



Volume 15 Issue 12
November 7, 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

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

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

***** Please note: There
will not be Chess Club on
Friday, Nov. 11, 2011.**

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

More Money, More Money, More Money

How many of you have heard this phrase uttered before? "If only schools had more money, they would be able to produce better students." Those who believe this find it rather easy to pass the blame of our educational shortcomings on the fact that schools just simply don't have enough money. This is a myth that is widely propagated and widely accepted. Jay Greene in his book "Education Myths – What Special Interest Groups Want You To Believe About Our Schools - And Why It Isn't So" believes this to be untrue. He states, "Our Nation's experience over the past thirty years has shown that a lack of resources is not one of the major problems affecting our schools' performance. The idea that underperforming schools would succeed if only we gave them more funding – the Money Myth- is simply unsupported.

In an attempt to demonstrate this, Mr. Greene took a look at test scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) from 1970 to 1999 and compared the performance results to the increase in educational spending in that same period of time. This is what he says about his findings. "During this period inflation adjusted spending per pupil doubled from \$4,479 to \$8,745, so if more money were going to produce better results then we would expect to see very significant improvement during this period. This has not happened. For twelfth-grade students, who represent the end product of the education system, NAEP scores are basically flat over the past thirty years. The average NAEP score was 285 in 1971 and 288 in 1999; the average NAEP math score was 304 in 1973 and 308 in 1999; and the average NAEP science score was 290 in 1977 and 295 in 1999. These small gains – three to five points on the NAEP out of a scale of 500 - do not represent significant progress. It is clear from the evidence of our national experience that simply adding more money to the public school system produces no significant improvements."

Of course there are those who don't believe this and in fact, there are some studies that support the contrary. In addressing this issue, Jay Greene states in his book that, "Eric Hanushek of Stanford University examined every available study on the relationship between spending and educational outcomes that conformed to basic social science methods – a total of 163 studies- and found that only twenty-seven had identified a statistically significant relationship between increased per-pupil spending and student performance." There are also those who will argue that the reason we aren't seeing the educational gains is because the money is going towards many other programs such as school safety, bullying programs, before and after school programs, health promotion, counseling, etc. To this, Mr. Greene says, "Whenever we spend more money on any school program, we have a right to expect a return on that investment for our students, just as we do if we spend more money on teachers and textbooks." A question to ponder at this point is that if these programs aren't providing the schools with an educational benefit, then why are we asking schools to do them?

Liberty Common School's operating revenue is roughly 85% of other district schools. While not having as much money, we still produce a superb education and have magnificent facilities and grounds. According to the "Money Myth", we should not be doing so well. How can this be? The answer lies in the fact that in being a charter school, we have more control over how we spend our money. We only put our money toward things that are going to help us do a better job of teaching our students. We don't have to support the multitudes of extraneous programs that ultimately do nothing to improve education and student performance. Before we start throwing more money to "improve" education, public schools should be held accountable for the money they already have.

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.

Thank You to Our Great Hearing and Vision Volunteers

Hearing and Vision Screening at LCS was a huge success thanks to this year's amazing volunteers: Michelle Taylor, Diane Sherman, Linda Ott, Meghan, Yvonne Draper, Andrea Siener, Kathy Taylor, Deborah Eberl, Stephanie Eberl, Amy Livengood and Marji Trinen. Thanks again for making our screening smooth and efficient.

Grandparents Day News

Grandparents Day is only 16 days away and we are so excited to provide a great Liberty experience for the grandparents who are able to attend. We have a few needs for volunteers to make this the another great year.

A big Liberty thank you for those who have already contacted the GPD committee and are willing to bring food. We still need a few 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 donate a nice breakfast for the grandparents. Food donations would be dropped off on Monday, November 21st in the front office.

We are also needing 3-4 parents to help out on Nov. 22 as servers, greeters or guides to grandparents who are needing assistance in finding their way around our school. In addition, we could also use 5-6 people to help set up the gym at 6:30 p.m. on Monday Nov. 21st. If interested in helping out, please email Amy Redstone at chookela@hotmail.com.

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.

Punt Pass and Kick Results and Accolades

Congratulations to Ryan Weaver-Bidwell, Paige Moore, Jack Hastings, Samantha Tsiouvaras, and Matthew Rhoads (all at the elementary school) Taylor Guzzardo (at the high school) for competing and representing Liberty well at last week ends Northern Colorado Sectional Punt, Pass, and Kick completion.

Earning Medals – Samantha Tsiouvaras 2nd place, Jack Hastings 1st place, Paige Moore 1st place, Taylor Guzzardo 1st place.

By earning first place Jack, Paige, and Taylor have positioned themselves for a chance to compete in the Bronco's 5 State Regional competition in December, as long as their sectional score is a top 4 score in the Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Nebraska region. Good luck!



Thank You to Cayenne and Tim Kerbs who graciously donated 100% of Liberty pumpkin purchases to Liberty Common School and Liberty Common High School. Their generosity is very appreciated and their donation will be put to good use. Thank you Kerbs Family.

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

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

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, 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

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.

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 are coming home with your student today and payment is due at the time your 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 is November 18th.

Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator Needed

Liberty Common School is seeking an Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator. If you have participated in or coached a team in the past, then you know what a spectacular program this is for our students. Wade Turner and Julie Weibler have done a superb job over the past few years as our coordinators and are handing this off to someone new. This position can easily be co-chaired. Wade and Julie are willing to help train and guide anyone interested through the duties and procedures of this crucial position. If interested, please contact Wade at wade.turner@comcast.net or Julie at jweibler@jdwventures.com.

Please mark your calendar for Liberty Common Schools Annual Spring Gala. This year's event will be held on Friday, April 13th.



PSD and Liberty

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

Last Tuesday – Election Day – was an important occasion for Liberty’s students. The community elected two new members of the [Poudre School District \(PSD\) Board of Education](#). Two incumbents were re-elected, too.

The winning newcomers are Cathy Kipp (District A) and Susan Gutowsky (Dist. G). The re-elected incumbents are Tom Balchak (Dist. B), Nancy Tellez (Dist. F).

As elections go, [these kinds of campaigns](#) are normally pretty tame. There’s not typically a lot of hype and pomp among the candidates.

A seat on the local school board is a volunteer position. The duty entails pretty hard work requiring [long hours, marathon meetings](#) and a heavy dose of unpopular but necessary decision making.

Even with ballots mailed directly to every voter’s household, participation in [last week’s election](#) was dreadfully low. Nonetheless, the [responsibilities of a school-board member](#) are substantial and have a direct bearing on our students.

Winston Churchill once said, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." That’s a good observation to keep in mind when considering our own sleepy election with low voter turnout.

Congratulations to last Tuesday’s victors. Congratulations, as well, to those who also ran but came up short.

Barbara Schwerin, Steve Yurash and Teresa Affleck deserve honorable mentions for running, too. It takes a tall measure of courage and commitment to even offer your name on a public ballot.

Liberty salutes all candidates and thanks them for submitting their leadership, for proposing ideas along the campaign trail and for spending long days in public dialogue about the future of government-owned schools in Northern Colorado.

Though some candidates were more effusive about their support for charter schools, all had good things to say about them. All expressed an interest in working with Liberty and seeing us [continue our success](#).

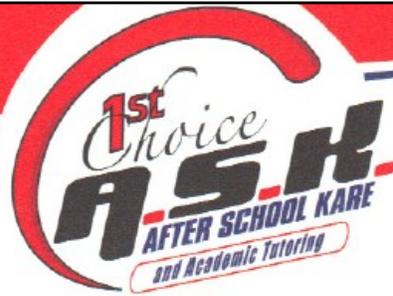
This is a welcome improvement over [our earlier days as a pioneering charter school](#). In the coming months, we’ll reach out to all PSD board members and invite them to learn more about our school.

When it comes to our rapport with the school district, Liberty’s needs and expectations are quite mild and reasonable. We simply want to maintain our generally cooperative relationship with the district.

We want the freedom to compete fairly in a legitimate academic marketplace. We want the terms of [our charter agreement](#) to be protected, maintained and honored.

We want to be unmolested in expanding our parent-run charter school just as the [state law empowers us](#) to do. We want to enjoy the respect and goodwill afforded all other [PSD schools](#).

Liberty has indeed been fortunate to make great progress in these areas over the past few years. We look forward to working with the new PSD Board of Education to maintain a mutually beneficial course that is good for the community, good for the cause of meaningful academic progress for all students, and good for the future successes of Liberty’s students.



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!!!

