sutherland, Cassy Turner, Jeff Webb, and Bill Werst)who selflessly volunteer their time, energy and expertise to govern the school and stay true to Liberty's mission.
- Teachers, who are well educated, disciplined, ethical, devoted, caring, and professional.
- The Academic Support Team that works many hours helping children with special education needs and learning plans.
- A front office staff that holds our schools together on a daily basis.... Thank you thank you, thank you to Bev Hanawalt, Jill Ronen, Julie Russell (LCS) and Susan Groeger, Marilyn Pullin and Marianne Rieb (LCHS).
- Custodians who take pride in the work they do. Way to go Richard Rencher (LCS), Jose and Viola Olveda (LCS) and Don Rappenecker and Tim Stoltz (LCHS)!
- Teachers' Aides who are willing to do anything asked of them – recess duties, reading groups, grading papers, subbing for the teacher, and loving the children.
- Angie Selgren, Susan Groeger and Tina Spicer for providing great care for the children when they are injured or sick.
- A lunch program that provides a good meal and is run in an efficient manner thanks to Mrs. Julie Russell and Mrs. Susan Groeger
- Dedicated, brilliant, and professional Principals (Casey Churchill – Elementary, Bob Schaffer – High School) that never waiver from doing what is right and constantly strive for excellence.
- A College Counselor, Jesse Morrill, who is magnificently preparing and positioning our students to successfully transition into the college of their choice.
- A Business Manager, Tim Ricketts, who superbly manages our money and thoroughly understands school finance.
- A rigorous and rich curriculum that includes Core Knowledge, a Classical education, Singapore, Writing with Structure and Style, Shurley Grammar, Thompson Grammar/Vocabulary/Poetry program, Latin, Spanish, French, English, History, Engineering, Literature, Composition, Science, Computers, Math, Fine Arts, and Performing Arts.
- Parents who are involved with the education of their children.
- Dress code!
- Choice in education.
- Physical education, intramural and athletic programs that are committed to excellence.

(Continued on page 2)

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.

Attention Parents: Picking Up Your Child After School

If you pick up students in the playground area (middle pick up), we are asking that you pick up your child and move your car forward through the line. We have noticed a lot of cars stacking up. This causes the carpool line to back up onto Sharp Point. The staff will be asking students to not play on the play equipment outside so that they can get to their cars. This should help keep the line moving.

If you would like to allow your child time to play, we would ask that you park your car and accompany them to the playground. Thanks for your help with this.

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.

Headmaster Writing Continued from Front Page

- The safety of our children in our school.
- Character Education – Foundation Stones (Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Cooperation, Self-Control, Integrity, Perseverance) Capstones (Gratitude, Patriotism, Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude), and Keystone (Wisdom)
- Firm, yet fair discipline.
- Raising the academic bar.
- The teaching of phonics, math facts, grammar and Latin.
- A performing Arts and Fine Arts program that is second to none!
- The House System, the Order System, and Student Government.
- Not promoting social agendas in the classroom.
- Having school busses.
- Teachers who spend their before school hours, lunches, and after school hours tutoring students.
- All of the volunteers and the work that they do – Guest readers, leading small reading groups, CVC's, field trip coordinators, stuffing Monday Folders, Resource room, Clothes Closet, Lost and Found, Fundraising Committee, Silent Auction, Grandparents' Day, Winter Carnival, Fall Festival, High School Assistants, Robotics Team, Odyssey of the Mind, Math Counts, Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, Coaching, Lunchroom and carpooling students everywhere!
- Classrooms that are conducive to learning and free from unnecessary distractions.
- Cooperative planning time for teachers and opportunities to share their expertise.
- The nightly reading requirement and valued literacy goals.
- Support for teachers who desire professional development opportunities.
- Hundreds of parents who support the teachers and administration!
- Those who help support our school by contributing to the Annual Fund campaign and Silent Auction.
- Students that work ardently in the classroom and at home completing academic requirements.
- A reading list full of quality literature written by quality authors.
- A library full of excellent books thanks to Ms. Connie Behr, our incredible Librarian.
- Awesome facilities for both the elementary campus and high school campus.
- Excellent teachers who will do whatever it takes, for however long it takes, to help a child succeed.
- Semper Excelsious - A school that is dedicated to excellence in every aspect.

As you can see there are many things about The Liberty Common School for which to be thankful. I am thankful to have a job that I enjoy, working with a staff that is incredible, while providing an excellent education for students and families that I truly care for. Yeah, you guessed it... I love The Liberty Common School!

Purchase Scrip Cards for the Holidays

The holidays are fast approaching and now is the perfect time to purchase scrip cards. There are only two more dates for orders to be made before the holidays. We have 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 8:00 a.m. **Monday, Nov. 28th.** Cards ordered on this date will be available for pick up on **Friday, Dec. 2nd.** by 4:00 p.m.

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.

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 Chess Players –Checkmate

Congratulations to the following students who participated in a chess tournament at CSU on Nov. 5th.: **Ryan Green** took 1st place in the 2nd grade division. **David Gao** took 1st place in the 3rd grade division. **Megan Liu** took 2nd place in the 3rd grade division. **James Zheng** took 1st place in the 5th grade division. **Beni Rodriguez** took 4th place in the 5th grade division. **Vedha Vijayarathy** took 2nd place in the 6th grade division.

During a chess tournament on Nov. 12th the following students earned standings in their age division: #2 Standing– **Ryan Green** (2nd grade), #6 Standing–**John McFeely** (2nd grade). #5 Standing–**Patrick Campbell** (4th grade) #7 Standing–**Nathan Meiners**(5th grade) and #4 Standing– **Vedha Vijayarathy**(6th grade).

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. Before the season begins, I am inviting all girls grades 6-11 to join in on one or more of the kick-around dates. We meet at LCS soccer field.

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

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

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.

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



Precious Time With Grandparents

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS

Mine are all gone now, and I really miss them. My last grandparent passed three years ago. Our youngest daughter Mary (LCS 6th grader) is named after her.

A resident of Colorado Springs, my Grandma Mary Schaffer got to see a lot at Liberty. She cheered for us when we helped start the school. She watched all five of our kids – her great grandchildren – receive academic awards, perform in plays and compete in sports at Liberty.

There's a certain comfort knowing she was intimately familiar with Liberty. She had a high opinion of our school, our teachers and our community.

She died knowing her great grandkids were in capable hands and on the right track. Prior to her death, I had no idea how much those kinds of things would eventually matter. Trust me, they really do.

This year's Thanksgiving observance is preceded by our second-annual Liberty Grandparents Day. Last year my in-laws were able to attend. This year, my mom and dad are traveling from Ohio to attend.

Starting at the elementary school, grandparents will receive an introductory briefing from Headmaster Spicer and Principal Casey Churchill. Then they'll be off to class with their grandscholars.

In the afternoon, grandparents of highschoolers (grades 7-11) will be entertained by our musical artists before touring the classrooms and sitting in on lessons throughout our new high-school facility.

The number of attendees exceeds everyone's expectation. As such, we earnestly request parents and other non-grandparents to avoid being in the school tomorrow.

Please also be mindful of the extra traffic. Please be as efficient as possible when dropping off kids and grandparents tomorrow morning. We'll have extra personnel working the parking lots to assist.

If last year was any kind of preview, this is going to be a spectacular event. It will be an occasion to demonstrate respect, admiration and gratitude for family.

It will be a perfect kickoff to the Thanksgiving holiday upon which we reflect on our many blessings, and, especially at Liberty, celebrate the precious time our kids have with their grandparents.



Get In the Holiday Spirit By Attending a Liberty Common Music Function

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

December 12- 6th Grade Band/5th and 6th Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m. Performance Hall, LCS

December 13- LCHS Holiday Concert, 6:30 p.m., location to be determined.

****Be sure to purchase your tickets for LCHS Musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. See page 5.**

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

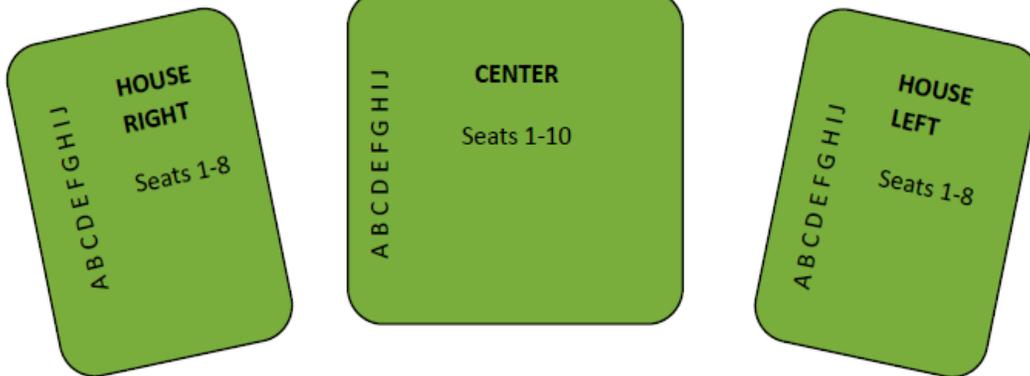
Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
of tickets for Friday _____ or # of tickets for Saturday _____

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)